THE LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHAPEL HILL

THE COLLECTION OF
NORTH CAROLINIANA

FC282
C363c
v.16
2006-07

FOR USE ONLY IN
THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION

UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL
00047472493

Form No. A-368, Rev. 8/95

FC282
C363c
Vol.16
2006-2007

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 13, 2006

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 1

2006 Eucharistic Congress

Expanded coverage of the second diocesan Eucharistic Congress

| PAGES 1, 5-9, 16

IMPELLED BY CHRIST'S LOVE

Thousands gather or diocese's econd Eucharistic Congress

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The ounds of bells, prayers and ong penetrated the brisk wind nd light rain.

Though the weather was ismal, it did little to dampen e spirits of the people in the ucharistic procession through e streets of uptown Charlotte.

People from across the 6-county Diocese of Charlotte ined Bishop Peter J. Jugis as e carried a monstrance holding e Blessed Sacrament from St. eter Church to the Charlotte onvention Center Oct. 7.

The procession was part f the second annual diocesan ucharistic Congress Oct. -7. An estimated 8,000 people ttended the two-day event,

See CONGRESS, page 5

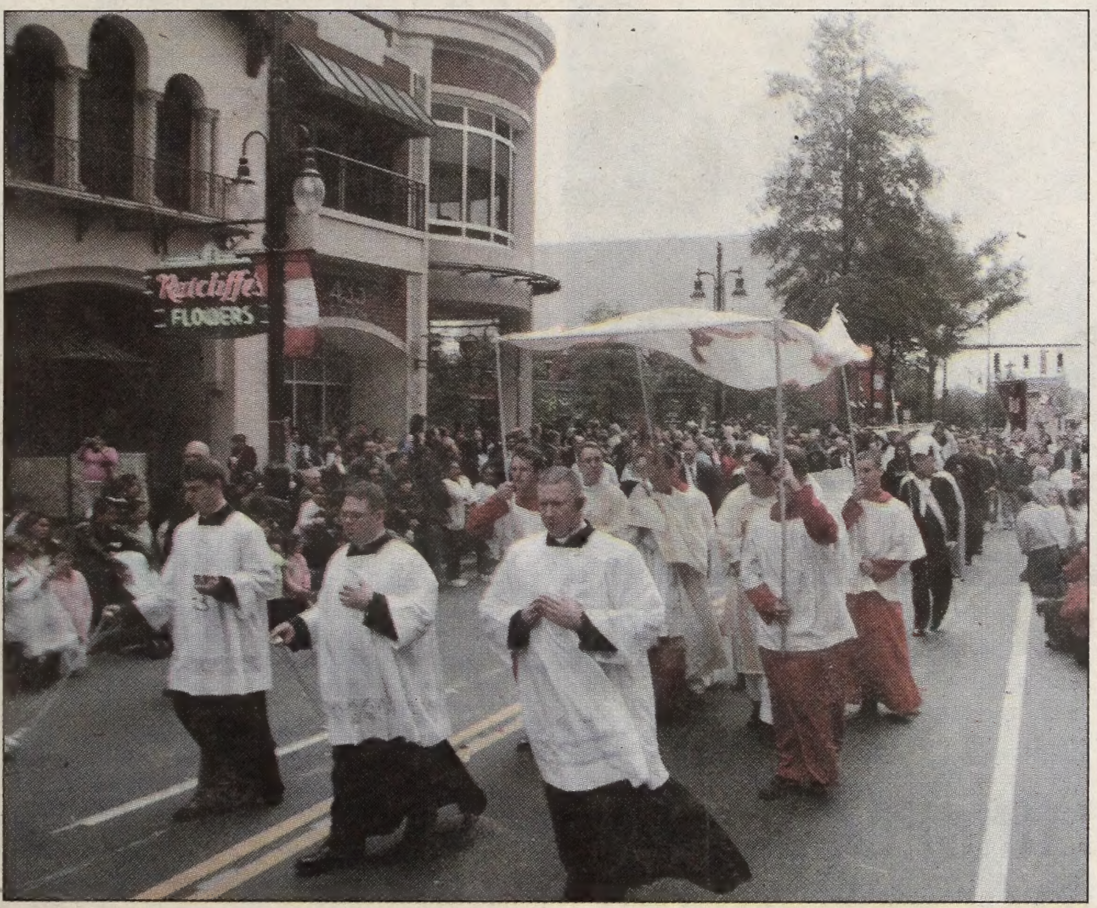


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance during a eucharistic procession in uptown Charlotte Oct. 7. The procession was part of the second diocesan Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 6-7.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

ff Cavins speaks on "The Mission of Peer Evangelization" during the second iocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 7.

Conveying the message

Speakers provide instruction, inspiration at congress

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Once again, a panel of speakers enlightened, educated and entertained audiences of all ages at the diocesan Eucharistic Congress.

Seven speakers offered inspiring talks throughout the day at the second diocesan Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 6-7.

Friday evening, Oct. 6, Raymond Arroyo, host of Eternal Word Television Network's "The World Over," presented "The Big Way of Mother Angelica."

Mother Angelica founded the network in 1981, despite many people doubting the demand for a Catholic television

See SPEAKERS, page 7

Honoring a saint

Franciscans honor life, passion of St. Francis

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

LENOIR — When a doctor visited St. Francis of Assisi in 1226 and told him he would soon die, St. Francis was said to have raised his arms to heaven and prayerfully cried out, "You are welcome, welcome, my Sister Death."

On Oct. 3 each year, Franciscans worldwide celebrate the passing of St. Francis from his earthly life to eternal life, just as he himself celebrated, in a "Transitus" memorial service, a traditional Franciscan celebration of St.

See SAINT, page 13

Unearthed history

Visitors now can see Vatican City necropolis, tombs unearthed in 2003

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The partly uncovered skeleton of a small child lies in the ground where it has been buried for some 2,000 years. Next to the right hand is an egg, thought to be a symbol of rebirth.

The infant's burial place,

See TOMBS, page 12

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
5-9 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#* **Around the Diocese**
Parish anniversary; unborn memorial
| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Vatican and sports; rocking priest band
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
The Amish and forgiveness; life's paradox
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HEISEY, CATHOLIC WITNESS

An Amish boy is embraced by his mother during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Harrisburg, Pa., at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Quarryville, Pa., Oct. 5. An overflow crowd of more than 500 filled St. Catherine of Siena, the closest Catholic church to the West Nickel Mines Amish school where a shooting occurred Oct. 2, taking the lives of five young girls and severely injuring five others.

Harrisburg Catholics unite in prayer for Amish community

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — In a demonstration of support for the local Amish community, Catholics in the Harrisburg Diocese filled St. Catherine of Siena Church in Quarryville and the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg Oct. 5 for prayer three days after the shootings at the Amish schoolhouse.

The Mass at the church and the prayer service at the center took place the same day the Amish community buried four of the girls shot in the schoolhouse. Burial of the fifth child was Oct. 6.

According to state police, 32-year-old Charles Carl Roberts IV entered an Amish schoolhouse in West Nickel Mines Oct. 2 and shot 10 girls before taking his own life. As of Oct. 6, the five who survived remained in serious condition.

St. Catherine of Siena Church is located just seven miles from the scene of the tragedy. The Oct. 5 Mass was celebrated by Harrisburg Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and drew an overflow crowd.

"As a Catholic community of faith, we pray for our beloved Amish neighbors, our brothers and sisters in the Christian faith. We pray for the children who have died, so precious in the sight of the Lord," Bishop Rhoades said, praying also for the girls who remained hospitalized, for the victims' families, and for Roberts and his family.

"This past weekend, the Catholic Church throughout the United States celebrated Respect Life Sunday," the bishop remarked. "We affirmed and celebrated that all human life is a sacred and priceless gift from God. ... Our lives and the lives of all our children and of the Amish children whose death we mourn are a gift of God's love.

"We must learn to treasure that gift even more" in the aftermath of the school tragedy, he said.

The bishop said the readings for the Mass about God wiping away people's tears and Christ's resurrection making all things new should "strengthen our faith and hope during this time of tragedy and mourning."

The bishop also prayed that God would "bestow his healing and grace to this community united as his children in faith, hope and love."

As Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass in Quarryville, several hundred people filled the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg for a holy hour of prayer with eucharistic adoration and Benediction to pray for the Amish community, the safety of children and an end to violence.

Cardinal Keeler out of hospital after car crash in Italy

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore was released from a hospital in Terni, Italy, Oct. 10, three days after he suffered a broken ankle in a car crash that killed one friend and injured another.

Father Bernard Quinn, 78, was killed and Msgr. Thomas H. Smith, 75, broke several ribs in the Oct. 7 accident. Another vehicle struck the passenger side of the car in which the three vacationing American clerics were riding.

Father Quinn was retired from the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., and Msgr. Smith, also a priest of that diocese, is pastor of St. Joseph Church in Lancaster.

Cardinal Keeler was a priest and bishop in Harrisburg before he became archbishop of Baltimore, and he has often spent vacations traveling with the two priests.

Sean Caine, Baltimore archdiocesan spokesman, said Oct. 10 that following his release from the hospital Cardinal Keeler was recuperating at the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome. He said the cardinal is expected to be wearing a cast on his ankle for 30 days.

In a news release late Oct. 10, the Harrisburg Diocese said Msgr. Smith was also released from the hospital and was staying at the North American College. Funeral arrangements for Father Quinn were still to be determined.

Last spring Cardinal Keeler turned 75, the age at which bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope, but Pope Benedict XVI has not yet accepted his resignation as archbishop of Baltimore.

According to an Associated Press report on the accident in Terni, Msgr. Smith was driving, Father Quinn was in the back seat and Cardinal Keeler in the front passenger seat when their car was hit.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — Benedictine Father Matthew Habiger from the NFP Outreach Group will speak at all Masses at St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., Oct. 21-22. His general theme during homilies will be *"Marriage and the Family,"* and will touch on subjects such as chastity, Natural Family Planning and other "Right to Life" issues. For more information and Mass times, call (828) 684-6098.

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for Oct. 21 will be "History and Heroes, Part II." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host *An Evening with Archbishop Fouad Twal* Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. in the banquet room of the New Life Center. Archbishop Twal, appointed coadjutor archbishop, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem by Pope Benedict XVI, will discuss life as a Christian in the Holy Land and the impact of the Children's Peace Project. For more information, call Jane Balbirnie (704) 543-7677, ext. 1002, or Pat White (704) 543-7677, ext. 1039.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Basil Ukrainian Church* will have a liturgy Oct. 15 at 11 a.m. at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. The liturgy is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Deacon Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide young adults in their 20s and 30s with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will be held Oct. 17 and 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Pepperoni's Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center. These interactive events will explore the issues and challenges that Catholic young adults face in the 21st century. Contact Catrina at (704) 665-7374 or e-mail c_l_conway@hotmail.com for more information, or visit www.compass-catholic.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — Maxim Healthcare Services will be at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Oct. 26 to provide *flu and pneumonia vaccinations*. You must schedule an appointment by calling (704) 895-0496. Maxim will file claims with the following insurances: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Aetna, Medicare Complete, Medicare Part B and Partners Medicare Choice.

CHARLOTTE — Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia, will speak at *"Dessert and Devotion"* Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the activity center of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. This talk is sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Chapter of C.U.F. RSVP to gail@catholicscripturestudy.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 801 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Oct. 21, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Single and married adults are invited fo an evening of contemporary Christian music, foo and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High Schoo Instrumental Music Department will present its *Fal Concert* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyn Commons Pkwy., Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. Everyon is invited to attend this free concert. For mor information, call Jackie McCalla at (704) 846-0850.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 13, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 1

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Chur St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks duri June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the rig to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropria We do not recommend or guarantee any produ service or benefit claimed by our advertise Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC a other cities. POSTMASTER: Send addre corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

ROM THE VATICAN

atican's U.N. nuncio: World sleepwalking' toward nuclear terrorism

NEW YORK (CNS) — The world eems to be "sleepwalking" down the ath of nuclear weapons proliferation, icreasing the risk of nuclear terrorism, aid the Vatican's representative to the Inited Nations.

The United Nations must foster greater iternational dialogue to ensure compliance ith treaties restricting the proliferation of uclear weapons and banning their testing, iid Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the atican's U.N. nuncio.

Without a firmer commitment to these eaties more states will arm themselves ith nuclear weapons, increasing the ossibility that such weapons will fall ito terrorist hands, he said in an Oct. 5 peech to the U.N. General Assembly.

The Vatican has observer status at ie United Nations which means that it in speak at sessions but cannot vote.

The world is at a crossroads regarding uclear weapons, said the archbishop. One path leads to the proliferation of nuclear weapons being restricted through trust, dialogue and negotiated agreement; the other leads to states arming themselves and the growing threat of nuclear terrorism.

"The international community seems almost to be sleepwalking down the latter path, not by conscientious choice but rather through miscalculation, sterile debate and the paralysis of multilateral mechanisms for confidence-building and conflict resolution," he said.

The Vatican has repeatedly asked governments with "nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them" to change their plans and "strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament," the archbishop said.

Archbishop Migliore also asked for greater efforts to restrict the spread of small arms, saying that greater emphasis should be given to the "human dimension" of the destruction they cause.

HARLOTTE — The Seventh Annual Kennedy ecture will be presented Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at . Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. This year's lecture ill be given by Jesuit Father Thomas Reese, former litor of America magazine. His talk, *"Survival uide for Thinking Catholic,"* will address the oncerns of those who preferred the pre-Vatican II atholic Church as well as those who feel the council d not go far enough. Admission is free, but call 04) 332-2901, ext. 12 for reservations. For more formation, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

REENSBORO VICARIATE

REENSBORO — A *Charismatic Healing Mass* ill be celebrated Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady f Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., sponsored y Our Lady of Grace Parish Health Ministry and e Flames of Fire Prayer Group. Father Andrew atsko from Maryfield Nursing Home will be ie celebrant. Deacon Ron Steinkamp will be e homilist. Healing teams will be available for ersonal ministry after the Mass. Everyone is elcome. For information, call Ben D'Apollo at 36) 812-3730.

REENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker ries for Catholic adults in their 20s and 30s, ill meet at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford kwy., Oct. 25, Nov. 2, 8 and 15 at 6:45 p.m. Come id experience great speakers, excellent food id conversation. We will be sponsoring a food ive for Urban Ministry. For more information, mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www. iadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

REENSBORO — The *Franciscan Family of reensboro* will host an informational meeting bout the secular Franciscan life Oct. 29, 2-3:30 m. at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 rogan Rd. For more information, call Frank lassey at (336) 299-5038.

TONEVILLE — *Fostering Justice Worldwide*, ponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and eace, will share Catholic Relief Services (CRS) ories. This free event will take place at St. Francis prings Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd., St., Nov. 4, 1-4:30 p.m. The program will provide an overview of Catholic social teaching, CRS-related work in the Diocese of Charlotte, CRS work in Africa, presentations on effective advocacy and more. For details about the events please call the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3234 or (704) 370-3225, or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The 14th Annual Aquinas-Luther Conference on *"Spirituality, Holiness and the Saints"* will be hosted by the Center for Theology at Lenoir-Rhyne College, 625 7th Avenue NE, Oct. 20. Invited speakers include Catholic speakers Dr. Ronda Chervin and Dr. Regis Martin; Orthodox Father Patrick Henry Reardon, senior editor of Touchstone magazine; and Lutheran minister Amy Shifrin. Registration is free and open to the public. For more information, call (828) 328-7276 or e-mail hefnerb@lrc.edu.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Sister Joanne Jacovec will speak on "Peacemakers: Thomas Merton" Oct. 18. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

ct. 15 — 4 p.m.
acrament of Confirmation
ur Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

ct. 16-18
rovincial Assembly of Priests and ishops of the Atlanta Province
sheville

Oct. 19 — 2:30 p.m.
Mass at Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Oct. 21 — 10:30 a.m.
Mass for Middle School Youth Day
Carowinds

Pope adds explanatory note to controversial remarks on Islam

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has added an explanatory note to his controversial remarks on Islam, saying the text provoked misinterpretation and "understandable indignation" among Muslims.

The explanation appeared Oct. 9 in a footnote in the Vatican's online version of the speech on faith and reason given by the pope in Regensburg, Germany, in mid-September.

In his speech, the pope spoke briefly about religion and violence, quoting the 14th-century Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus, who said: "Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

In the new footnote, the pope re-emphasized a point he has made several times since delivering the speech — that he did not share the emperor's views on Islam.

"In the Muslim world, this quotation has unfortunately been taken as an expression of my personal position, thus arousing understandable indignation," the note said.

"I hope that the reader of my text can see immediately that this sentence does not express my personal view of the Quran, for which I have the respect due to the holy book of a great religion," the pope said.

"In quoting the text of the Emperor Manuel II, I intended solely to draw out the essential relationship between faith and reason. On this point I am in agreement with Manuel II, but without endorsing his polemic," he said.

Part of the text of the papal speech has been retranslated in English and other languages. Originally the text opened the quotation by noting that Emperor Manual spoke "somewhat brusquely" about Islam. That was changed to "with a startling brusqueness, a brusqueness that we find unacceptable."

The pope has several times expressed regret that his words had caused Muslims to take offense, and he convened Muslim representatives and diplomats to offer a personal explanation.

While many Muslim leaders have said they consider the issue closed, other groups have insisted that the pope offer a full apology.

Vatican officials have pointed out that in his original speech the pope had been arguing in favor of religious values in modern cultures — a position which they say should be welcomed by Muslims.

Have turtle, will bless

CNS photo by Mariana Bazo, Reuters

A policewoman carries a turtle during a pet blessing outside St. Francis Church in Lima, Peru, Oct. 8. Festivities at the church honored St. Francis of Assisi. World Animal Day was also celebrated the same day.

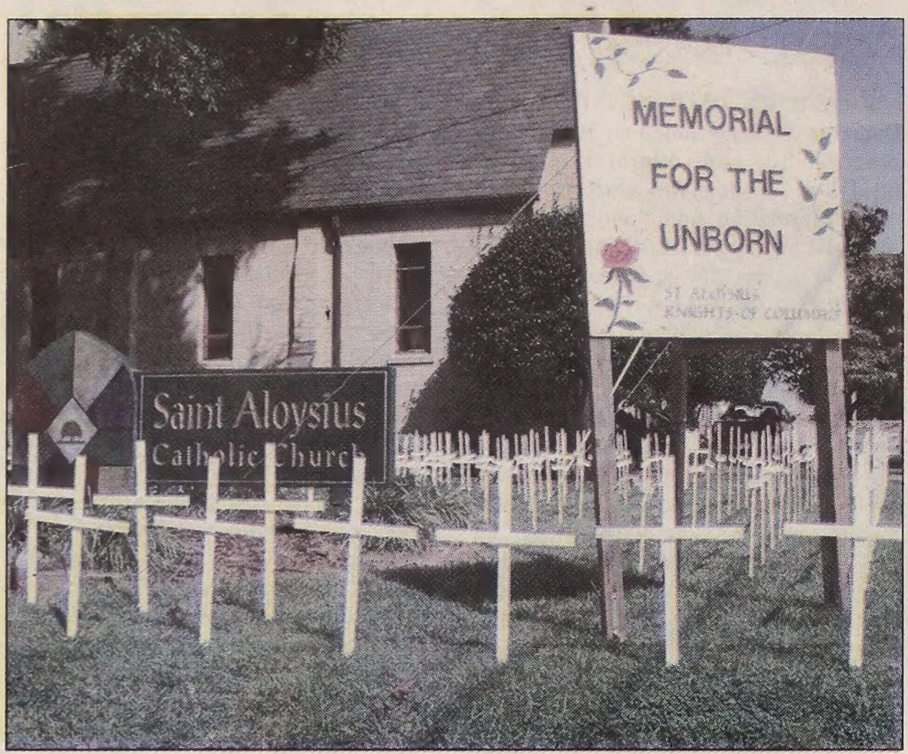
Mexican becomes first bishop born in Americas to be named saint

VERACRUZ, Mexico (CNS) — In an Oct. 15 papal ceremony at the Vatican, Blessed Rafael Guizar Valencia is scheduled to become the first bishop born in the Americas to be declared a saint.

As a priest during the anti-clerical era that marked the start of the 20th century in his native Mexico, he often disguised himself as a junk dealer to bring the sacraments to both sides fighting the Mexican Revolution.

He was ordained bishop of Veracruz in absentia in 1919 while living in Havana. Blessed Rafael was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He will be the seventh Knight and the first bishop-member of the organization to be declared a saint.

Memorial of mourning



COURTESY PHOTO

A memorial to the unborn is displayed on the lawn of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1. Each cross represents five of the 4,000 unborn babies killed by abortion each day in the United States. The annual memorial was organized by the Knights of Columbus with the help of the parish's Life Teen youth group members and Lutheran Rev. Andrew Weisner, chaplain at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory.

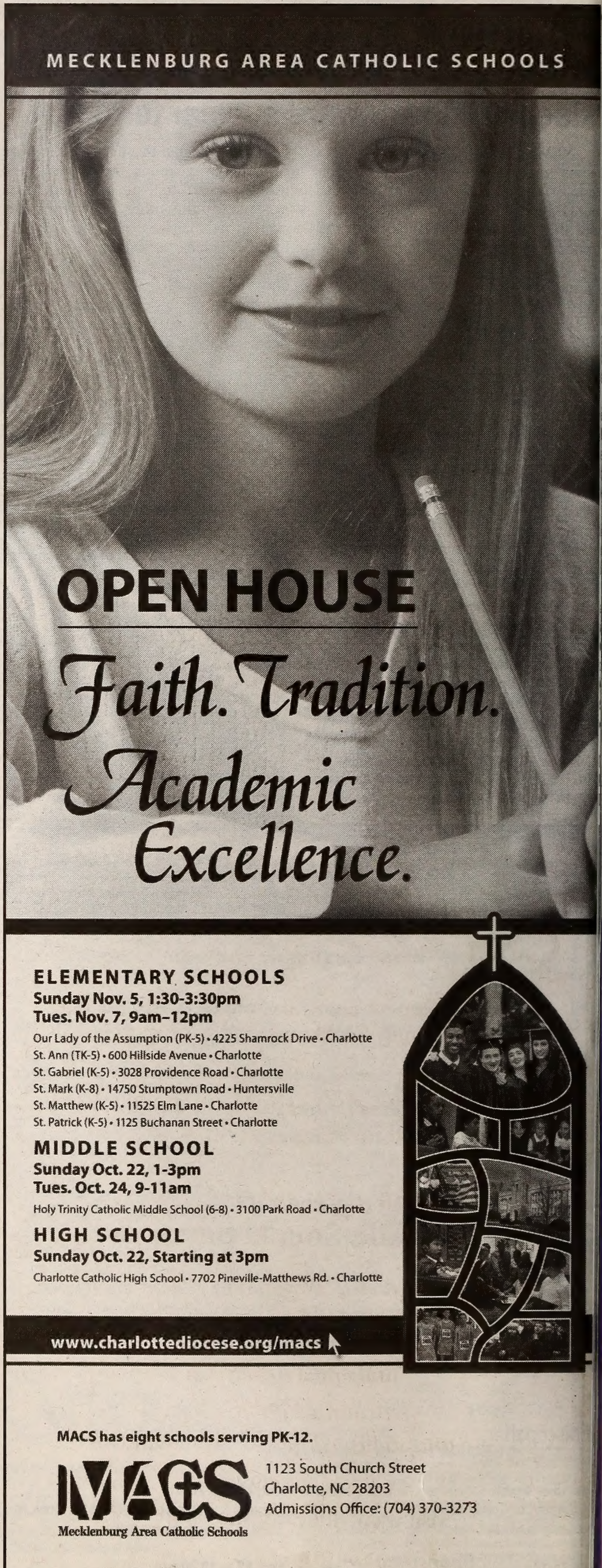
ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Is there something unique taking place at your parish? Do you know of someone who is an example of how to live the Catholic faith? Have a photo of a recent event at your parish or ministry event? If so, contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

Faithfully dedicated

COURTESY PHOTO

Lupe Hildreth and Dudley Patrick, parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro, are recognized during a social gathering after a Mass celebrating the 60th anniversary of the parish's dedication Sept. 28. Hildreth and Dudley were honored for being members of the parish the longest.



MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

OPEN HOUSE

Faith. Tradition. Academic Excellence.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Sunday Nov. 5, 1:30-3:30pm
Tues. Nov. 7, 9am–12pm
Our Lady of the Assumption (PK-5) • 4225 Shamrock Drive • Charlotte
St. Ann (TK-5) • 600 Hillside Avenue • Charlotte
St. Gabriel (K-5) • 3028 Providence Road • Charlotte
St. Mark (K-8) • 14750 Stumptown Road • Huntersville
St. Matthew (K-5) • 11525 Elm Lane • Charlotte
St. Patrick (K-5) • 1125 Buchanan Street • Charlotte

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Sunday Oct. 22, 1-3pm
Tues. Oct. 24, 9-11am
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School (6-8) • 3100 Park Road • Charlotte

HIGH SCHOOL
Sunday Oct. 22, Starting at 3pm
Charlotte Catholic High School • 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. • Charlotte

www.charlottediocese.org/macs

MACS has eight schools serving PK-12.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Admissions Office: (704) 370-3273

MACS admit students of any race, color, sex, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Thousands gather for second Eucharistic Congress

CONGRESS, *from page 1*

themed "The Love of Christ Impels Us," featuring prayer, praise, worship and music centered on the holy Eucharist.

"The purpose of a Eucharistic Congress is to bring us closer to Jesus through adoration of the Lord really present in the holy Eucharist, and through the joyful celebration of the Eucharist," said Bishop Jugis.

"In this Congress we especially explored the idea that in the holy Eucharist Jesus shares his love with us, so that transformed by his love we can be effective in bringing his love to the world," said the bishop.

"Jesus wants to bring the whole world into the Kingdom of God, and he makes use of us as his instruments to accomplish his mission," said Bishop Jugis.

Approximately 1,500 people attended the concert of sacred music that opened the congress Friday evening, Oct. 6. The choir, comprised of 118 singers from churches around the Diocese of Charlotte, performed a collection of songs from traditional classical through contemporary classical pieces.

After the concert, Raymond Arroyo, Mother Angelica's biographer and the host of her Eternal Word Television Network's "The World Over," spoke on "The Big Way of Mother Angelica."

"It's a great honor to help her words stay alive and bring her message to others, and bring the motivating factor in her life — the Eucharist — to others."

Afterward, eucharistic adoration took place throughout the night at St. Peter Church, with a variety of groups — including clergy, religious, young adults and families — each spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

More music and speakers were featured throughout Saturday's program.

A children's Latin choir and the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte performed. A lively band entertained the hundreds of people attending the Hispanic track.

In addition to a large vendor area and a cultural hour — where members of the Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese and African-American Catholic communities shared their cultures and traditions — there was a series of talks, or "tracks," for adults, youths and children.

The talks in both English and Spanish were on topics such as evangelization, chastity and building a culture of life. They led up to what many considered the day's highlight — the eucharistic procession.

Knights of Columbus color guard and first communicants from around the diocese, who dropped rose petals, led the procession. They were followed by deacons, priests and guest clergy.

PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance during the eucharistic procession in Charlotte Oct. 7.

Following Bishop Jugis in the procession were banners representing many of the 92 parishes and missions in the diocese, as well as religious ministries and cultural groups. Hundreds of people watching the procession kneeled reverently as the Eucharist passed by before joining the procession behind their parish banner.

"It's an honor to participate in this wonderful expression of our Catholic faith," said Michael Coyle, a parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"It's really exciting to see all these people here because they have the same faith and beliefs," said Tiffany Gallozzi.

"In the eucharistic procession, we see a small version of the journey of the whole people of God in general — on pilgrimage through this world, nourished by the Bread of Life on our journey and leaving behind us as we make our way the blessings of Christ's charity and merciful love," said Bishop Jugis.

Congress volunteers held signs, calling for silence and asking those watching to kneel as the Eucharist passed by. Many onlookers were curious.

"I had a few people come up and ask questions about what was going on," said Catrina Conway, congress volunteer and a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. "I was able to do some evangelization while taking part in a wonderful diocesan event."

A passerby in a wheel chair inquired what was happening.

"When he learned that we were carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession, he asked the priest to help him out of the wheel chair so that he could be on his knees in adoration, too," said Bishop Jugis.

"It's great to see the different cultures coming together as one group," said Sister Seldita Tiorosio, a Dominican Sister of St. Catherine of Siena, who serves as principal of Sacred Heart School in Salisbury. "It's not culture that makes us one, but our faith."

The procession made its way into the convention center, where a holy hour followed with eucharistic adoration, prayer and song.

During his homily, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin challenged congress participants to discover Jesus in themselves and one another.

"If we don't see Jesus in each other, what hope is there? Shouldn't that drive us in this world, to seek Christ in each other?" he asked.

Bishop Curlin said Catholics cannot "live in isolation from each other."

"Before the Blessed Sacrament, we should recommit ourselves to taking Christ to the world and to those who hurt the most," he said. "If we have no fear, Pentecost comes again."

The Eucharist was available for adoration throughout most of the day. The congress closed with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Jugis and concelebrated by priests and visiting clergy.

"It is the love of Christ that we celebrate at Mass. It fills us in everything we do, at Mass and out in the world," said Bishop Jugis during his homily.

"We have a mission to bring the love of God to wherever we go. This is the theme of the congress," he said.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

5th Annual
Vineyard of Hope
Wines Around the World
Wine Tasting & Auction

This annual fundraiser for Catholic Social Services provides vital funds for the programs and services of CSS.

Get a group together and buy your tickets today!

Friday, November 10 — 7 p.m.
Charlotte Marriott SouthPark
(formerly known as The Park Hotel)

All proceeds benefit
Catholic Social Services

The evening includes: *Wine Tasting, Heavy hors d'oeuvres*
Live entertainment from 'The Sinatra Experience'
Silent Auction

Individual tickets are $75.

Discounted groups of eight
and sponsorships are also available.

Call 704-370-3232 or
visit www.vineyardofhope.org

Sponsored by: Sisters of Mercy

May Your Hands Be Blessed!

Learn Rosary Making

Call or visit
our website
for your
introductory
offer!

LEWIS
& COMPANY
P.O. Box 268, Troy, NY 12181
(800) 342 - 2400
rosaryparts.com

Heavenly voices

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Singers perform during the concert of sacred music at the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 6.

Sacred music concert kicks off congress

By KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The voices of 118 singers recently filled the Charlotte Convention Center.

The concert of sacred music, featuring parishioners from churches around the Diocese of Charlotte, opened the second diocesan Eucharistic Congress Oct. 6.

"I thought it was incredible," said Tiffany Gallozzi, music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden and conductor of the sacred music concert.

The songs were a collection of traditional classical pieces, such as Vivaldi's "Gloria," as well as contemporary classical works.

"The songs were chosen based on their messages and to reflect the congress' theme ('The Love of Christ Impels Us')," said Gallozzi, who conducted the sacred music concert at last year's Eucharistic Congress.

The concert, said Gallozzi, was to reintroduce the Catholic community to the "solid music of our faith and how it's been expressed historically."

"It allowed them to experience the way noble music motivates us to offer our praise and worship to God," she said.

Every choir in the diocese was invited to participate if its schedule permitted, said Gallozzi. Some groups started rehearsing as early as July, but most began around August, she said.

The success of the concert would not have been possible without the hard work of the singers and their choir directors, said Gallozzi.

"I was impressed with the beautiful harmonization of so many voices of choir members from all over the diocese," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis. "Their presentation of sacred music helped all of us raise our minds and hearts to God in prayer."

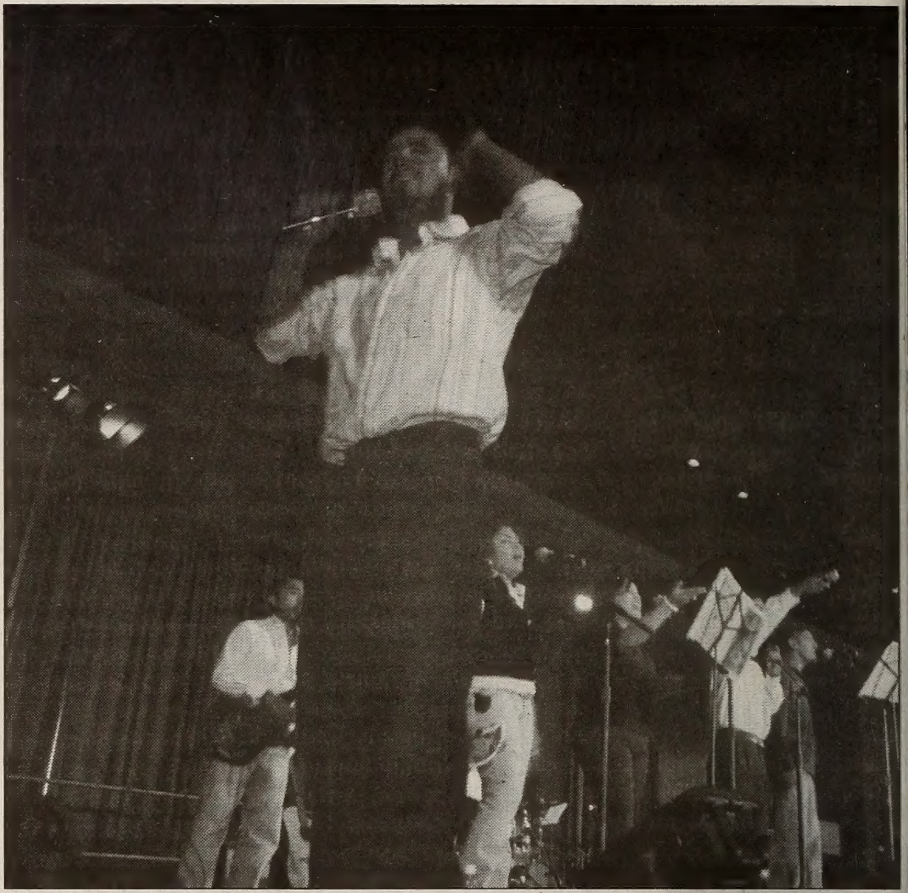


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

A band kicks off the Hispanic track of the Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 7.

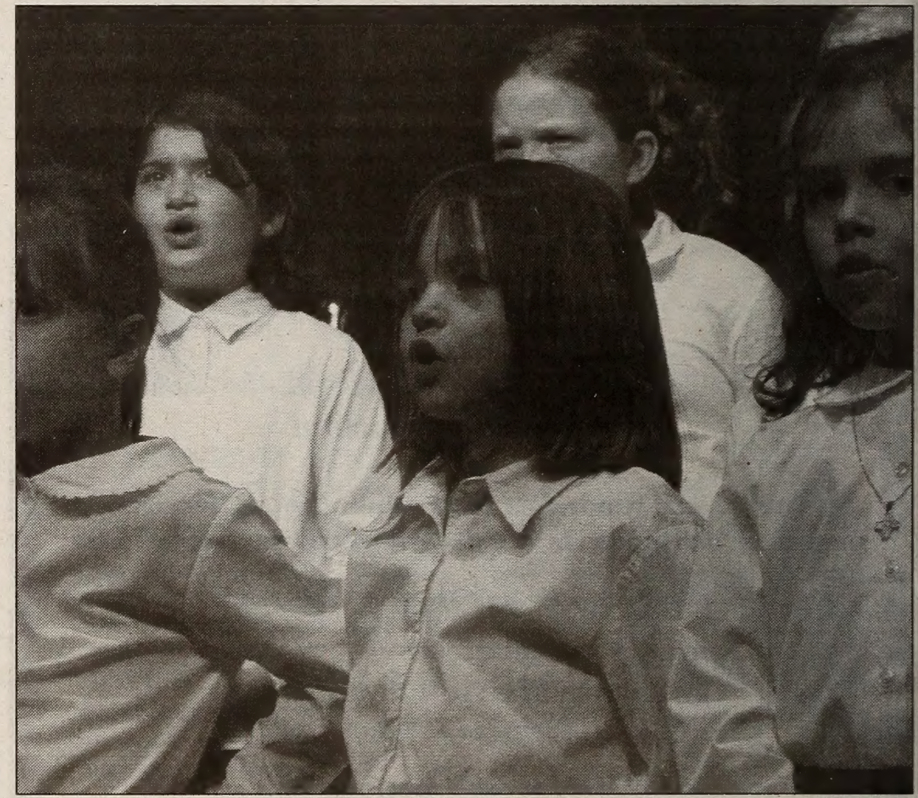


Photo by Karen A. Evans

Children perform as part of a children's Latin choir Oct. 7.

Retirement isn't
what it used to be.
PLAN accordingly.

Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church

100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397

http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

© 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family
Medicine

...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 a[illegible]00 pm, (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

FULLY STOCKED AND READY FOR FALL!

We're brimming over with the latest in Catholic books, new Bible study materials, spiritual gifts for special occasions, Bibles, artwork, rosaries – a wide inventory awaits you at both locations!

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

Speakers inspire, instruct thousands at congress

SPEAKERS, *from page 1*

network. Today, EWTN is broadcast into 122 million homes in 125 countries.

Despite many obstacles in her life, including significant health issues, Mother Angelica always forged ahead and maintained a "rock-solid faith in the Eucharist," Arroyo said.

"Sometimes standing on principle, risking everything, is when God shows us the way," Arroyo said about Mother Angelica's determination to establish the network.

Mother Angelica lives in what she calls the "present moment," he said.

"What is God calling you to do now, in this present moment? We have to accept those moments and try to be Jesus in them," Arroyo said.

After Arroyo's talk, Bishop Peter J. Jugis called him "a true lay Catholic evangelist."

Saturday morning Oct. 7, Jeff Cavins, Catholic author and speaker, spoke on "The Mission of Evangelization."

"We are called to bridge the gap between our faith and our daily lives," Cavins said.

In order to bridge this gap, Catholics must know their faith intimately. Further, they must believe in and live their faith.

Cavins used the Gospel story in Matthew 14:25-32, when Jesus walked on water and commanded Peter to do the same. Peter got out of the boat and walked toward the Lord. But he became frightened and sank into the water, until Jesus caught him.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Father Leo Patalinghug speaks to teens about being prayerful "superheroes" during the Eucharistic Congress Oct. 7.

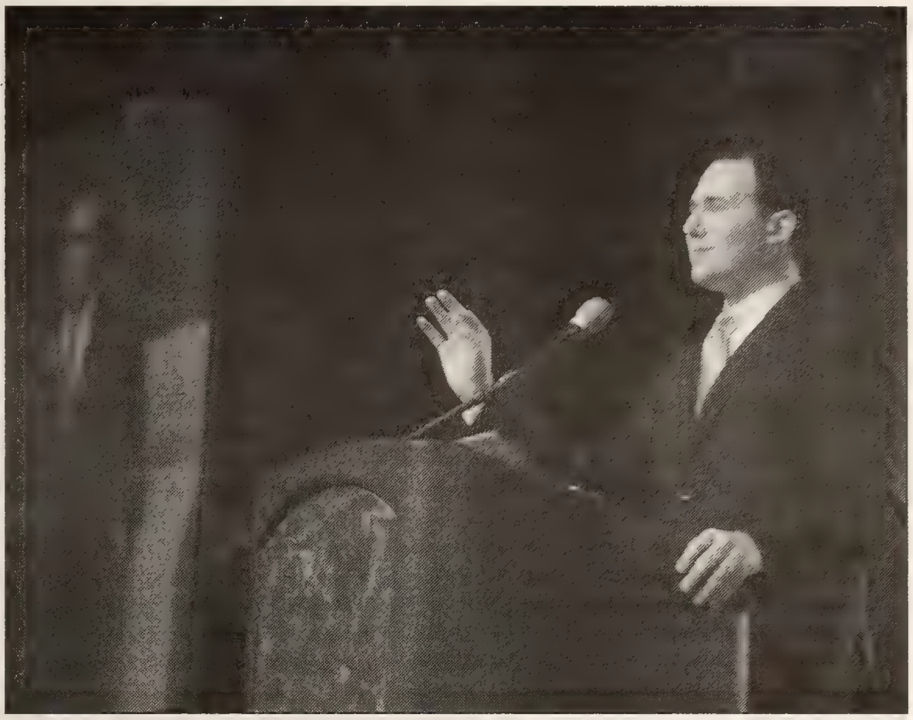


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Raymond Arroyo speaks on "The Big Way of Mother Angelica" during the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 6.

Cavins encouraged his audience to live out their faith and to live the life of Christ.

"The Lord will open doors if you get out of the boat," he said.

Father Leo Patalinghug, associate pastor of St. John Church in Westminster, Md., spoke to adults about "The Mission to be Beautiful" and to teenagers about "The Mission to be Superheroes."

"We're all supposed to bring beauty into this world," Father Patalinghug said. "We become beautiful (through our faith) so we can change this world, which was good but has become ugly because of sin."

Prayer and grace are things that can help make teens into superheroes, he said, so they can defend their faith.

Franciscan Father James Goode, a leading black Catholic evangelist, spoke about "The Mission of Building a Culture of Life."

"That is our mission, to build a culture of life for all of our sisters and brothers, not just some of our sisters and brothers," Father Goode said. "We must have a conversion of our hearts and souls, and reject every form of violence, poverty and hunger."

Mary Beth Bonacci, internationally known speaker and writer, presented "The Mission of Raising Chaste Teens and Adults" to adults and "The Mission of Chastity" to teenagers.

"The heart of my message is helping (teenagers) understand their sexuality as beautiful and positive," she said. "If you give them this real sense that it's beautiful and sacred, they'll have a natural instinct to protect it."

Father Juan Rivas, member of Legionaries of Christ, director and producer of "Hombre Nuevo" radio and TV programs, presented "The Mission of Catholic Media."

Father Rivas spoke about how to use different means of communication to spread the Catholic faith, especially among the Hispanic community.

"All of the talks were effective in helping us grow in our love for Jesus," said Bishop Jugis. "I was delighted to visit with my friends of different language and cultural groups during the midday cultural hour on Saturday."

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Franciscan Father James Goode speaks on building a culture of life Oct. 7.

Do you know everything you need to know about your home mortgage options?

No? Call me, I can help you!

corporate investors mortgage group

Let me be your mortgage advisor!

Jayne McGonnell
Senior Mortgage Banker
(704) 516-9682
jmcgonnell@cimginc.com

Equal Housing Lender

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
Asheville & Arden
The Catholic Funeral Directors
828-252-3535

The Groces congratulate new officers,
Basilica of St. Lawrence Court 412,
Catholic Daughters of America:
Marjorie Maxwell, Regent
Pauline Lees, Vice-Regent
Lisa Ross, Secretary
Diane Wright, Financial Secretary
Marge Sposata, Treasurer,
and 17 new members!

Photos by Kevin E. Murray and Karen A. Evans

Above left: A woman visits a vendor selling during the Eucharistic Congress Oct. 7. More than 70 vendors displayed items ranging from artwork to information at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Above right: First communicants drop flower petals during the eucharistic procession, which began at St. Peter Church and ended at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 7.

Photo Karen A. Evans

Children perform a native Filipino dance celebrating life during a cultural hour Oct. 7. The cultural hour provided an opportunity for Filipino, Korean, African American and Vietnamese Catholics to celebrate their faith within the context of their cultures. It was one of the many events featured during the two-day Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 6-7.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097

Day with the Gospel of Luke

9 am - 4 pm Thursday, November 16 OR
9 am - 4 pm Saturday, November 18

Father J. Glenn Murray, SJ

Our fall Scripture day is dedicated to the Gospel of the new liturgical cycle: Luke (Cycle C). The day includes an overview and outline of the Gospel, prayer, shared reading, noon Eucharist and lunch. The same program is offered both days.

Cost: $35 – includes lunch

Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Knights of Columbus honor guard take part in the eucharistic procession through Charlotte Oct. 7.

Beautiful gifts to the Lord

During his homily at the vigil Mass that closed the Eucharistic Congress Oct. 7, Bishop Peter J. Jugis announced plans for a third Eucharistic Congress to be held in Charlotte Sept. 21-22, 2007. His remarks were met with thunderous applause.

"This beautiful gift to the Lord, which was this year's Eucharistic Congress, was built up by the sacrifices and prayers of many, many people," said Bishop Jugis. "It is an offering of love from the heart of all of us throughout the diocese."

"God blesses this gift of our hearts, which we have given to him with such devotion and love," he said.

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!

*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***

- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels.

Asheville
828-665-3944

Charlotte
704-549-4010

Mooresville
704-663-1065

Photo by Karen A. Evans

More than 100 ciboria holding the Eucharist sit on a table before being distributed by dozens of priests and deacons during the vigil Mass closing the Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 7.

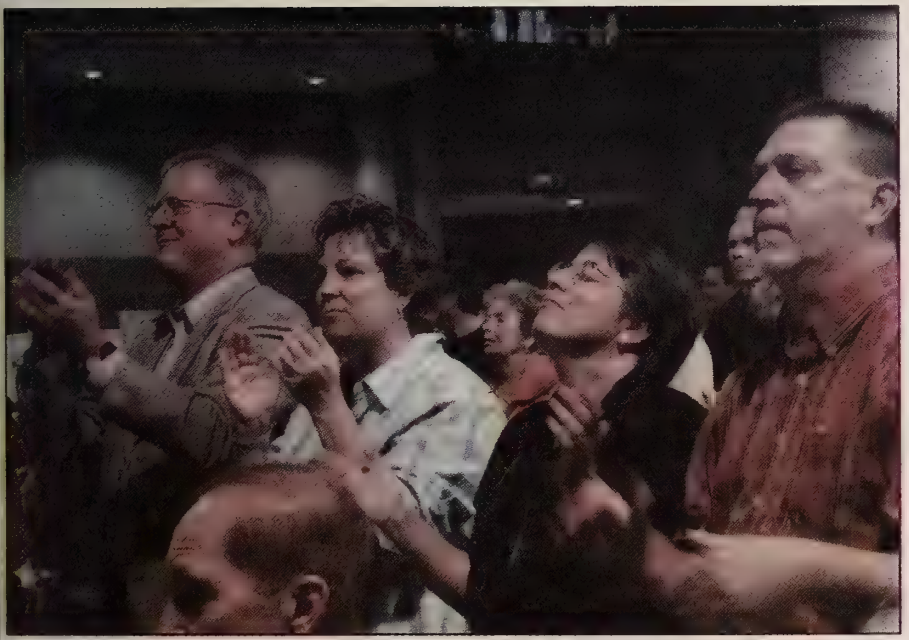


Photo by Karen A. Evans

Participants enjoy the music during the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 7. An estimated 8,000 people took part in the two-day congress.

Reflecting on the Eucharistic Congress

Faith affirmed, deepened for participants

by DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance during the eucharistic procession Oct. 7.

CHARLOTTE — From uplifting music and encouraging talks to celebrating the holy Eucharist, the second diocesan Eucharistic Congress inspired many people to deepen their understanding of and devotion to the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus.

The two-day Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 6-7, featured a variety of speakers and events, including adoration, Benediction and a eucharistic procession through the streets of uptown Charlotte.

Those who attended came from parishes across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte, and many people said they worshipped their faith in new ways.

"I came to the congress because this is certainly a great event for the diocese," said Deacon Brian McNulty, permanent deacon at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

Ray Arroyo (of the Eternal World Television Network) gave a tremendous talk on Mother Angelica. She was a model on how we (Catholics) need to go out and do ... to be unafraid of taking a risk, especially for the faith," said Deacon McNulty.

"He (Arroyo) explained how God can work in everyone, in everything and anywhere," said Joe Lindsley, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"Mother Angelica's story is truly a great inspirational story that all Catholics need to hear," said Lindsley, who, along with his wife Peggy, attended the congress for the second year.

They were impressed with the excitement and faith of those around them.

"The enthusiasm is unbelievable," said Joe Lindsley.

"We are thrilled to be here at the second Eucharistic Congress," said Meg Barrett, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Newton. "For my children and teenagers, it is wonderful for them to be exposed to all these great (children and teen tracks') speakers."

Linda Hooker, parish catechetical leader at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, said she was amazed at how spiritually uplifted people seemed, especially the youths.

"Hopefully the faith of these children is indicative of the future life of the Catholic Church," she said. "We will certainly leave the Church in good hands."

Father Leo Patalinghug from Westminister, Md., spoke about being "spiritually beautiful."

"Father Patalinghug hit the nail on the head when he said "when we don't look for spiritual beauty, we will look for that fleeting physical beauty," said Neil Schunke, a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

Spiritual beauty was evident at the Eucharistic Congress. Even though the event was well attended by an estimated 8,000 people, some wished more of their fellow Catholics had been there.

"I wish more people would have attended, because the congress is so important," said Chad Desch, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

"They don't realize what they have lost — the spiritual healing, the renewal of our faith and why we believe as strongly as we do," said Hooker.

"May the love of Jesus, which we have celebrated in the holy Eucharist, build up our families in love, build up our parishes in love and build up love in all of our service to the poor, to the sick and to all those in need," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"The love we celebrate in the holy Eucharist animates all the good work of the church," he said.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this article.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING
A.V. ROOFING
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Building winners: Vatican works to put values back in sports

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In an effort to help parents, coaches, athletes, schools, parishes and sports associations, the Vatican has published a book aimed at "rehumanizing" a sports world that tends to glorify winning at all costs to the detriment of players and spectators.

Titled "The World of Sport Today: A Field of Christian Mission," the book was released in September by the Vatican's own fledgling sports desk at the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

The special section was established in 2004 by Pope John Paul II as a way to help get the church off the sidelines and onto the playing field, helping promote Christian values in today's sports.

The slim, 146-page paperback compiles speeches and proceedings from the Vatican's first international seminar on sports held last November.

The seminar brought professional players, experts, sports fans and chaplains to talk about how the church could better promote authentic human values and the Gospel message in the world of athletics.

The book starts off with a historical perspective, beginning with ancient Greece, whose pan-Hellenic games helped imbue sports with the values of equality, fraternity and fair play.

Other chapters look at how those values gradually eroded, giving way to lucrative economic interests that, according to the head of the Vatican's laity council, have robbed sports of its true nature.

In the book's preface, Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko wrote that sports today are in the hands of a powerful industry "which produces dreams of power and success in millions of individuals."

Sports has become a fast-growing business, now valued at $213 billion, wrote another seminar participant, Clark Power, associate director of the Center for Ethical Education at Indiana's University of Notre Dame.

While sponsorships, marketing gimmicks and the general commercialization of sports help sustain an otherwise valid industry, they also feed a culture of materialism devoid of human values, he wrote in a chapter dedicated to sports and business.

The book points to a wide range of ills plaguing today's sports world, but it also dedicates several chapters to what the church, Catholics and people of good will can do to turn sports back into what Archbishop Rylko called "a school of humanity, virtue and life."

The consensus among contributors underlined the critical role parents and coaches play in molding young people's attitudes and interest in sports. Parents and coaches, they said, need to teach kids what sports really are about and how they should be played.

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Children play soccer in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican before the weekly audience of Pope Benedict XVI Sept. 21, 2005. The Catholic Church is seeking to promote Christian values in the world of sports.

Because ethical values are already at risk in many modern societies, healthy, human-centered sports can make a world of difference in steering kids away from an empty or marginalized future, wrote another contributor.

Young people need "to create their own life project, to feel useful in society and to find solid models from which to take inspiration," wrote Edio Costantini, head of Catholic Action's sports association in Italy.

Coaches, therefore, should not just be concerned with perfecting athletes' technique and skills, but should help kids "feel accepted, direct them and accompany them along their path, thus giving them hope," said his text on opportunities for renewing today's sports.

Parents, too, can do a lot in boosting their kids' self-esteem, identity and autonomy, he wrote, and they can "openly voice opposition to the negative things" affecting sports.

Sports, taught well and played right, have enormous potential in changing today's world by promoting peace and fraternity, many of the writers said.

They often quoted Pope John Paul — the skier, canoeist, hiker and goalkeeper — who said sports can answer today's needs.

The late pope said sports can free young people "from the snares of apathy and indifference," help free disadvantaged peoples and nations from poverty and help "eradicate intolerance" as people unite behind a common goal.

Sports, he said in his homily for the jubilee of sports in 2000, can enhance "love of life, teach sacrifice, respect and responsibility, leading to the full development of every human being."

That sounds like a game that could make everyone a winner.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 22, 2006

Oct. 22, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

1) Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
2) Hebrews 4:14-16
3) Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

What is offered may have lasting effect

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

For years my mother Elsie had grown fabulous vegetable gardens and shared her crops with friends and neighbors. In her last four years as an amputee, her longest trek outside was to visit the mailbox or to struggle to the edge of my father's grave.

Many would have characterized her as a prime example of a pack rat, especially those left with the enormous task of sifting through her 30 years of living in the same house. We wondered why she saved her insulin bottles, bags of peach seeds or an enormous stock of canned goods.

My mother's empty house presented me with the haunting challenge of learning about her from the artifacts she left behind. Elsie's standard answer for saving things had been, "There might come a time when they might come in handy."

"Beverly, do you want this?"

"Mom, where did Grandma get this ring?"

"Mom, you have to look in this box; you won't believe it!"

I was the court of last resort, deciding what to save and what to toss.

One of the most extraordinary treasures we found during that sad week was every letter and card that our children or I had written to her and my dad over the 19 years I had been married.

The scope of this correspondence covered our writing each other two or three times a week - no free long distance back then! It was a chronicle that recorded births and deaths, joy and sadness, faith and hope. I had no idea I was writing an account of 19 years of ordinary time.

The readings for this weekend speak to us about suffering and redemption. In Mark's Gospel we hear James and John readily answer "We can" when Jesus asks them if they can drink the cup he will drink.

At times we may be tempted to wonder with a bit of superiority how they could possibly misunderstand the import of Jesus' question. Like James and John, we have vowed to drink the cup Jesus offers us without knowing where the journey will lead us, but knowing that what we leave behind may be a message of redemption.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Scripture for the week of Oct. 15-21
Sunday (Twenty-eight Sunday in Ordinary Times), Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; **Monday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque),** Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31--5:1, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch),** Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Luke),** 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Thursday (St. John de Brebeuf, St. Isaac Jogues and companions),** Ephesians 1:1-10, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Paul of the Cross),** Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday,** Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 12:8-12.

Scripture for the week of Oct. 22-28
Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday (St. John of Capistrano),** Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. Anthony Mary Claret),** Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday,** Ephesians 3:2-12, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday,** Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday,** Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday (Sts. Simon and Jude),** Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Adult Degree Program
Information Session

Wednesday, October 18
10 am & 7 pm

Attend up to full-time —
only 2 nights per week!

Many low-income parents can attend tuition-free.
You may qualify if you meet the following criteria:

Children at home:	Household income less than:
1	$24,000
2	$28,000
3	$34,000
4	$40,000

AND you have a C+ average in high school and/or previous college.

Over 30 different programs including:
Accounting
Business Management
Computer Information Systems
Criminal Justice
Elementary Education (K-6)
Psychology
plus many others!

To reserve a seat, call (704) 825-6666.

www.belmontabbeycollege.edu/adult-education
The Catholic College of the Carolinas

Priest band goes rock-rock-rocking on heaven's door

MISSION, Kan. (CNS) — If that pulsing beat and those screaming guitars are driving you crazy at night, think twice before calling the cops on those rock-star wannabes jammin' out down the street.

You might just find your pastor singing lead.

That's right. Four priests of the Archdiocese of Kansas City — three of them pastors — and a layman studying for the permanent diaconate have been putting in the after-hours lately, rehearsing for their next gig.

In fact, the three pastors — Fathers Ken Kelly, Mark Mertes and John Reynolds — are celebrating the 15th anniversary of their combination oldies-rock group called the Priest Band. The group's first gig was at a parish appreciation dinner.

"We performed as a singalong group," said Father Mertes, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Overland Park. "But during our next gig, we were asked to leave room for a dance area when we set up. So we quickly turned into a performance band."

Now joined by the associate pastor of Curé of Ars Church in Leawood, Father Kent O'Connor, and a diaconate candidate, Carl Parry, the Priest Band is rehearsing for several scheduled appearances in the upcoming months.

This self-described "garage band" performs at parish and community events, such as ice cream socials and conventions. Its gigs are few and far between, but that's plenty for their busy schedules.

"My motto is, 'Our fame exceeds our talent,'" organizer Father Mertes explained with a laugh. But the group's playlist is as varied as its members' talents.

It includes popular rock hits such as Elvis Presley's "All Shook Up" and the Eagles' "Peaceful Easy Feeling." Oldies like "Rockin' Robin" and "Side by Side" are there as well.

"We perform happy, hopeful music and songs that work for the group we are playing for," said Father Kelly, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Mission.

CNS PHOTO BY ELAINA GENERALLY, THE LEAVEN

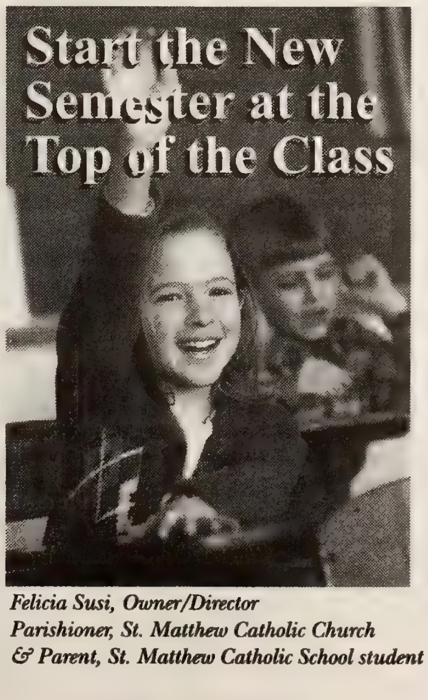
Members of the Priest Band are (from left) Father Kent O'Connor, Father Mark Mertes, Father Ken Kelly, Father John Reynolds and Carl Parry. The four priests and Parry, a layman who is studying for the permanent diaconate, have been rehearsing for their next gig.

One of their specialties is a repertoire of '30s and '40s hits, including "Tip Toe Through the Tulips" (later recorded by Tiny Tim in the 1960s). This crowd-pleaser features Father Kelly on the ukulele.

Vocal duties are shared by all but Parry, although Father Reynolds sings lead on only a few numbers. The remaining three priests sing both solo and in two- or three-part harmony.

As much as all five appreciate the way the band helps them keep music in their lives, all agree that it also serves as a release for them.

"Singing takes me out of my everyday life and gives me a chance to do something different," said Father Mertes. "This is a fun group of guys, and it's nice getting together with them to make music."


Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class

Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student

South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
The Academic Edge™

Vatican City necropolis now open to visitors

TOMBS, *from page 1*

touchingly simple, is one of more than 250 tombs discovered beneath Vatican City and now on display to visitors for the first time.

The necropolis — literally a "city of the dead" — was unearthed in 2003 when the Vatican began digging foundations for a parking lot. The area containing the tombs was carefully excavated, with results that surprised the experts.

"We discovered what might be called a small funerary Pompeii," said Giandomenico Spinola, who oversaw the archaeological work for the Vatican Museums.

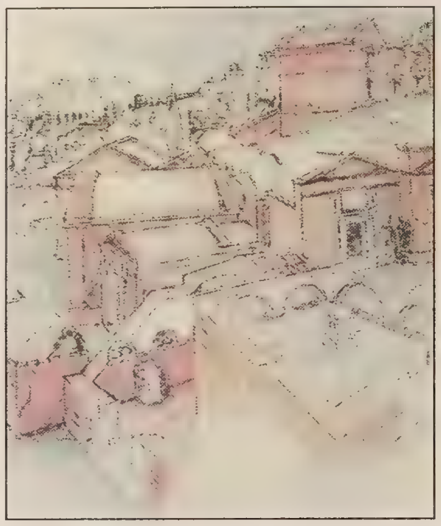
Spinola explained to reporters Oct. 9 that many of the tombs were preserved in a mudslide that occurred on the Vatican hill in ancient times. When the tombs were excavated, they still contained the decorations, ritual furnishings, mosaics and frescoes from 2,000 years ago.

"This is the type of complex that is usually lost over time. It contains the tombs of rich families, middle-class families and even some slaves," he said.

Those buried at the site included noblemen, scribes and a horse trainer who worked the chariot races.

Throughout the cemetery archaeologists found a wealth of altars, urns, ceramic cups and bowls, oil lamps, statues and obituary inscriptions. One area is scattered with terra-cotta tubes leading into graves; relatives of the deceased would pour ritual offerings of milk or wine for the dead through the tubes. The tombs date from the time of Augustus in the early first century to the time of Constantine in the early fourth century.

The excavated area, located not far from the papal apartments in the northeastern corner of Vatican City, was part of the "Via Triumphalis" (Triumphal Way), a major road leading out of ancient Rome that was lined with tombs. It is unconnected with the cemetery on the other side of the Vatican hill, believed to hold the tomb of St. Peter.



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF VATICAN MUSEUMS

An artist's reconstruction shows a necropolis discovered below Vatican City in 2003. The tombs date from the time of Augustus in the early first century to the time of Constantine in the early fourth century.

As of mid-October, visitors can make an appointment to see the new necropolis, walking on a catwalk above the site where workers are still completing the excavation. The area has been walled and roofed and equipped with an air-monitoring system.

One of the most intriguing new finds was in a family tomb chamber that contained five beautifully sculpted marble sarcophagi. On one wall is a frescoed peacock, and on the floor a mosaic showing an intoxicated Dionysus being held up by a young satyr.

The sarcophagi also have pagan themes. But the latest sarcophagus, that of a young Roman man who died at age 17, bears a relief of a praying woman.

Vatican experts believe it is probably a Christian symbol that illustrates, within one family grave site, the growing influence of Christianity in Rome late in the third century.

Another tomb that has piqued historians' interest is that of a certain Alcimus, who worked for the Emperor Nero as the set director for the most important theater of the period, the Theater of Pompeii, located in downtown Rome.

The discovery of the necropolis meant the Vatican's covered parking lot is a little bit smaller than planned. It operates next to the archaeological site, divided by a thin wall from the ancient tombs.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PARISH ORGANIST: Our Lady of the Assumption in Charlotte is looking for a parish organist. Contact Deacon Peter Duca: (704) 573-0097.

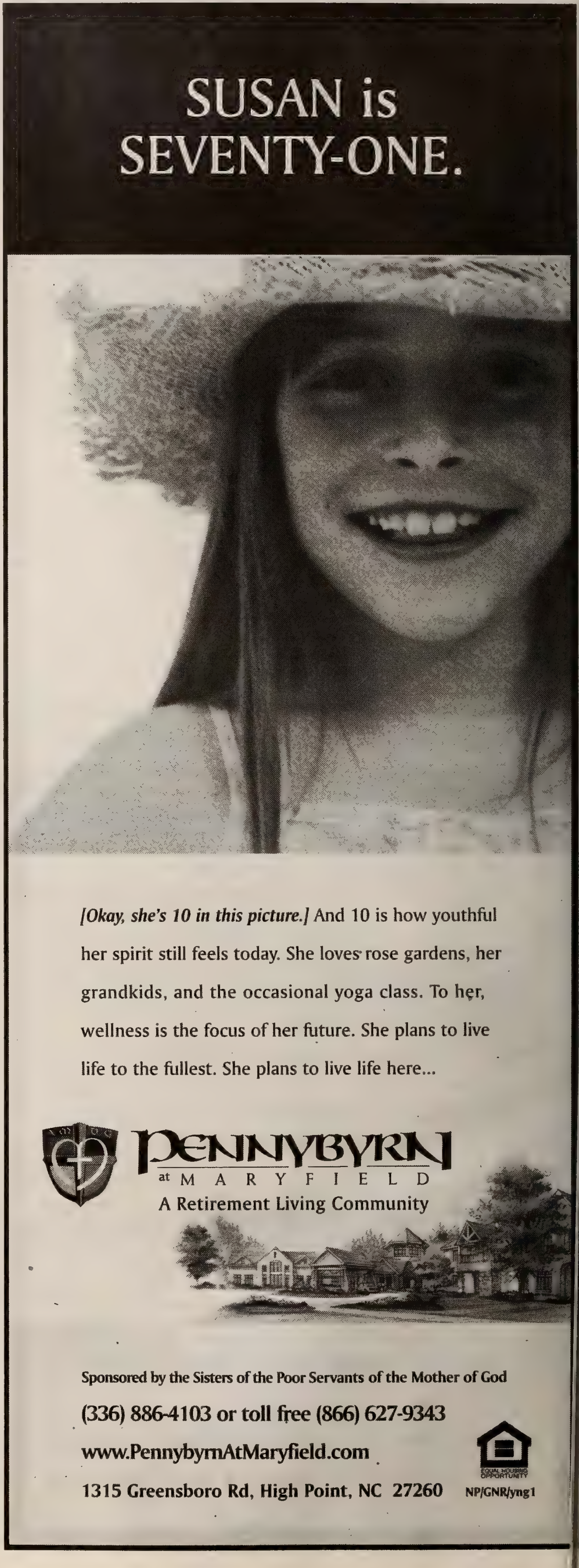
SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. (888) 803-ALHS

FOR SALE

HOME: Lake Wylie, SC (near Charlotte). 3 BD/2BA home, excellent school district, nice neighbors, community pool and playground, new Catholic church being built nearby. $196,000. www.homesbyowner.com/28338

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.



SUSAN is SEVENTY-ONE.

[Okay, she's 10 in this picture.] And 10 is how youthful her spirit still feels today. She loves rose gardens, her grandkids, and the occasional yoga class. To her, wellness is the focus of her future. She plans to live life to the fullest. She plans to live life here...

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God
(336) 886-4103 or toll free (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
NP/GNR/yng1

Franciscans honor life, passion of St. Francis of Assisi

SAINT, *from page 1*

Francis' last hours of life.

The brothers and sisters of the Brother Francis Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in Hickory joined in that celebration on the same day at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir.

The Hickory fraternity made their celebration a monastic one this year, so the brothers wore brown monks' robes and reenacted the scenes leading up to St. Francis' death.

John Martin played the part of St. Francis, while Bill Brockhoff, Frank Cogger and Doug Miller played the brothers who were with him during his death. Bill Borst narrated the story for those in attendance.

St. Francis asked that canticles be sung by the brothers around him during his final illness, so the participants in the Lenoir Transitus service, led by the sisters of the local fraternity, sang verses of "All Creatures of Our God and King" between sections of the narrative.

The brothers in Italy arranged for St. Francis to be carried to the Portiuncula chapel outside of Assisi, where St. Francis founded his order. They took him to a tiny hut in the forest near the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. The basilica is built around the chapel, which had been an abandoned Benedictine chapel until St. Francis restored it in 1207.

Many people visited St. Francis in the solitude of this location before his death. All received special messages and blessings from the saint. Included in these blessings was St. Clare of Assisi, who professed her vows in the chapel and started a Franciscan order for women in 1212.

The Pardon of Assisi, also called the Portiuncula Indulgence, is earned by pilgrims who confess their sins and make a sincere promise of repentance in the church each Aug. 2.

The day before he died, St. Francis asked for bread. He blessed it, broke it and distributed it to all present, just as Christ did at the Last Supper, while the Passion was read from the Gospel of John. Participants in the Lenoir Transitus service also received a piece of bread while this portion of the story was read.

St. Francis was placed on the ground the next day in a coarse sackcloth, his head covered with ashes and dust. At the Lenoir Transitus, participants read Psalm 142, led by two sisters of the fraternity, just as the brothers of St. Francis did in 1226.

A biographer of St. Francis wrote that, as the Psalm ended, a multitude of crested larks flocked about the roof of the hut, chirping as if to bewail the loss of their friend. At the same hour, a brother saw a shining star being borne on a white cloud toward heaven.

Photo by Ellen N. Sigmon

Members of the Secular Franciscan Order in Hickory process into St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir Oct. 3 as part of a "Transitus" service honoring St. Francis' final hours.

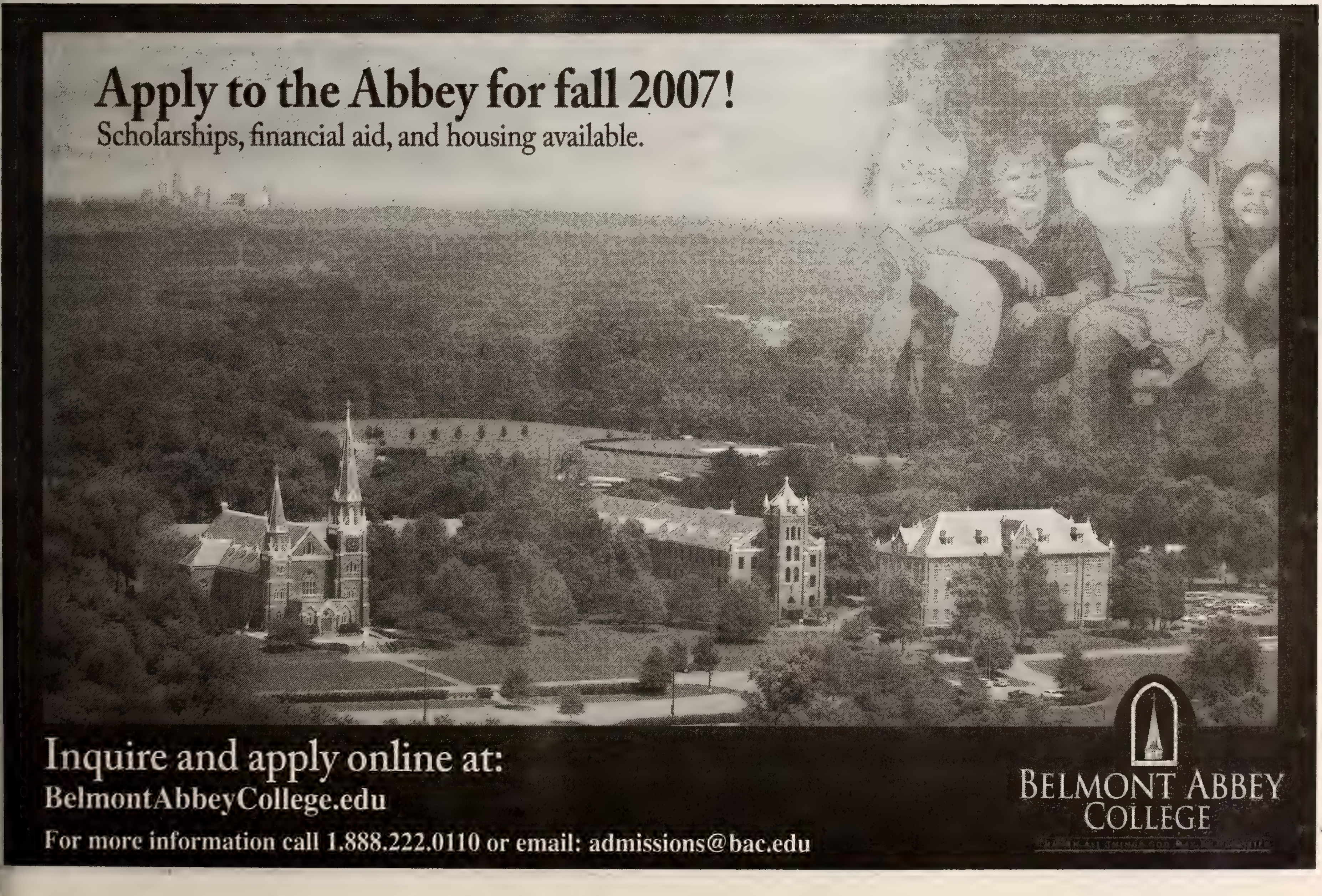
The Transitus finished with a renewal of Secular Franciscan commitment and a blessing. Participants then went to the parish hall for refreshments and a video on the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare.

Secular Franciscan Order members strive to live the Gospel in the manner of St. Francis by spreading it by word and example. Persons seeking to join the order spend two to three years in the exploration and candidacy process.

There are approximately 18,000 members of the order in the United States, which is open to practicing Catholics who do not belong to any religious or other secular order.

UPCOMING

The Hickory fraternity will sponsor a re-enactment of the Crib at Greccio, a live nativity reminiscent of the one organized by St. Francis in 1223, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10.


Apply to the Abbey for fall 2007!
Scholarships, financial aid, and housing available.
Inquire and apply online at:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
For more information call 1.888.222.0110 or email: admissions@bac.edu
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editori-

Respect life, reject violence

Change, action needed to end killing

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
GUEST COLUMNIST

As someone who regularly experiences having statements taken out of context, I can imagine Pope Benedict XVI's sad disappointment over the anger and violence that resulted from a few controversial sentences lifted from his recent lecture in Germany.

During a talk on faith and reason delivered at the University of Regensberg, the pope highlighted a 14th-century dialogue between Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus and a Persian scholar. What angered some Muslims was the pope's quotation of statements by Paleologus that certain teachings of Mohammed were "evil and inhuman" and called for spreading the faith of Islam by the sword.

But the pope bridged those words to another quoted passage from Paleologus: "God is not pleased by blood — and not acting reasonably is contrary to God's nature."

That quote pointed to a major theme of the pope's address: that violence is incompatible with God's nature. But this extremely important teaching was missed by many because a few words were taken out of context.

Perhaps the pope's message would have been better received if he had included words to balance Paleologus' criticism of Mohammed. Islam is not the only religion needing to be reminded that violence is offensive to the loving nature of God.

History is loaded with Christian violence. Christians fighting Christians. Christians fighting Muslims. Christians fighting Native Americans.

Violence is evil no matter who is doing the killing. But what makes Christian violence especially unreasonable is that our founder was completely nonviolent.

"But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also .... give to anyone who begs from you. ... Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Lk 6:27-31).

In his 2002 Easter Sunday message, Pope John Paul II said: "It seems that war has been declared on peace. But nothing is resolved by war. It only brings greater suffering and death.

"Nothing is resolved through reprisal and retaliation. This is a truly great tragedy. ... No one can remain silent or inactive, no political or religious leader!"

The United Nations recently reported that 3,009 people were killed in Iraq during August. The month before, Iraq witnessed the deaths of 3,590 people. The U.N. report said that the current level of violence "is challenging the very fabric of the country."

Yet, contrary to Pope John Paul's bold teachings, the vast majority of political and religious leaders are silent and inactive.

Of course, the evil of violence is not limited to war.

Modern society has accepted the erroneous notion that the violence of abortion solves problems of unwanted pregnancies, that the violence of capital punishment solves problems of crime and that the violence of unbridled capitalism and globalization solves problems of poverty.

During October, Respect Life Month, dedicated also to the Virgin Mary, it would do us good to pray daily this moving prayer composed by Pope John Paul:

"Immaculate Heart of Mary, help us conquer the power of evil. From famine and war, deliver us. From nuclear war, from every kind of war, deliver us. From sins against human life at its very beginning, deliver us.

"From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the people of God, deliver us. From every kind of injustice, within nations and among nations, deliver us."

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste. To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy. The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives. Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

What the Amish are teaching us about forgiveness

Not forgiving others removes Christ, adds emptiness to our lives

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

It will be hard to forget the horror that happened the first week of October to the peaceful, God-loving Amish community of Nickel Mines, Pa.

That a disturbed man could invade the school where Amish children respectfully and peacefully were learning their lessons, intending to sexually molest and kill young girls, will forever sear our memories.

But beyond the headlines about this horrific crime was another one, as expressed in my daily paper: "Amish Urge Forgiveness for Shooter." Reporters kept asking about "revenge and hatred," but the Amish parents, relatives and friends spoke of forgiveness.

For so many onlookers, this willingness to seek forgiveness rather than vengeance was so out of the norm that they sought an explanation. One researcher, Gertrude Huntington, identified also as an "expert on children in Amish society," explained: "They know their children are going to heaven. They know their children are innocent and they know they will join them in death."

Then she said something everyone should latch on to: "The hurt is very great, but they don't balance the hurt with hate."

Yet, when you are seared by such horrible loss and pain, how can you fight the hate that overtakes you? I know that place. I was thrown into that hell when I lost a son and a daughter-in-law at the hands of a murderer.

Then, in the space of a phone call, I had to struggle with whether forgiveness was possible, whether it ever made sense and even whether it was the right thing.

I would break out in a sweat thinking of the violence, the sin that happened that night when an 18-year-old slid through a basement window into their home, stealthily went up the stairs to the bedroom where they were sleeping and shot them to death with his 9 mm semiautomatic gun.

The word "forgiveness" never crossed my mind, and if it had at that moment I would have written it off as nonsensical.

But I soon realized there was only one path that could help me survive — to put my life solidly in the hands of my God. My children helped me, as we struggled together to find our souls, so damaged by this horror.

We always had been opposed to the death penalty, and healing first began when we wrote to the judge, asking that the young man not be executed. Then it was another mother, who had moved beyond hatred and revenge after the murder of her daughter, who unknowingly helped me.

She began writing to the murderer, saying honestly, "This does not mean that I think you are innocent or that you are blameless for what happened."

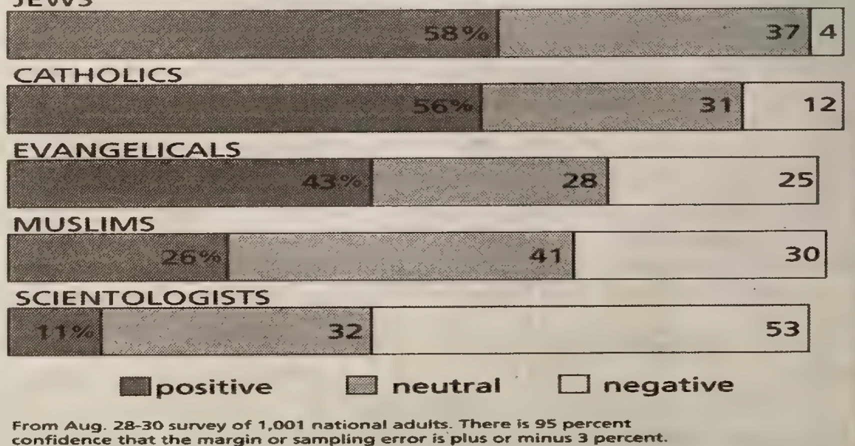
It was what she then said that made an imprint in my heart: "What I learned is this: You are a divine child of God. You carry the Christ-consciousness within you. You are surrounded by God's love even as you sit in your cell. The Christ in me sends blessings to the Christ in you."

I cried my eyes out. She made me understand in a new way what Jesus meant by forgiveness and why it must be a way of life, a way to live continuously. Now I could see that the minute we say "no" to forgiveness, we are gouging Christ out of our life, and from that resulting emptiness of soul we have nothing to give another.

This is what the Amish community knows. From their tragedy, they're sharing this knowledge with all of us!

Image Factor

Americans' overall view of Jews is more positive than of any other religious group.



From Aug. 28-30 survey of 1,001 national adults. There is 95 percent confidence that the margin or sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent.

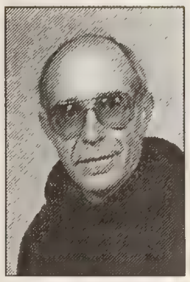
Source: Gallup Poll

©2006 CNS

The paradox of life: To grow up and be little

Humility and service to others are keys to salvation

Guest Column



CAPUCHIN FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA
GUEST COLUMNIST

I sometimes wonder why Jesus did what he did.

Our culture seems to warn us not to be childish. How many times do we say to one another, "Come on, grow up!"

But sometimes being child-like, being little, can have its benefits.

After traveling through Galilee, Jesus' disciples were discussing who was more important, who would be first in the kingdom of God.

When Jesus asked them what they were discussing, an awkward silence fell upon them. No one wanted to answer; they were embarrassed because they were arguing about who was "number one."

Then Jesus showed his masterful skill as teacher: "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the least of all and the servant of all." (Mark 9:35).

He took a child, placed him in the middle and, putting his arms around the boy, said to them, ''Whoever receives a child such as this in my name, receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:37).

The disciples failed miserably to understand that Jesus had used action rather than rationalization. With a child, what you see is what you get — no rationalization or sophistication there. Children are also more vulnerable; they rely on adults to protect and guide them.

So are we in our relationship with God.

First, God does not love us because we are good. He helps us be good because he loves us.

Second, we are vulnerable and powerless when the world controls us, but we are powerful and strong when we control the world.

Third, stop arguing about the details of pride and success because eventually you will lose sight of the whole picture of life.

Fourth, trying to imitate Jesus can be discouraging. We hear his call to follow, we recognize what he has done, we see what we must do and we crumble.

We say, "I don't have it in me. I cannot do it. I will never make a difference in the world. I am just one of the little people."

The last statement really makes sense, because Jesus loves "little" people.

He said that the little, the humble, the meek and the gentle are great in God's eyes, and the so-called great, successful, proud people are very small or absent from his sight.

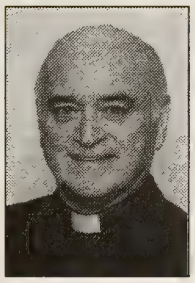
It seems that many people are really concerned about who is the greatest in sports, education, politics or just about everything. Christ moves in the opposite direction: "To be the greatest, you must be the servant of all."

Father Aurilia is the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Questions I'm often asked

Answers to inquiries about faith, salvation

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

"Do Catholics adore Mary?"

No, Mary wouldn't like that.

"What role do saints play in the Catholic Church?"

They are the heroes who have gone before us. We try to imitate them in their holiness. We sometimes ask them to pray for us.

"Why do Catholics have to confess their sins to a priest? Can't they pray directly to God?"

Of course, but Jesus wants us to confess. He instituted the sacrament of reconciliation for this purpose: "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven, whose sins you shall retain, they are retained."

Priests have to hear the sins in order to decide what to do.

"Why do Catholics need to go to Mass?"

Jesus taught us to say, "Our Father," not "my Father." He never intended that religion be turned into "meligion."

The privatization of religion is wrong because there is a divine commandment to worship on the Sabbath as one people.

"What does the Catholic Church offer that other churches do not?"

It offers the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and the unity derived from one leader with authority, namely the pope, who is the successor of St. Peter.

Because of this foundation, we still have the deposit of faith intact coming to us from the apostles.

"How is Jesus actually present in the Eucharist?"

That is a mystery, but the truth of it is a certainty. Billions of Catholics down through the centuries have experienced the nourishment afforded by this marvelous sacrament.

"What happens with a sacrament?"

The risen Jesus acts in every sacrament. In the confessional, he is the one who forgives sin.

The sacraments follow the stages of life: birth, growth, marriage, worship, forgiveness, sickness and death.

"When the church annuls a marriage, do the children become illegitimate?"

Absolutely not! Only children born out of wedlock are considered illegitimate.

When the church annuls a marriage, it is not saying that it never existed; rather, it is declaring that the underlying contract had a defect.

For instance, if a woman finds out that her husband already was married, she can have her marriage to the bigamist nullified. Once that is done, she is free to marry again. The annulment has no bearing on the legitimacy of any children born of the union.

"What does the church teach about heaven and hell?"

The church, and every other religion in the world, teaches that good is rewarded and evil is punished.

Evil exists all around us. Those caught up in it suffer the consequences in this world and the next. People create their own hell.

St. Catherine once said, "All the way to heaven is heaven, and all the way to hell is hell," and this is true.

"But aren't we saved automatically by the death of Jesus on the cross?"

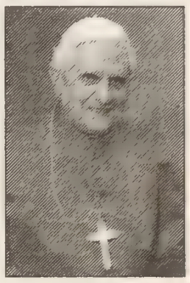
Lots of Christians think so, but if that were true, why would Jesus have said, "Depart from me, with your curse upon you, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave me no food, etc."(Mt 25:42)?

Jesus is merciful, but you have to ask for his mercy. Hell is a choice.

To accept Jesus as Lord means that you promise to obey him. "Love one another"(Jn 13:34) is not a suggestion, it is a command. Why gamble with your eternal salvation?

Christians must not let politics, social status divide them, pope says

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christians are called to form a united community of faith where social status and politics do not divide them and where dialogue with the world does not mean hiding the truths of the Christian faith, the pope said.

"Certainly the path of understanding and dialogue, which the Second Vatican Council happily undertook, must continue with firm constancy," Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience Oct. 11.

"But this path of dialogue, which is so necessary, must not lead us to forget our obligation to recall and demonstrate with the same energy the principal elements of our Christian identity, which cannot be renounced," he said.

The pope focused on the figures of Sts. Simon and Jude, continuing his series of talks about the Twelve Apostles.

Simon, identified in St. Luke's Gospel as a zealot, a member of a nationalist movement, had very different political and religious views from Matthew, the tax collector, the pope said.

The two disciples are an "obvious sign that Jesus calls his disciples and collaborators from the most diverse social and religious groups," the pope said. "He is interested in people, not social categories or labels."

Despite the difficulties they would have in living and working together, the disciples find complete unity in Jesus.

"This clearly is a lesson for us, since we often are inclined to underline our differences and even our oppositions, forgetting that in Jesus Christ we have been given the strength to overcome our conflicts," Pope Benedict said.

The pope said the Twelve Apostles were meant to be a model of the church and, therefore, demonstrate that in the church "all gifts, peoples and races — all human qualities — must have a space and find their unity in communion with Jesus."

In turning to St. Jude, the pope focused on the very brief New Testament letter attributed to him. The Letter of Jude warns the young Christian communities to be on guard against those who pretend to love God, but are sowing division with their erroneous teachings.

The letter, which uses harsh language to condemn the false teachers, "tells us something important given all the temptations and trends present in modern life: We must preserve the identity of our faith," he said.

While being open to dialogue with others, the pope said, Christians must have "the strength, clarity and courage" to proclaim the truths of their faith.

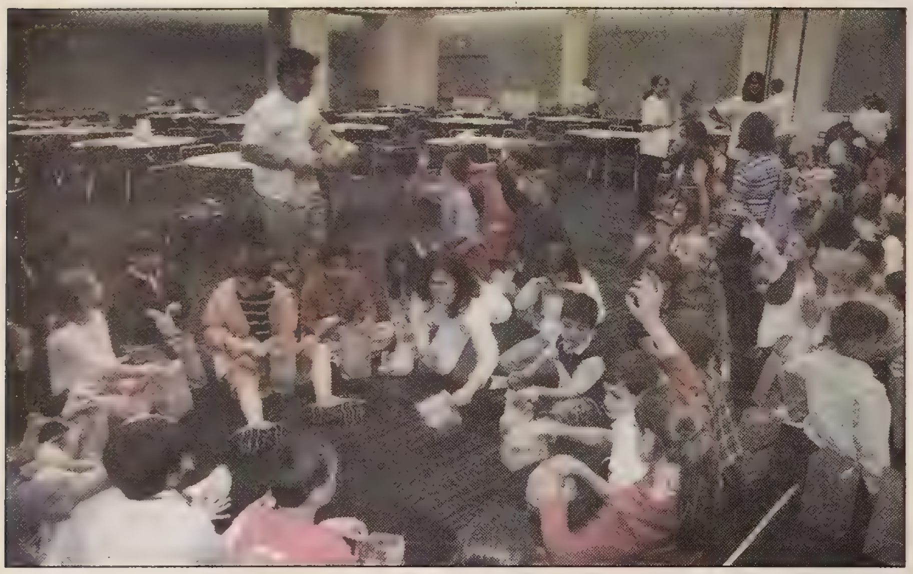
Thousands attend, enjoy Eucharistic Congress

CHARLOTTE — An estimated 8,000 people took part in the second diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Oct. 6-7.

The two-day event, themed "The Love of Christ Impels Us," featured prayer, praise, worship and music centered on the holy Eucharist.

"In this Congress we especially explored the idea that in the holy Eucharist Jesus shares his love with us, so that transformed by his love we can be effective in bringing his love to the world," said the bishop.

See pages 1, 5-9.



Photos by Kevin E. Murray, Karen A. Evans and Deacon Gerald Potkay

The second diocesan Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 6-7, featured a variety of activities and events, including (top) a children's track, (above left) reconciliation, (above right) a eucharistic procession and (below) speakers including Raymond Arroyo, pictured with members of the Missionaries of Charity congregation in Charlotte.

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:
- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 20, 2006

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 № 2

Parish Profile

Holy Infant Church a small, vibrant parish

| PAGE 16

On a mission of love and faith

ocal collections eap global benefits

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — This eekend, Oct. 21-22, the iocese of Charlotte will oin Catholics throughout he world in celebrating World Mission Sunday, with he theme "Charity: Soul of he Mission."

Sponsored by the Society or the Propagation of the aith, World Mission Sunday s a day set aside for Catholics orldwide to recommit hemselves to the church's issionary activity through rayer and sacrifice.

Offerings from collections round the globe are distributed o mission dioceses.

World Mission Sunday ollections fund a variety of

See MISSION, page 9

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, receives a flower garland as he is greeted at a church in Bakultala in the Middle Andamans. Father O'Rourke spent December 2005 traveling through the mission diocese of Port Blair, India.

A call to duty

Navy enlistee wants first to serve God

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Before she leaves to serve her country, Sarah Hobbick first wants to make the commitment to serve Jesus.

Hobbick will begin basic training with the U.S. Navy in February 2007. Prior to departing from North Carolina, she will complete her journey toward the sacrament of confirmation at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Oct. 23.

"I feel matronly with the others in my class," said Hobbick, who began the confirmation class in January.

"I asked if I was too old

See DUTY, page 13

ngoing ialogue

slamic scholars write ope, take issues with emarks

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — ternational Islamic scholars ublished an open letter to Pope enedict XVI, taking issue with hat they described as mistakes nd oversimplifications of lam in a recent papal speech German academics.

See ISLAM, page 7

Pope canonizes four

Being a saint takes courage, says pope

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Presiding over the second canonization ceremony of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI honored two women and two men who demonstrated that becoming a saint is not for the weak and fearful.

"The saint is that man, that woman who, responding with joy and generosity to the call of Christ, leaves everything to follow him," the pope said at the Oct. 15 canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Political persecution, poverty, suspicion and even opposition from church leaders were not uncommon in the lives of the four new saints: Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia of Vera Cruz; Italian Father Filippo Smaldone; Italian Sister Rosa Venerini;

See SAINTS, page 8

CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Tapestries hanging from St. Peter's Basilica show four new saints canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican Oct. 15. From left are Italian Sister Rosa Venerini, Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, Italian Father Filippo Smaldone and Mother Theodore Guerin.

#DXHPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-9 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Parishioners help homeless, needy
| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Popular papal mini-books; cartoon on JPII
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
God's sacred, unique gift; the Catholic League
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own

CATHOLICS IN SPACE

CNS PHOTOS COURTESY OF NASA

Astronauts Daniel C. Burbank (left), Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper and Christopher J. Ferguson are pictured in their official photos from NASA. The three Catholic astronauts were part of a six-member crew aboard the space shuttle Atlantis on a 12-day mission to the space station in September.

Watching shuttle launch scarier than being part of it, says astronaut

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — It is scarier to watch a space shuttle launch than it is to be part of one, according to Christopher Ferguson, who piloted the space shuttle Atlantis in September.

Ferguson, 45, a captain in the U.S. Navy, said that by the time astronauts are locked in the shuttle they're too busy to be scared.

"When you're there, you're the one flipping the switches. You're the one responsible for making sure that things get done on time and correctly. You really put your fears behind you," he said.

"If you're going to worry ... you worry about it before you launch," Ferguson said.

He was one of at least three Catholics on the six-member shuttle crew who were on a 12-day mission to the International Space Station.

The Atlantis crew returned to earth Sept. 21 after a journey of more than 4.9 million miles in space.

"But I think it's like most things in life, when you're ready to take a big leap. You make all your terms with God upfront, beforehand," Ferguson said.

"Then you put your head down, you bore ahead and you do everything you're supposed to do — hopefully, in the way that you're supposed to do it," he said.

For Ferguson, a member of St. Bernadette Parish in Houston with his wife and three children, prayer was pivotal in his preparation for the Sept. 9 space shuttle liftoff.

The astronauts' mission to the space station was the first in a series of missions.

The crew began reconstruction of the station after a four-year break in the project. They installed a solar power unit and truss structure and constructed three complex spacewalks.

Ferguson said he remembers as a young boy watching television as Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon and his dad telling him he would not forget that.

Another astronaut, Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper, 43, who was raised in both the Latin-rite Catholic Church and the Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Paul, Minn., currently lives in Houston with her husband and son.

She decided to become an astronaut almost by default.

She failed the eye test necessary to become a Navy pilot, so she became a diver in the Navy doing underwater ship repair. She figured she could use those same skills in space doing repair and building work.

She said was nervous before the launch because she didn't know what to expect, but she also trusted that God would take care of her.

"I know God and my guardian angel are looking out for me and are going to keep me safe," Stefanyshyn-Piper said.

"I feel that if it's time for me to go to heaven then the time is there. ... But at the same time, I definitely wanted to come back to the ground."

With this mission, she joined six other women in making space history by walking in space to help make repairs on the space station.

Another astronaut, Daniel Burbank, is a 25-year member of the Knights of Columbus council in Tolland, Conn.

Burbank was a U.S. Coast Guard rescue pilot for several years before applying to NASA — he applied three times before being accepted to the space program.

His first space flight was in September 2000, also aboard Atlantis and also involving work on the space station.

Burbank stressed the importance of working with others, saying that in space flight in particular "your life is in the hands of your crewmates, and their lives are in your hands as well. So you've got to genuinely care about them and they've got to care about you."

"I think being a good person, being reliable, being trustworthy, and genuinely caring about people is real important," he said.

Parishes see little damage from strong earthquake in Hawaii

HONOLULU (CNS) — Initial reports indicated that there was little damage to Catholic parishes in Hawaii from a magnitude 6.7 earthquake Oct. 15.

A note posted on the Diocese of Honolulu's Web site said that although "there are reports of possible structural damage to some of our structures," most parishes were fine.

Power was restored to the diocesan chancery building at approximately 7:10 p.m., about 12 hours after the earthquake occurred, the note said.

Pastors and administrators of the diocese's 61 parishes were asked to "report any problems or needs" to Bishop Clarence Silva or Father Marc Alexander, vicar general.

Although the earthquake and its aftershocks caused blackouts and landslides on the Island of Hawaii, also known as the Big Island, no fatalities were reported. The headquarters of the Honolulu Diocese is on Oahu Island where about three-fourths of the state's population lives.

Although the diocese reported the earthquake at magnitude 6.6, the Nationa Earthquake Information Center listed its strength at 6.7. Hawaii's stronges earthquake occurred in 1868, when 31 people died in a magnitude 7.9 quake tha also triggered a tsunami, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

According to The Associated Press most of the damage from the lates earthquake was to bridges and roads The quake took place during a rainstorm causing some landslides.

Rodney Haraga, director of the Hawaii Department of Transportation told CBS' "The Early Show" that powe outages were due mainly to an automati shutoff of systems when monitors sense an earthquake. Each electrical system then needed to be rebooted, he said.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide young adults in their 20s and 30s with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will be held Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at Pepperoni's Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center. These interactive events will explore the issues and challenges that Catholic young adults face in the 21st century. Contact Catrina at (704) 665-7374 or e-mail c_l_conway@hotmail.com for more information, or visit www.compass-catholic.com.

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School Instrumental Music Department will present its *Fall Concert* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend this free concert. For more information, call Jackie McCalla at (704) 846-0850.

HUNTERSVILLE — Maxim Healthcare Services will be at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Oct. 26 to provide *flu and pneumonia vaccinations*. You must schedule an appointment by calling (704) 895-0496. Maxim will file claims with the following insurances: Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Aetna, Medicare Complete, Medicare Part B and Partners Medicare Choice.

CHARLOTTE — The Seventh Annual Kennedy Lecture will be presented Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. This year's lecture will be given by Jesuit Father Thomas J. Reese, former editor of America magazine and present scholar at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University. His talk is titled, *"Survival Guide for Thinking Catholics."* It will address the concerns of those who preferred the pre-Vatican II church as well as those who feel the Council did not go far enough. Admission is free but call (704) 332-2901, ext. 12 for reservations. Fo more information, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Decease Loved Ones* is celebrated the last Friday of eac month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 1474 Stumptown Rd. For more information, call Pa Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a pee ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioner who have lost babies before of shortly after birth Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritua materials are offered at no cost or obligation t anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirt or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Father David Valtierra from the Oratory in Rock Hill will lead a retreat Nov. 5 1-4 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Church, 50 N. Main St. The retreat's theme will be *"Jesus the Prophet of New Life."* The retreat will ope with a light meal at 12:30 p.m. No pre-registratio needed. For more information, call Contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mai teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker serie for Catholic adults in their 20s and 30s, will meet a Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy., Oct. 25 Nov. 2, 8 and 15 at 6:45 p.m. Come and experienc great speakers, excellent food and conversation. W will be sponsoring a food drive for Urban Ministry For more information, e-mail greensborotot@ yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call De at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Suppor Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Oct 26, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently ou

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

OCTOBER 20, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 2

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published b the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Churc St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except fo Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks durin June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishe of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per yea for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserve the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deeme appropriate. We do not recommend or guarante any product, service or benefit claimed b our advertisers. Second-class postage paid Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTE Send address corrections to The Catho News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlott NC 28237.

ROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: Embracing poverty will help religious find justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The mpact of religious orders on the search for ustice and peace will increase to the extent hat they live lives marked by simplicity nd sharing the lot of the poor, said the op-ranking woman at the Vatican.

Salesian Sister Enrica Rosanna, ndersecretary of the Congregation or Institutes of Consecrated Life and ocieties of Apostolic Life, spoke at the)ct. 12-13 Vatican seminar on religious rders and Catholic social teaching.

The "biggest challenge" facing eligious orders in their efforts to promote ustice, peace and the preservation of the nvironment "is to live in poverty with implicity and without waste," she said.

Sister Rosanna said in the modern world there is a "concentration of power nd of riches in the hands of a few and, herefore, the common good really is nly the good of some."

In the face of so much poverty, she said, religious become concrete witnesses to the values of the kingdom of God by living simple and sober lives in solidarity with the poor, sharing their homes, their food, their time, talents and faith.

Only people who have stripped themselves of "titles, roles, prestige and fame" can communicate with clarity the Gospel message of love, peace and salvation in Christ, she said.

The congregation for religious, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the justice and peace offices of the world's major religious orders co-sponsored the conference.

No one doubts that religious orders have been and continue to be the Catholic Church's main force for justice and peace in the world, said Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the justice and peace council.

The aim, he said, is "to be saints in Christ in order to anticipate the new humanity."

Vatican: Prejudice against one religion puts all faiths at risk

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Whenever a religion is the subject of prejudice or discrimination, all religions are at risk, a Vatican official told the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Religious communities have tremendous power to promote respect and tolerance, but they are unable "to effectively work against stereotypes if they themselves are victims of them," said Msgr. Ettore Balestrero, an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State.

The official spoke Oct. 12 during an annual meeting at which OSCE's 56 member nations review progress made on issues related to promoting democracy and human rights.

"No partnership among cultures, religions and ethnic identities can be established without mutual knowledge," Msgr. Balestrero said. "Creating a partnership requires dialogue."

The common ground must be built upon respect for religions and culture, not on excluding religious values and believers from public debates, he said.

Msgr. Balestrero referred to Pope Benedict XVI's Sept. 12 speech in Regensburg, Germany, on the relationship between faith and reason.

The pope's speech, he said, was a call "not to consider the mockery of the sacred a right of freedom."

When religion is treated as a "subculture" and sidelined from dialogue among cultures, those who are deeply religious consider it an attack against their deepest convictions, Msgr. Balestrero said.

Msgr. Balestrero asked the OSCE to take seriously its commitment "to fight against prejudice, intolerance and discrimination against Christians and members of other religions."

"Sentiments of hatred and vengeance have been inculcated in numerous young people in those parts of the world marked by conflicts, in ideological contexts where the seeds of ancient resentments are cultivated and their souls prepared for future violence," he said.

Msgr. Balestrero cited the efforts of Catholic schools around the world to educate young people in respect, tolerance and dialogue based on the recognition that all people are created in the image and likeness of God.

f work or looking to make a career change, join us or encouragement, support and informative topics o help you in your job search. For more information, all Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

REENSBORO — The *Franciscan Family of reensboro* will host an informational meeting bout the secular Franciscan life Oct. 29, 2-3:30 p.m. t St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan d. For more information, call Frank Massey at 336) 299-5038.

TONEVILLE — *Fostering Justice Worldwide*, ponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and eace, will share Catholic Relief Services (CRS) tories. This free event will take place at St. Francis prings Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd., St., Nov. 4, -4:30 p.m. The program will provide an overview f Catholic social teaching, CRS-related work in he Diocese of Charlotte, CRS work in Africa, resentations on effective advocacy and more. or specific details about the Saturday afternoon vents please call the Office of Justice and Peace t (704) 370-3234 or (704) 370-3225, or e-mail usticepeace@charlottediocese.org.

ICKORY VICARIATE

ICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* cumenical worship service will be held Nov. 3 at p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 547 6th St. W. "Signs of Healing" is the theme for this year's ervice. Stories of healing in situations of conflict nd crisis will be shared. Child care will be provided. efreshments will be served. For more information, all Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

ALISBURY VICARIATE

ALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry omprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners ho have lost babies before or shortly after birth. onfidential peer ministry, information and spiritual aterials are offered at no cost or obligation to nyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth r the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee ashington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at 704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Dr. Kevin High will speak on "AIDS: A Faith Perspective" Oct. 25. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

)ct. 22 — 11:15 a.m.
acrament of Confirmation
t. Joseph Church, Bryson City

)ct. 23 — 7 p.m.
acrament of Confirmation
mmaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Oct. 29 — 2 p.m.
Holy Mass for Catholic Heritage Society
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Remembering Fatima

CNS PHOTO BY MARCOS BORGA, REUTERS

Bishops and priests process at the start of a Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal Oct. 13. Pilgrims converged on Fatima to celebrate the 89th anniversary of the last apparition of Mary to three shepherd children Oct. 13, 1917. At this apparition, an estimated 70,000 people witnessed the "miracle of the sun."

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

Clothing bodies and souls

Parish coat drive helps those in need

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — As the temperature drops, the generosity of Catholics in Brevard is on the rise.

Sacred Heart Church in Brevard recently held its second "Operation Warm Up," a program aimed at providing winter coats for families in need in Transylvania County.

The donated coats were made available at the parish to those in need Oct. 7-8.

Parishioner Nancy Friedman formulated the idea for Operation Warm Up in January 2001 after witnessing a young boy and his father going through donated clothes at the church.

She approached Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor, and suggested the parish begin an outreach program to gather coats for those in need.

"Father graciously agreed to keep all the coats in the basement of the rectory," said Friedman. "He can store about 400 coats down there."

That first year, the parish collected and donated 400 winter coats. This year, with the help of the parish community life program and many volunteers and donors, the program collected even more coats.

"This year we have had such generosity with donations we've hung the coats on the racks at the church as well," said Friedman.

An estimated 600 men's, women's and children's coats were donated over a six-month period.

The number of donations was due in part to the innovative way they were solicited.

"I didn't want to just put something in the bulletin that people might read, or put out a flyer that would be folded up and stuffed into a back pocket," said Friedman.

Instead, Friedman handed out clothes hangars donated from a local department store after Masses. Flyers were sent home with students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

And more than 50 Brevard-area businesses posted or distributed flyers. A local radio station and newspaper also announced the program.

"The important thing is that the community made this happen," said Friedman. "It was everyone being involved together to do this."

Friedman hopes Operation Warm Up can eventually become an annual drive.

Coats not chosen were sent to Safe's Attic, a local thrift store that supports a shelter for homeless women and children.

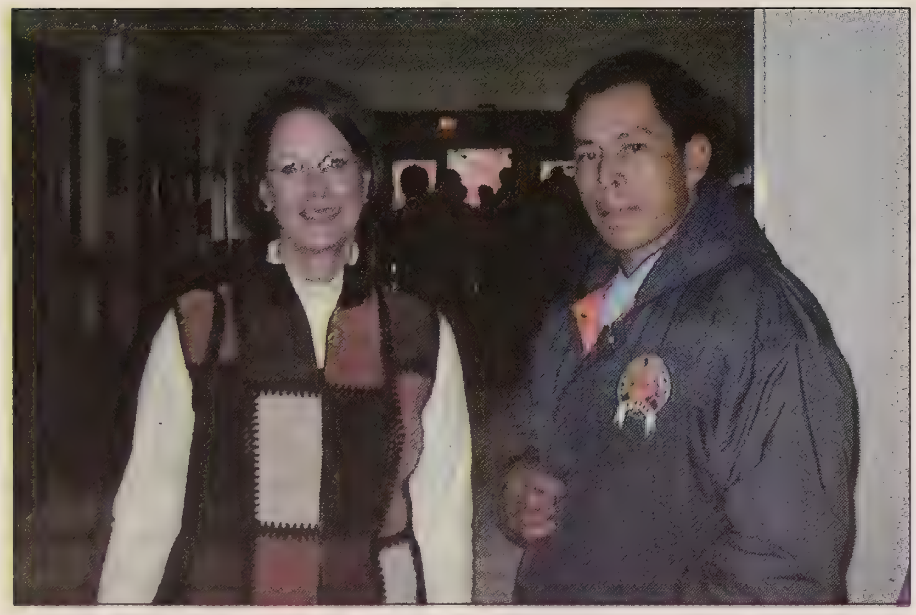


PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Nancy Friedman and Luis Merino, parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, are pictured during the parish's Operation Warm Up winter coat giveaway Oct. 7-8.

Warming the 'body of Christ'

COURTESY PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZE

Approximately 80 people gather outside St. Peter Church in Charlotte for the Blanket Banquet Oct. 7 Volunteers from various parishes collected and gave away blankets and clothing, as well as meals, t the homeless.

Blanket Banquet provides warmth, hope for homeless

CHARLOTTE — After the crowd departed St. Peter Church in Charlotte to join the eucharistic procession, another crowd soon assembled in the falling rain.

Approximately 80 people gathered outside St. Peter Church for the Blanket Banquet Oct. 7. Similar to last year, the event was held after the eucharistic procession from the church to the Charlotte Convention Center, part of the annual diocesan Eucharistic Congress.

Fifty volunteers from parishes around the Diocese of Charlotte collected and gave away more than 80 blankets, 300 pairs of socks, 300 pairs of undergarments and a number of jackets and other items, including meals, to homeless persons and other people in need.

"There were both tears and smiles of gratitude from our guests," said Greg Platko, a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Charlotte.

The weather did little to dampen the spirits of the volunteers or the people they served.

"For two hours, we really did share a bit in their suffering. Someone suggested that perhaps they felt our love for them in a more powerful way, because w were willing to brave the cold and rai to share the banquet with them," sai Platko. "God knows they all desperatel needed those blankets and jackets t stay warm."

In addition to the items give away, many of those in need receive surprise blessings.

"One couple who had been sleepin in the bus station since Thursday finall got the money they needed to get t family in Georgia. They were sobbin with joy," said Platko. "Another ma found a ride to Rock Hill to see hi mother with cancer. He couldn't sto saying 'thank you.'"

"A 60-year-old woman was give a hotel room for the night — a piece o heaven for her," he added.

Platko was grateful to all th volunteers who helped make the Blanke Banquet a success, calling them "th body of Christ."

"The love and compassion, grac and kindness, courage and strength wer only a few of the gifts they gave out,' he said.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

FULLY STOCKED AND READY FOR FALL!

We're brimming over with the latest in Catholic books, new Bible study materials, spiritual gifts for special occasions, Bibles, artwork, rosaries – a wide inventory awaits you at both locations!

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

‘Being still before the Lord can come only from confidence and a calm center of peace.’

Day of reflection for seniors

Prayer is ‘listening’ to God, says priest

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Back by popular demand, Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson did not disappoint his audience.

Father Neilson was the featured speaker and Mass celebrant at the annual Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors held at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Oct. 5.

It was one of four days scheduled at different locations around the Diocese of Charlotte, each featuring an inspiring speaker and Mass. Fall Days of Reflection were held at St. Mark Church in Huntersville and St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

The events are sponsored by Catholic Social Service’s Elder Ministries.

Father Neilson, chaplain at Belmont Abbey College, spoke to his audience of 60 senior citizens about the importance of prayer.

Daily communication with God is necessary, said Father Neilson, and prayer is a “simple act of listening.”

He encouraged his audience to spend 20 minutes a day in silence, listening to God.

“Listen to God speaking to you. Don’t say anything, just listen to God speak through the Psalms,” he said. “Don’t worry about distractions. Listen to God saying this: ‘You are my beloved child. I love you more than you will ever know.’”

Children also need to hear this message from their parents, said Father Neilson.

“All of us need to know the liberating words that God loves me with an infinite love,” he said.

Talking and listening to God is not always easy, said Father Neilson.

“There are going to be dark days — days when you have difficulty praying. Even the great mystics had them,” he said.

Many people become impatient and expect immediate results from their prayers, said Father Neilson.

“We become holy by listening to the Word of God. Being still before the Lord can come only from confidence and a calm center of peace,” he said.

Father Neilson said he tells Belmont Abbey College students that God speaks to them, and everyone, in confidence when they evoke the Holy Spirit’s power. He also teaches that the Blessed Sacrament can be there in peace and quiet, and to pray for the grace to hear it.

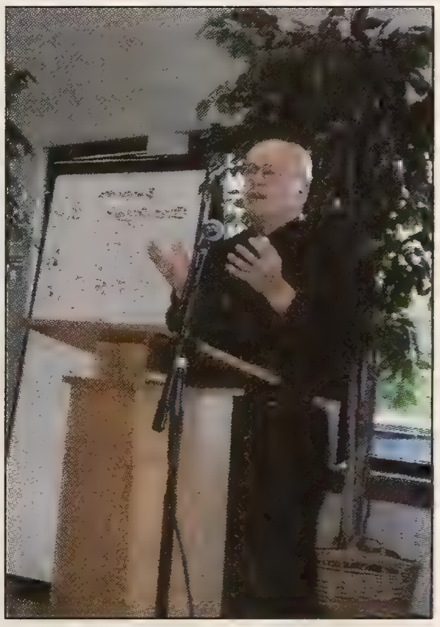
“Let God judge the effectiveness of your prayer. He will be pleased with your effort,” said Father Neilson.

CSS’s Elder Ministry provides leadership and guidance to parishes and older adults within the Diocese of Charlotte, to enhance their well-being and to promote the development of programs.

Annual events such as the Fall Day of Reflection and the Spring Fling provide opportunities for elders to gather from throughout the diocese.

PHOTOS BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Senior citizens enjoy a talk by Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson (below) during the Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Oct. 5.



WANT TO GO?
Upcoming Fall Days of Reflection will be held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Nov. 16 and at Curtin Hall in Belmont Nov. 21. For more information, call (704) 370-3220 or visit www.cssnc.org.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

5th Annual
Vineyard of Hope
Wines Around the World
Wine Tasting & Auction

This annual fundraiser for Catholic Social Services provides vital funds for the programs and services of CSS.

Get a group together and buy your tickets today!

Friday, November 10 — 7 p.m.
Charlotte Marriott SouthPark
(formerly known as The Park Hotel)

All proceeds benefit
Catholic Social Services

The evening includes: *Wine Tasting, Heavy hors d’oeuvres*
Live entertainment from ‘The Sinatra Experience’
Silent Auction

Individual tickets are $75.
Discounted groups of eight
and sponsorships are also available.

Call 704-370-3232 or
visit www.vineyardofhope.org

Sponsored by: Sisters of Mercy

Everything
you need
for a great
meeting!

The Catholic
Conference
Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

Tearing down roadblocks to understanding

Jerusalem patriarch shares stories of life in the Holy Land

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Like Muslims and Jews, Christians in the Middle East live under difficult conditions, including checkpoints, roadblocks and political and economic instability.

Israeli-imposed travel restrictions on Palestinians make it difficult, even impossible, for Palestinian Christians to visit historical Christian sites such as Jerusalem's Old City, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the city of Bethlehem.

Archbishop Fouad Twal, coadjutor archbishop of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and other experts on the Holy Land spoke to about 100 people at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct. 14, giving firsthand accounts of the lives of Christians living in the Holy Land.

His visit was sponsored by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF), the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, the Diocese of Charlotte and St. Matthew Church.

HCEF was founded in 1999 by an ecumenical group of American Christians in order to convey the plight of Palestinian Christians. The organization seeks to "replace despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with human dignity," according to the organization's Web site.

"In a gospel-rich land, Archbishop Twal explained that Christians are often discriminated against by the Israeli government," said Bryan Broodno, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. "He demonstrated great perseverance in his faith and in the power of prayer to overcome his oppressors."

Also in attendance were five Palestinian Christian eighth-graders, who are spending the month of October in Charlotte as part of the Children's Peace Project.

HCEF began this project in an effort to make a more personal connection between Western Christians and the Holy Land Christians. The project allows a U.S. parish to share their lives with Christian youths from the Holy Land in their homes and schools, through the hosting of Palestinian eighth-graders, along with their teacher or chaperone, for a period of six weeks.

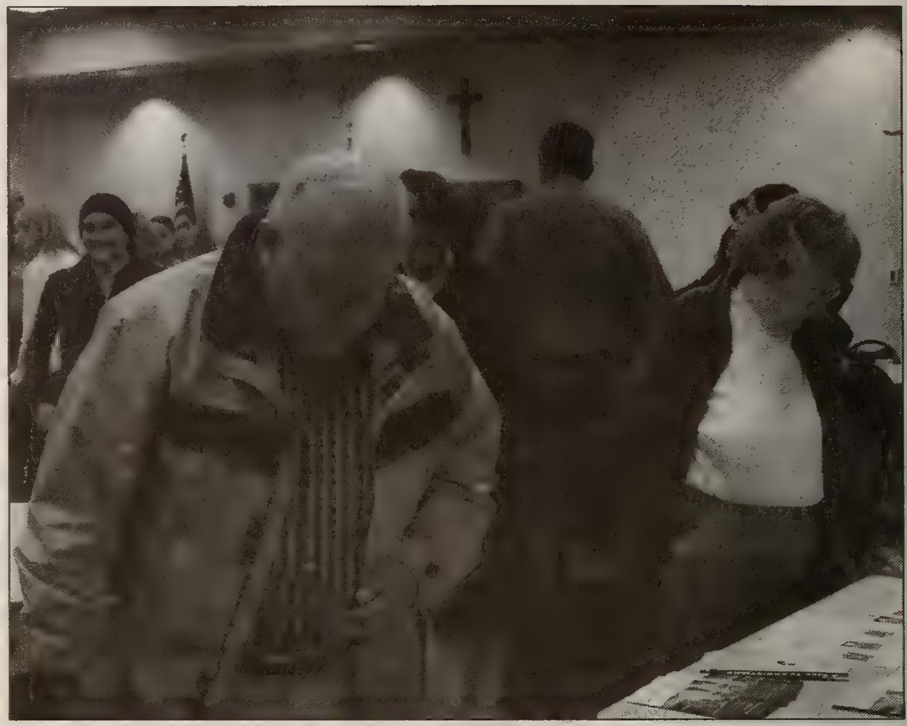


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Profiles of Palestinian Christian children in a child sponsorship program are displayed at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Oct.14, where Archbishop Fouad Twal of Jerusalem gave a presentation on the Holy Land.

"I admire the lengths that the children in the Holy Land go to in order to worship," said Broodno. "I noticed that the children viewed Archbishop Twal not as a political and spiritual leader, but rather as a friend and father figure. It was comforting to see the love that can exist in such a troubled area."

Archbishop Twal asked for Americans to visit the Holy Land, to show their spiritual support for the Palestinian Christians living there. He also asked for their prayers and friendship.

"Your presence in the Holy Land gives us hope," Archbishop Twal said. "It lets us know we are not alone in this world — that we have brothers and sisters all over the world praying for us."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

BLACK CATHOLICS: CONTINUING TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CHARLOTTE DIOCESAN DAY OF REFLECTION
IN PREPARATION FOR
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS X
BUFFALO, NEW YORK - JULY 12 – 15, 2007

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 9 AM – 4:30 PM
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER, HICKORY

THEME: "CHRIST IS WITH US: CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE SACRAMENTS"

Purpose: The Day of Reflection is intended to plant the seeds for a meaningful and powerful Congress experience, by enabling participants to begin prayerful reflection on the theme long before the event; by providing input to NBCC staff and the presenters as they prepare for Congress; and by building awareness of and enthusiasm in the Charlotte Diocese for the upcoming Congress. In 2006, we hope that our diocesan gathering will promote Spirit-filled reflection in anticipation of the 2007 theme, "Christ is with Us: Celebrating the Gift of the Sacraments."

Process: The Day of Reflection for the Diocese of Charlotte will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2006, 9 am - 4 pm, The Catholic Center, Hickory, NC. Anyone who plans to attend the NBCC – Congress X must attend this meeting. It will include a variety of activities from prayer and liturgy to homilies, witnesses, small group discussions, or other activities, and results in written feedback to the NBCC about the theme of the coming Congress.

Prerequisite:
Attendance at the Day of Reflection for each diocese remains a prerequisite for attendance at the Congress. However, all are welcome to attend. So please complete the registration form and return it by mail ASAP.

REGISTRATION – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Completed registration forms must be received no later than November 18, 2006.

(Anyone planning to attend NBCC Congress X must attend a Day of Reflection. Attendance will be verified by the Office of Black Catholics.)

Name: ______________________ Age ____ (Optional for those 30+)

Address: ______________________

Phone: __________ E Mail Address ______________________

Parish : ______________________

***Note: Limited free transportation** will be provided on a "as needed-first come, first served basis" with departures from St. Mary's in Greensboro, with stops at Christ the King in High Point and St. Benedict the Moor in Winston Salem; from Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte, with stops at Queen of Apostles in Belmont and St. Michael in Gastonia. Pickup up will begin at the first point by 7 AM. Depending upon registration, some form of transportation may be provided from Asheville and other stops made on the two above routes. Departure from the Catholic Center will be at approximately 4:30 pm back to the designated stops made in route to Hickory. (Circle answers below)

- Would you ride the bus? Yes No
- What pickup point would you use?__________________
- Are you interested in attending the National Congress in July 2007? Yes No
- Would you like to get involved with the AAAA Ministry? Yes No.
- Would you be willing to serve on committees to coordinate AAAM events? Yes No

Lunch will be provided by the Catholic Conference Center for $8.50. Attach your check or money order to your registration form.

- If you have dietary restrictions, what are they?

Signature______________________Date__________________
(All valid registrations must be signed.)

___Check or Money Order attached for $8.50 for lunch made payable to African-African-American Affairs Ministry.

Mail to: African-African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

*Those desiring transportation will be contacted and informed of times and places of scheduled pickups.

Islamic scholars write pope, take issues with remarks

ISLAM, *from page 1*

The cordial critique of the pope's speech was offered in a "spirit of open exchange," said the 38 Muslim leaders who signed the text.

The scholars took issue with several points made by the pope in his Sept. 12 speech at the University of Regensburg, Germany, including remarks about "holy war" and the suggestion that Islam may be less inclined to reject violence as an unreasonable affront to God.

However, the scholars praised the pope's speech for its critical assessment of materialism in modern life. They also said they appreciated the pope's subsequent clarifications about his speech and his expressed regret over the offense taken by many Muslims.

"We share your desire for frank and sincere dialogue and recognize it's important in an increasingly interconnected world," the letter said.

It said Muslims want peaceful and friendly relations with Christians and told the pope: "As the leader of over a billion Catholics and moral example for many others around the globe, yours is arguably the single most influential voice in continuing to move this relationship forward in the direction of mutual understanding."

Signatories of the letter included grand muftis of Egypt and several other countries, as well as Islamic authorities and academics from the Middle East, Asia, North Africa, Europe and North America.

In his Regensburg speech, the pope introduced remarks on the relationship between faith and reason by quoting the 14th-century Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus, who said: "Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

Addressing the issue of violent conversion, the pope said some have argued that God is absolutely transcendent for Muslims and therefore not bound up with "any of our categories, even that of rationality."

The Muslim scholars said the pope was mistaken in some of the factual premises for his analysis of Islam — for example, in his equating of "jihad" and "holy war."

"We would like to point out that 'holy war' is a term that does not exist in Islamic languages. 'Jihad,' it must be emphasized, means struggle, and specifically struggle in the way of God," they said.

While "jihad" may include the use of force, it is not necessarily a war, they said.

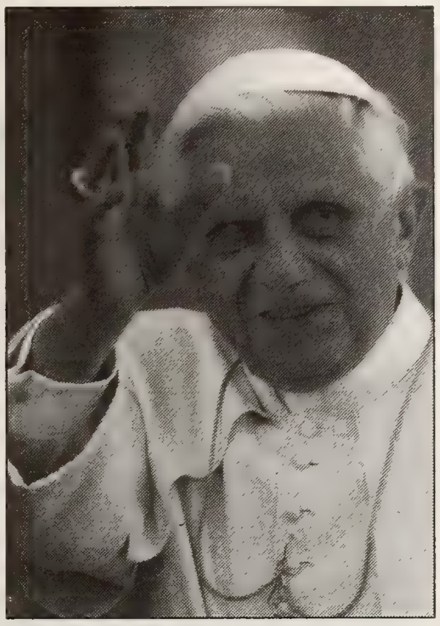
Moreover, Islam has clear rules that state noncombatants are not legitimate targets in a war, that religious belief alone does not make anyone the object of attack, and that Muslims can and should live peacefully with their neighbors, they said.

If individual Muslims have strayed from these principles and decided that the end justifies the means, they have done so of their own accord and "without the sanction of God, his Prophet or the learned tradition," they said.

In that context, the scholars condemned the recent murder of a Catholic missionary nun in Somalia and said "any other similar acts of wonton individual violence" in reaction to the recent papal speech on Islam were "completely un-Islamic."

Part of the text quoted by the pope — which he later said did not fully reflect his own thoughts — concerned the accusation that Islam had spread its religion "by the sword."

In their letter, the Muslim scholars said that accusation does not hold up to scrutiny. As a political entity, Islam spread partly as the result of conquest, but the greater part of its expansion came as a result of preaching and missionary activity, they said.



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI waves during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 11. When Pope Benedict visits Turkey Nov. 28-30, he is expected to reinforce Christian-Muslim harmony in the country.

The mere fact of being a non-Muslim has never been a legitimate cause for war in Islamic law or belief, they said. While some Muslims throughout history have violated Islamic tenets against forced conversions, they are the exception and not the rule, they said.

The scholars faulted the pope for suggesting in his speech that the Quranic precept against forced conversion was a teaching from an early period of Islam, when its founder, Mohammed, was powerless and threatened, and that this contrasted with later teachings about "holy war," when Islam was stronger.

"'There is no compulsion in religion' was not a command to Muslims to remain steadfast in the face of the desire of their oppressors to force them to renounce their faith, but was a reminder to Muslims themselves, once they had attained power, that they could not force another's heart to believe," they said.

The pope had also quoted an Islamic thinker, Ibn Hazm, on the idea that in Muslim teaching God is absolutely transcendent. That is a simplification that can be misleading, said the Islamic scholars, who described Hazm as a "very marginal" figure not representative of Islamic thought today.

They said it was a mistake to think that in Islam God is not tied to human categories, including reason, and to conclude that Muslims believe "in a capricious God who might or might not command us to evil."

The scholars said the relationship between reason and faith is rich and complex in Islam and not a simple dichotomy. Islamic tradition, they said, has managed to avoid two extreme forms of error: making the analytical mind the "ultimate arbiter of truth" and denying the power of human understanding to address ultimate questions.

The scholars said the pope in his speech had cited "the experts" on Islam and two Catholic scholars by name. But Muslims do not recognize these people as representing their views, they said.

While agreeing with the pope that dialogue is necessary, the Islamic scholars said, "It seems to us that a great part of the object of interreligious dialogue is to strive to listen to and consider the actual voices of those we are dialoguing with, and not merely those of our own persuasion."

The letter ended by praising the pope for his recent expression of deep respect for all Muslims.

"We hope that we will all avoid the mistakes of the past and live together in the future of peace, mutual acceptance and respect," it said.

Among those who signed the letter was the grand mufti of Istanbul, Mustafa Cagrici. The pope is scheduled to visit Istanbul when he travels to Turkey Nov. 28-Dec. 1.

Vatican confirms trip to Turkey, despite some Muslims' misgivings

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican officially confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI will travel to Turkey at the end of November, despite misgivings among many Muslims over recent papal remarks on Islam.

The pope's Nov. 28-Dec. 1 trip, his first to a predominantly Muslim country, will include stops in Ankara, Ephesus and Istanbul, the Vatican said Oct. 16.

The pope will travel at the invitation of the Turkish government and the Orthodox Church's Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

In Ankara, the capital, he is expected to meet with political leaders Nov. 28. The following day he is expected to say Mass in Ephesus, an important early center of Christianity in western Turkey.

The pope will meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Istanbul in the evening of Nov. 29 and participate in an Orthodox liturgy Nov. 30. On Dec. 1, he is expected to celebrate Mass for Catholics in the city before returning to Rome.

The visit to Turkey will be Pope Benedict's fifth foreign trip since his election in April 2005.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

TWO DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Thursday, Nov. 16 - Catholic Conference Center, Hickory - 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
Deadline for registration: Tuesday, Nov. 7th
Presenter & Mass celebrant: Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio

Tuesday, Nov. 21 - Curtin Hall, Belmont – 10 am - 2:30 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Nov. 13th
Presenter: Sr. Ann Marie Wilson
Mass celebrant: Fr. Kieran Neilson

Cost: $12 - includes coffee and pastries, and full lunch
Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203-4003

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Being a saint takes courage, says pope

SAINTS, *from page 1*

and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Even in the midst of "trials and persecutions," the pope said, the new saints knew that following Jesus "truly guaranteed a happy existence and eternal life."

"The saints had the humility and courage to respond 'yes' to Jesus Christ and renounced everything to be his friends," he said.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi of Palermo, Italy, were the main concelebrants at the papal Mass.

Five other U.S. bishops from Indiana and Illinois concelebrated the Mass, which was attended by some 125 Sisters of Providence, dozens of students from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and 45 pilgrims from the newly renamed St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville, Ind.

Philip McCord, the facilities manager at the college, joined two Sisters of Providence in bringing offertory gifts to the pope during the Mass. The healing of McCord's right eye after prayers to the community's foundress was accepted as the miracle needed for her canonization.

In his homily, the pope said, "With great trust in divine providence, Mother Theodore overcame many challenges and persevered in the work that the Lord had called her to do. By the time of her death in 1856, the sisters were running schools and orphanages throughout the state of Indiana."

Speaking in French, St. Mother Theodore's native tongue, the pope said that in the Eucharist, in prayer and in her "infinite trust in divine providence," she found the "strength and audacity" to carry out her mission.

CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Jessie McGuire Blessinger carries a portrait of Mother Theodore Guerin as she attends the nun's canonization ceremony in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 15.

Pride and providence

The pilgrims who came to St. Peter's Square for the canonization Mass included dozens of young people from the United States.

Meggie Gallina, 16, entered the ninth grade in 2004 at Blessed Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville.

Standing outside a Rome church Oct. 14 holding one side of a huge banner with the school's new name — St. Theodore Guerin High School — Gallina said her trip to Rome was "surreal."

"It is rare enough to get to go to a canonization, but to go to the canonization of your school's patron is amazing," she said.

From the school's first semester, she said, students learned about St. Mother Theodore, her call to leave France and trip to Indiana in 1840.

"She was an amazing woman," Gallina said. "She relied so much on God, on providence. She came to a country, not speaking the language, and built schools, opened pharmacies, built hospitals — all of this was the work of one woman."

The students of the college St. Mother Theodore founded in Indiana felt the same pride.

Frannie Schalasky, a senior at "the Woods," said the students learn about the new saint from their first week at the college. She said they see her influence in "the Sisters of Providence and their ministries today" and in what they see as a great gift: education at an all-women's college.

Supporting saints

During his homily, Pope Benedict praised St. Rafael for his dedication to the poor and his commitment to preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments despite being forced to flee the Mexican government's persecution of Catholics in the 1920s and 1930s.

Dozens of members of the Legionaries of Christ attended the canonization Mass to honor St. Rafael, the great-uncle of the Legionaries' founder, Father Marcial Maciel Degollado.

Members of the Knights of Columbus also participated in the Mass in recognition of St. Rafael's membership in the Catholic fraternal organization.

St. Peter's Square also was filled with Italian pilgrims celebrating the canonization of St. Filippo, who lived from 1848 to 1923, and dedicated himself to ministry to the hearing-impaired, founding the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart to assist them; and St. Rosa, the 17th-century foundress of an order, now known as the Venerini Sisters, to educate young women.

COMPLETED U.S. SAINTS' CAUSES NOW INCLUDE ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the Oct. 15 canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., seven sainthood causes from the United States have been successfully completed.

In its declarations of sainthood, the Catholic Church recognizes the saints' holiness, declaring they are with God in heaven and worthy of universal veneration. Churches and altars may be built in their names. Their feast days are listed in the Roman martyrology, the official calendar of saints' feast days.

Of these U.S. saints, only two, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Katharine Drexel, are native-born; the others were born in Europe and came to North America as missionaries.

They are:

— The Jesuit North American martyrs: St. Rene Goupil (1607-1642), St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646), St. Jean Lalande (died 1646), St. Antoine Daniel (1601-1648), St. Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649), St. Gabriel Lalemant (1610-1649), St. Charles Garnier (circa 1606-1649) and St. Noel Chabanel (1613-1649). Their feast day is Oct. 19.

— St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917). Her feast day is Nov. 13.

— St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821). Her feast day is Jan. 4.

— St. John Nepomucene Neumann (1811-1860). His feast day is Jan. 5.

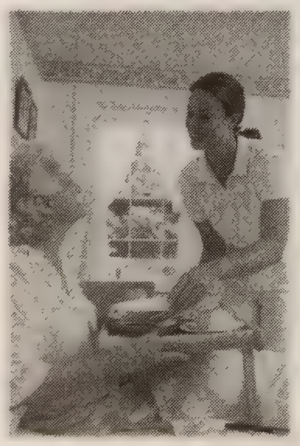
— St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852). Her feast day is Nov. 18.

— St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955). Her feast day is March 3.

— St. Mother Theodore Guerin (1798-1856). Her feast day is Oct. 3.

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!

*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***



- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels.

Asheville
828-665-3944

Charlotte
704-549-4010

Mooresville
704-663-1065

‘But it was not a day of all darkness, for many were telling stories of being blessed, rescued and saved.’

We need your help to make sure hungry children, seniors, families and others in the Metrolina area have food to eat this Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

For just $1, you can help provide 4 meals! Please help Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina provide food for as many people as possible by making your tax-deductible gift today.

☐ $11 to provide 44 meals
☐ $22 to provide 88 meals
☐ $33 to provide 132 meals
☐ $55 to provide 220 meals
☐ $____ to provide as many meals as possible

Name____
Address____ Apt____
City____ State____ Zip____
E-mail____ @____

Please charge my gift on my credit card:
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express
Card Number____ Security #____
Signature____ Exp. Date____

To charge your gift by phone, call (704) 376-1785, or give online at www.secondharvestcharlotte.org

Please make your check payable to:
Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
500-B Spratt Street
Charlotte, NC 28206-2913
www.secondharvestcharlotte.org

T06FHC

THANKSGIVING FOOD VOUCHE

eap

upport for lay catechists;
.

a priest from the Diocese
aw firsthand the mission
ne in India.

nk O’Rourke, pastor of St.
n Charlotte, first became
h the Diocese of Port Blair,
shop Alex Dias visited Our
Church in Greensboro in
en Father O’Rourke was
s pastor.

hs later, the Diocese of
among the thousands of
hroughout Southeast Asia
d by the Dec. 26 tsunami.
zed that Bishop Alex and
his diocese were right
middle of this tragedy,”
ke said.

hioners of Our Lady of
h joined thousands of
the Diocese of Charlotte
inancial donations to
f Services and other relief

r O’Rourke wanted to do
Port Blair, where 15,000
ir lives. During a yearlong
spent a month with Bishop
cese.

ight of Father O’Rourke’s
celebrating Mass on
ay and leading prayer
c. 26.

somber day for the people
ls,” said Father O’Rourke.

Stories by witnesses of what was seen and heard that day made me realize what an epic event this was.

“But it was not a day of all darkness, for many were telling stories of being blessed, rescued and saved,” he said.

The value of going to these isolated areas is being able to see a parish in its beginning stages in the area, he said.

“Also, our interest in and concern for these people blesses and celebrates their work,” said Father O’Rourke.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?
Collections for World Mission Sunday will be taken up in all parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte during Masses Oct. 21-22. For more information, visit www.iamamissionary.org.

Courtesy Photos

Above: Father Frank O’Rourke and a local priest are greeted as they arrive for Mass at a church in the Diocese of Port Blair, India in December 2005. Below: Father O’Rourke admires the craftsmanship of local girls at a church in the Diocese of Port Blair.

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

St. Ann Catholic Elementary School's 50th Anniversary

November 18th - 4:30 pm Mass and Reception

St. Ann School

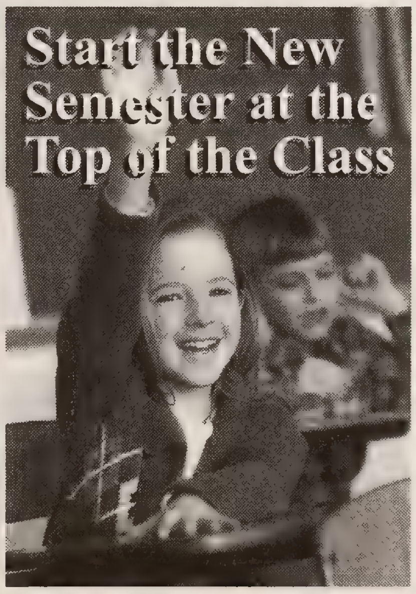
St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in Charlotte invites all former students and their families to join with us and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school, which opened in 1956.

Visit with former teachers, principals and special members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who will be returning to celebrate with us.

Mass will be at 4:30 pm at St. Ann Church, followed by a reception in the school.

Please register or for info: PTO co-presidents Lori (Kobsik) Thompson or Kimberlee (Crisp) Shukes at www.stannscatholicschool.com.

St. Ann Catholic School —
We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe


Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class

Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student

South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
The Academic Edge™

Being a saint takes courage, says pope

SAINTS, *from page 1*

and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Even in the midst of "trials and persecutions," the pope said, the new saints knew that following Jesus "truly guaranteed a happy existence and eternal life."

"The saints had the humility and courage to respond 'yes' to Jesus Christ and renounced everything to be his friends," he said.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago and Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi of Palermo, Italy, were the main concelebrants at the papal Mass.

Five other U.S. bishops from Indiana and Illinois concelebrated the Mass, which was attended by some 125 Sisters of Providence, dozens of students from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and 45 pilgrims from the newly renamed St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville, Ind.

Philip McCord, the facilities manager at the college, joined two Sisters of Providence in bringing offertory gifts to the pope during the Mass. The healing of McCord's right eye after prayers to the community's foundress was accepted as the miracle needed for her canonization.

In his homily, the pope said, "With great trust in divine providence, Mother Theodore overcame many challenges and persevered in the work that the Lord had called her to do. By the time of her death in 1856, the sisters were running schools and orphanages throughout the state of Indiana."

Speaking in French, St. Mother Theodore's native tongue, the pope said that in the Eucharist, in prayer and in her "infinite trust in divine providence," she found the "strength and audacity" to carry out her mission.

CNS PHOTO BY GIANCARLO GIULIANI,

Jessie McGuire Blessinger carries a portrait of Mother Theodore Guerin as she atte canonization ceremony in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 15.

Pride and providence

The pilgrims who came to St. Peter's Square for the canonization Mass included dozens of young people from the United States.

Meggie Gallina, 16, entered the ninth grade in 2004 at Blessed Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville.

Standing outside a Rome church Oct. 14 holding one side of a huge banner with the school's new name — St. Theodore Guerin High Scho said her trip to Rome was "s

"It is rare enough tc to a canonization, but tc canonization of your schoo amazing," she said.

From the school's first semester, she

said, students learned about St. Mother

to educate young women.

COMPLETED U.S. SAINTS' CAUSES NOW INCLUDE ST. MOTHER THEODORE GUERIN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the Oct. 15 canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., seven sainthood causes from the United States have been successfully completed.

In its declarations of sainthood, the Catholic Church recognizes the saints' holiness, declaring they are with God in heaven and worthy of universal veneration. Churches and altars may be built in their names. Their feast days are listed in the Roman martyrology, the official calendar of saints' feast days.

Of these U.S. saints, only two, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Katharine Drexel, are native-born; the others were born in Europe and came to North America as missionaries.

They are:

— The Jesuit North American martyrs: St. Rene Goupil (1607-1642), St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646), St. Jean Lalande (died 1646), St. Antoine Daniel (1601-1648), St. Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649), St. Gabriel Lalemant (1610-1649), St. Charles Garnier (circa 1606-1649) and St. Noel Chabanel (1613-1649). Their feast day is Oct. 19.

— St. Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917). Her feast day is Nov. 13.

— St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821). Her feast day is Jan. 4.

— St. John Nepomucene Neumann (1811-1860). His feast day is Jan. 5.

— St. Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852). Her feast day is Nov. 18.

— St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955). Her feast day is March 3.

— St. Mother Theodore Guerin (1798-1856). Her feast day is Oct. 3.

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!
*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***
- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels.

Asheville 828-665-3944
Charlotte 704-549-4010
Mooresville 704-663-1065

AFFIX FIRST-CLASS STAMP HERE

KAY CARTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF METROLINA
500 B SPRATT STREET
CHARLOTTE NC 28206-2913

From: ______

T06FHC

But it was not a day of all darkness, for many were telling stories of being blessed, rescued and saved.'

Local collections reap global benefits

MISSION, *from page 1*

ndeavors in mission dioceses: new issions, primary schools and clinics; e needs of sisters and brothers serving missions; support for priests in remote illages; education of seminarians; training and support for lay catechists; emergency aid.

Last year, a priest from the Diocese of Charlotte saw firsthand the mission work being done in India.

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, first became acquainted with the Diocese of Port Blair, India when Bishop Alex Dias visited Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro in June 2004, when Father O'Rourke was there serving as pastor.

Six months later, the Diocese of Port Blair was among the thousands of communities throughout Southeast Asia to be devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"We realized that Bishop Alex and the people of his diocese were right smack in the middle of this tragedy," Father O'Rourke said.

The parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church joined thousands of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte in making financial donations to Catholic Relief Services and other relief organizations.

But Father O'Rourke wanted to do more to help Port Blair, where 15,000 people lost their lives. During a yearlong sabbatical, he spent a month with Bishop Dias in his diocese.

The highlight of Father O'Rourke's journey was celebrating Mass on Christmas day and leading prayer services on Dec. 26.

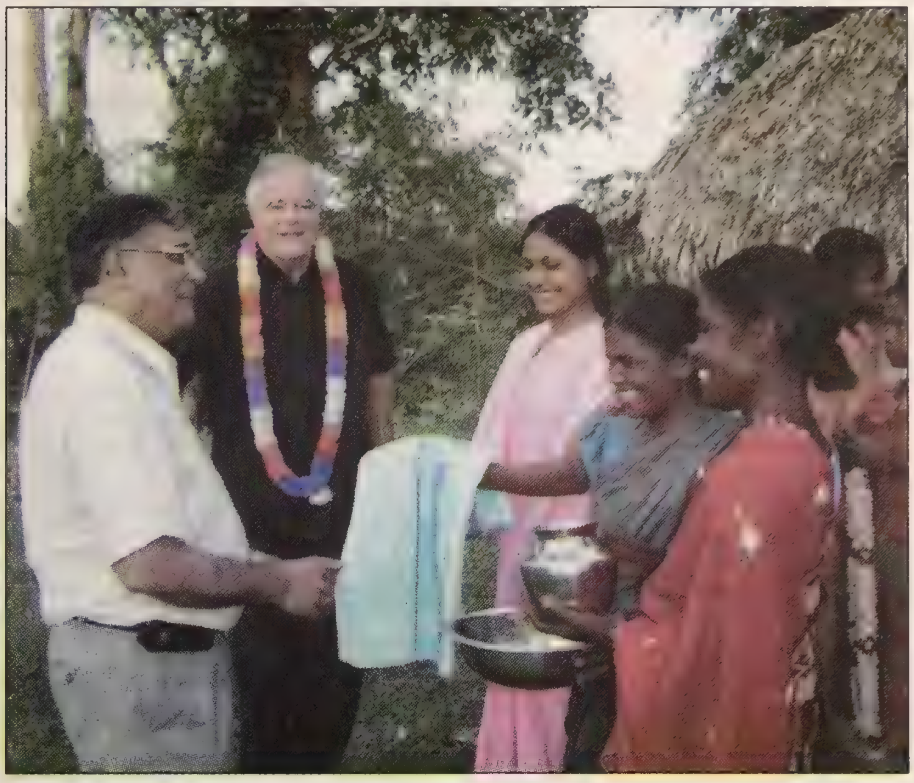
"It was a somber day for the people in these islands," said Father O'Rourke. "Stories by witnesses of what was seen and heard that day made me realize what an epic event this was.

"But it was not a day of all darkness, for many were telling stories of being blessed, rescued and saved," he said.

The value of going to these isolated areas is being able to see a parish in its beginning stages in the area, he said.

"Also, our interest in and concern for these people blesses and celebrates their work," said Father O'Rourke.

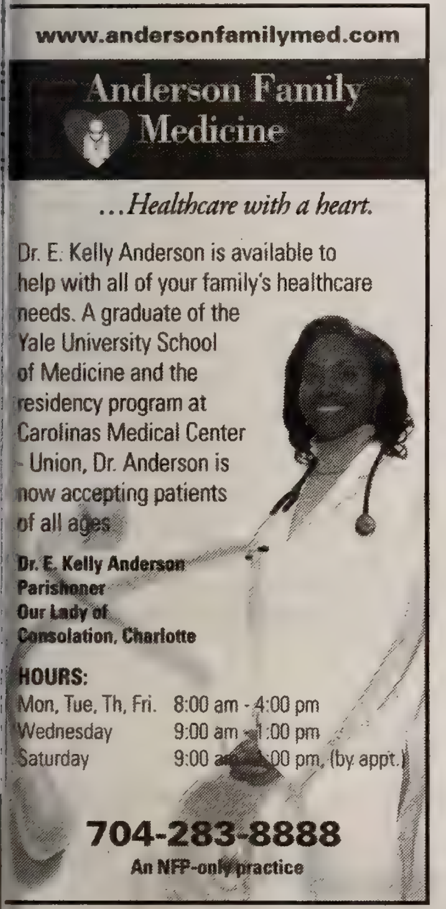
Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Father Frank O'Rourke and a local priest are greeted as they arrive for Mass at a church in the Diocese of Port Blair, India in December 2005. Below: Father O'Rourke admires the craftsmanship of local girls at a church in the Diocese of Port Blair.

WANT MORE INFO?
Collections for World Mission Sunday will be taken up in all parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte during Masses Oct. 21-22. For more information, visit www.iamamissionary.org.



www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family Medicine

...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

St. Ann Catholic Elementary School's 50th Anniversary

November 18th - 4:30 pm Mass and Reception

St. Ann School

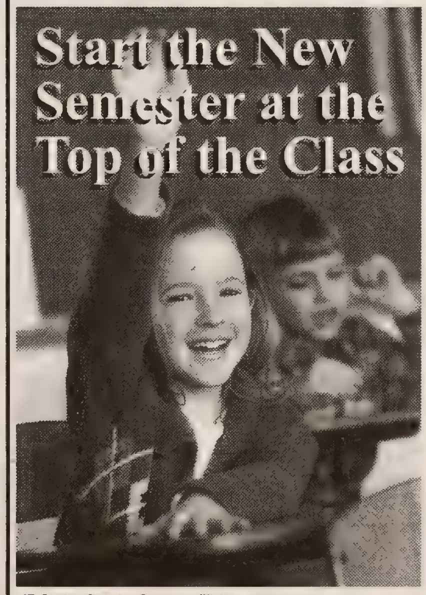
St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in Charlotte invites all former students and their families to join with us and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school, which opened in 1956.

Visit with former teachers, principals and special members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who will be returning to celebrate with us.

Mass will be at 4:30 pm at St. Ann Church, followed by a reception in the school.

Please register or for info: PTO co-presidents Lori (Kobsik) Thompson or Kimberlee (Crisp) Shukes at www.stannscatholicschool.com.

St. Ann Catholic School —
We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe



Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class

Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student

South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER
The Academic Edge™

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings,

Papal minibooks: Portable, affordable and rapidly disappearing

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is preparing to publish Pope Benedict XVI's biggest book to date: "Complete Teachings, Vol. I."

At 1,376 pages, it's the kind of tome designed for libraries and specialists, covering the pontiff's output of speeches, messages, sermons and documents during his first nine months in office.

But the pope's writings are also finding their way into more bite-sized volumes that are enjoying unusual popular success, according to the Vatican publishing house, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

The pope's talks to families, diplomats, cardinals and young people have been issued in minibooks that sell for one euro each — about $1.25. To its delight, the Vatican has found these smaller books rapidly disappearing; some of the more popular titles have sold tens of thousands of copies.

"The world is discovering that Pope Benedict is a pope who should be read," said Salesian Father Claudio Rossini, director of the Vatican publishing house.

"The reader who sits down with the works of this pope finds deep ideas presented in a simple and linear manner. There are many nuances and beautiful passages that open horizons, enlightening the present with ideas from history and culture," Father Rossini said.

"The pope captures readers with the force of intelligence, inviting them gently to follow his arguments, step by step," he said.

One of the more recent of the popular papal minibooks, "The Beauty of Being Christian and the Joy of Communicating It," is composed of two talks Pope Benedict gave to members of lay movements earlier this year.

While papal texts are already available at the Vatican's Web site, Father Rossini said the papal minibooks are appealing to people who want to give more sustained attention to the pope's thoughts. In addition, he said, they are portable, affordable and "fit in the pocket."

The papal book boom was apparent at the recent session of the Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany, where the Vatican reported great interest in the smaller volumes — such as those presenting the pope's talk at the Auschwitz death camp in Poland last May, or a brief collection of his spiritual thoughts.

For three or four days, Father Rossini said, people lined up at the Vatican's booth to see the latest offerings from the pope.

The Vatican publishers to date have distributed more than 900,000 copies of the pope's encyclical, "God Is Love."

Even the Latin-language edition of the papal encyclical quickly sold out, forcing a second printing in that language — the first time anyone remembers that happening, Father Rossini said.

The election of Pope Benedict produced an immediate explosion in sales of his more than 100 previously published works, under the name Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. The massive interest led the Vatican to take new steps to protect the copyright on the pope's writings, before and after his election.

The idea was not to profit on papal writings but to give the Vatican some control over the integrity of the texts and to prevent publishers from making money off these writings without the Vatican's knowledge and consent.

Father Rossini said that, where appropriate, the Vatican asks book publishers to pay a small percentage of sales for their use of papal material. Newspapers, magazines and bishops' conferences can still publish papal texts without paying royalties, as long as the text is complete and the Vatican's copyright is noted.

Proceeds from sales of the pope's personal works, including those he wrote as cardinal, go directly to him for use in various papal charities, Father Rossini said.

Profits from other widely selling books, such as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, go to the Vatican's main financial administrative office, which has used catechism earnings to fund church projects in developing countries.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 29, 2006

Oct. 29, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle B. Readings:
1) Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126:1-6
2) Hebrews 5:1-6
3) Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Seeing with eyes of faith to help heal world

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I wonder if Bartimaeus ever had second thoughts about asking for sight.

We know today's Gospel is not simply about a man being physically healed of blindness, but about seeing in a new way — with eyes of faith. It's what spiritual scholars call discernment, being able to differentiate God's will from our own human will.

If the Scripture was only about Bartimaeus' physical blindness, I wouldn't wonder, but I do know that seeing with a "God's eye view" likely will lead to some difficulties.

A case in point: Once when I was at a high school PTA board meeting, homecoming activities were being discussed. Someone proposed that the PTA could sell mums and cash-i on the school tradition in which boy bought giant mum corsages for thei homecoming dates.

Everyone knew that over the year the corsages had become more an more ornate — and expensive — wit an unspoken competition for double an triple mums decorated with multipl "add-on" trinkets.

The conversation ran too long a board members gabbed about a son's $5 tab last year or how the teddy bear ha fallen off a daughter's "triple."

Finally, one somewhat agitate member stopped everyone cold when sh asked, "Why are we talking about selling $40 mums when fully one-third of ou student body won't be going to the danc because they can't afford a tux or even ticket?"

It takes time and practice to recogniz God's will in everyday decisions. I starts with knowing the heart of Go by studying Scripture, being active in faith community and following the lif and message of Jesus. Then it's a matte of keeping the eyes of faith open an watching carefully for the way of Jesus in the midst of the corrupted ways o human beings.

Finally comes the hard part — doing something about what we see.

Even knowing this, our faith calls us to continue asking to see and once we've been healed, to go and help heal our world.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 29-NOV. 4

Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday**, Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Ephesians 5:31-33, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday (All Saints)**, Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Thursday (All Souls)**, Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; **Friday (St. Martin de Porres)**, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. Charles Borromeo)**, Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 5-11

Sunday (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 6:2-6; Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34; **Monday**, Philippians 2:1-4; Luke 14:12-14;**Tuesday**, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday (Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome)**, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday**, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday**, Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING

A.V. ROOFING

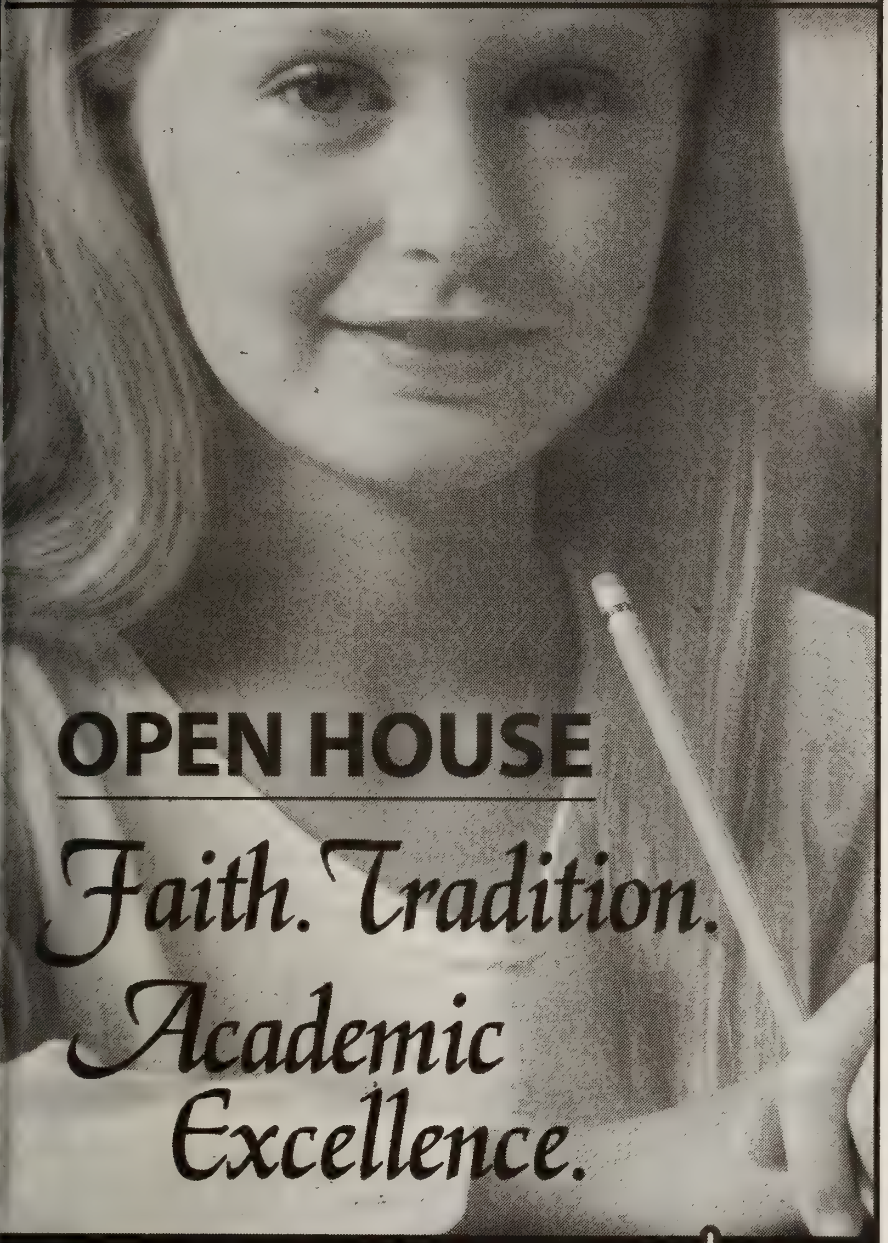
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS


OPEN HOUSE
Faith. Tradition.
Academic Excellence.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Sunday Nov. 5, 1:30-3:30pm
Tues. Nov. 7, 9am–12pm
Our Lady of the Assumption (PK-5) • 4225 Shamrock Drive • Charlotte
St. Ann (TK-5) • 600 Hillside Avenue • Charlotte
St. Gabriel (K-5) • 3028 Providence Road • Charlotte
St. Mark (K-8) • 14750 Stumptown Road • Huntersville
St. Matthew (K-5) • 11525 Elm Lane • Charlotte
St. Patrick (K-5) • 1125 Buchanan Street • Charlotte

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Sunday Oct. 22, 1-3pm
Tues. Oct. 24, 9-11am
Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School (6-8) • 3100 Park Road • Charlotte

HIGH SCHOOL
Sunday Oct. 22, Starting at 3pm
Charlotte Catholic High School • 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. • Charlotte

www.charlottediocese.org/macs

MACS has eight schools serving PK-12.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Admissions Office: (704) 370-3273

MACS admit students of any race, color, sex, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Cartoon, documentary recount Pope John Paul II's life, teachings

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Piccolo and Fiona, two doves who narrate a new cartoon about Pope John Paul II, are much better behaved than their real-life counterparts.

In a 30-minute documentary accompanying the cartoon, Vatican television footage shows some real doves flying, but most of the winged symbols of peace refuse to soar away on cue, and one even perches on the head of Pope John Paul.

The cartoon, "John Paul II: The Friend of All Humanity," and the accompanying documentary, "John Paul II by John Paul II," were presented to reporters at an Oct. 17 Vatican press conference.

Spanish cartoonist J.L. Lopez-Guardia, who often draws under the name Cavin Cooper, developed both projects in consultation with the Vatican Television Center.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of Vatican TV, said he tried to suggest other names for the animated doves, but Lopez-Guardia drew the creatures and was certain he knew their names.

The films have been completed in Spanish, English and Italian, Lopez-Guardia said, and he hopes the DVDs will be on sale before Christmas.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said Lopez-Guardia effectively used animation to recount Pope John Paul's life and teaching, and especially his "message of love and peace."

"This is a useful tool for a family gathered in front of the television to remember the life of this great pope," he said.

Father Lombardi said he agreed to assist Lopez-Guardia because "I always thought it was important to have biographies of saints adapted for children and young people, in their own language."

The cartoonist said using animation not only allowed him to produce a film children would find interesting and informative, but it gave him the freedom to portray the human side of Pope John Paul, especially in his youth.

The youthful scenes include the future pope playing soccer, skiing with his older brother, acting in an amateur production, playing with friends and praying often.

But the cartoon also speaks about the suffering the future pope endured: the deaths of his mother, brother and father; the German invasion of Poland during World War II; work in a stone quarry; and studies in a clandestine seminary.

"My idea was to present the human side of Pope John Paul II as the best way to bring him close to children and families," Lopez-Guardia said.

The cartoon begins with the April 2005 death of the pope, then lets Piccolo and Fiona tell the story of his youth, ministry as a bishop in Poland and election to the papacy Oct. 16, 1978.

The documentary takes over from there, using television footage of the pope to accompany his own words about the value of human life, the talents and needs of young people, the cry of the poor for justice and the yearning for peace in the world.

Catholic broadcasters begin new era of sharing, says Vatican official

MADRID, Spain (CNS) — Catholic broadcasters have begun a new, "outstanding phase in the history of Catholic communications," marking a new era of sharing and cooperation, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley.

Speaking Oct. 12 at the close of the World Congress of Catholic Television, the head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications said the meeting helped forge new contacts and joint projects between Catholic broadcasters and producers around the world.

The Oct. 10-12 congress, sponsored by the communications council, brought together 300 people from 50 countries to find ways station managers, program producers and journalists could promote and improve Catholic broadcasting and audiovisual productions.

In an aim to showcase and share the best that Catholic television has to offer, the Vatican's communications council used the congress as a springboard to launch the first global Catholic program bank.

Production companies and television stations attending the congress were asked to contribute programs on DVD that could then be rebroadcast or distributed free of charge by other companies and channels.

Archbishop Foley said that some 139 programs had been donated during the congress.

Still in its early stages, the bank is scheduled to be accessible through the Internet by the end of 2007. The Vatican council will run the bank so that bank members can upload and download broadcast videos of their choice for free.

In a message dedicated to the congress, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged all church organizations that produce or broadcast television programs to reach out to each other with dialogue and cooperation.

Written by the Vatican's secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the message underlined the powerful effect television can have on the world.

Because of advances made in modern communications, broadcasters and producers have an even greater opportunity "to defend the dignity of every person, to promote peace, solidarity, unity and communion with the human family," the message said.

The message called on Catholics involved in audiovisual programming to find ways "to enhance professional quality so as to facilitate a more spirited dialogue between the church and the world."

Fall festivities

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students at Asheville Catholic School enjoy an inflatable slide in the playground at the school's Fall Festival Oct. 14. While some students and parents square danced to live music, others participated in a baseball toss, face and pumpkin painting, races and a cakewalk. The event was sponsored by the Parent Teacher Association to provide fellowship for students and families as well as raise funds for the school.

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing

Upcoming Retreats: November 3 – 5 and December 8 – 10

(Information: (336)287-8421 or Rachelnetwork@sprynet.com)

Turn your pain into hope, learn to forgive yourself, and find the unconditional love of Christ.

Open to both men and women, Catholic and non-Catholic, this retreat will give you a chance to be nurtured and supported by experienced retreat leaders. You will not be rushed or hurried, but allowed time to reflect and be open to the gradual healing process. All information is confidential.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Sponsored by Charlotte Diocese Respect Life Office, Catholic Social Services – 704-370-3229

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PARISH ORGANIST: Our Lady of the Assumption in Charlotte is looking for a parish organist. Contact Deacon Peter Duca: (704) 573-0097

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. 888-803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Sliding into fun

COURTESY PH

Children enjoy a giant slide at the 10th annual parish carnival at St. Ann Church in Charlotte. Hundreds parishioners and neighbors attended the carnival, held this year Sept. 30, which featured game booth music, food and inflatable rides for children.

November 4th
8 am to 3 pm

Christmas Bazaar

Come one, Come all..

For a great start to your holiday season!
Silent Auction Drawings
Throughout The Day.
St. Mark Catholic Church
Family Life Center - Stumptown Rd.
$1 Admission per adult
For Info: 704-777-1650
or 704-895-6732

Get your photo taken with Santa.

Handmade Chocolates
Designer Jewelry
Pet Toys
Handmade Crafts
Kitchen & Home Products
Religious Gifts

Used Book Sale
Bake Sale
Christmas Decorations
Food and Drinks
Handmade Knitwear
and Lots, Lots More !

Navy enlistee wants to first serve God

DUTY, *from page 1*

to join the class at first, but after doing this now I realize I appreciate it so much more than I would have earlier in my life," she said.

Now 20 years old, Hobbick's decision to return to the Catholic Church was inspired by members of her family.

Her parents had stopped attending Mass years ago, but her mother's health issues in recent years brought forward a greater desire to be connected to God.

Hobbick began attending Mass again with her grandmother, Linda Hobbick. The experience renewed her interest in the faith and the sacraments.

And when her younger sister, Chelsey, 19, returned to the church and began taking confirmation classes, it served as the impetus for Hobbick's decision to pursue her own confirmation in the faith.

"Chelsey was very instrumental in my decision to do this; she was so determined to receive Communion that she opened that door for me," said Hobbick.

Hobbick was inspired also by her aunt, Pam McCoy, who works at Immaculate Conception Church's parish office. Hobbick is now in confirmation class with her cousin Katelyn, McCoy's daughter.

Her family has been encouraging, and her return to church was welcomed by Capuchin Father John Aurilia, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, whom Hobbick considers a mentor.

"He made me feel so welcome and I found such a peace," said Hobbick. "I would go to Mass and it bothered me not to feel I was fully connected to everything, and I wanted to have that."

"She is a beautiful girl who is on a journey; she is searching," said Father Aurilia of Hobbick, who chose St. Rose of Lima as her patron saint.

"It fits beautifully, because this saint was so beautiful and the attention she was given was because of that, but she didn't want that to be the focus," said Father Aurilia. "She brought people to God through her sacrifice."

Sandy Donecho, religious education director at Immaculate Conception Church, was impressed with Hobbick's drive to be a good Catholic.

"Sarah has made this a top priority in her life and she is directed by the Holy Spirit," said Donecho. "She is sincere, giving and respectful of things."

Hobbick said she is grateful she will be confirmed before departing for basic training. She hopes the tenets of her faith will serve her as she serves in faith, wherever her journey leads.

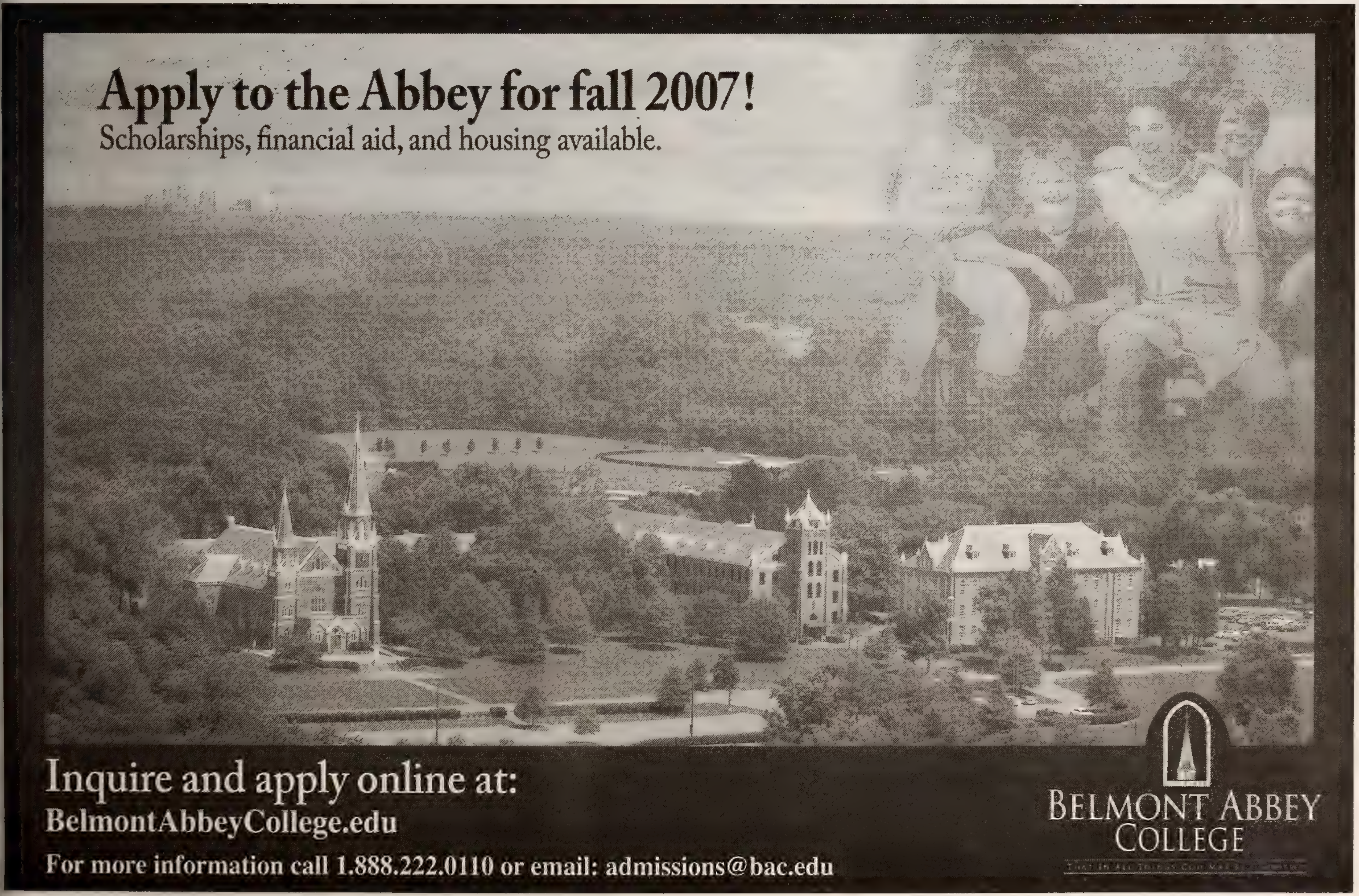
Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Sarah Hobbick (left) will make her confirmation at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville this month before departing for basic training with the U.S. Navy. Pictured are Hobbick, Capuchin Father John Aurilia, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church; Sarah's sister Chelsey Hobbick; and Sarah Donecho, parish religious education director.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church



Apply to the Abbey for fall 2007!
Scholarships, financial aid, and housing available.

Inquire and apply online at:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
For more information call 1.888.222.0110 or email: admissions@bac.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials

A league for all of us

Attacks on Catholic Church demand quick, direct responses

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

I get faxes from Bill Donahue. A lot of faxes. Donahue is president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. The faxes, several per week, are sent to this newspaper and usually end up being recycled.

But Donahue made a good point recently about how we Catholics are sometimes to blame when it comes to image problems for our church.

The Catholic League stands up for Catholics. In this day of media mischaracterizations of the priesthood, celibacy and the Holy Father, what the league does is a good thing.

In the secular media, the Catholic Church has been getting pummeled for the past four years. The sex abuse scandal deserved the harsh light-of-day coverage that it received, but the far-reaching steps that have been taken to correct those problems have been largely ignored.

The Tom Hanks movie, "The Da Vinci Code," got the greatest buildup of any movie I've ever seen, and it turned out to be a complete dud. Madonna, a lapsed Catholic, got the coverage she craves when she invited the pope to a concert in Rome, during which she blasphemed her way through a mock-crucifixion.

The relentless drumbeat of mockery and sophomoric humor about the Catholic Church wasn't always the norm. There was a time when the church and priests were portrayed with love and affection. But you have to go back to the Bing Crosby film, "Going My Way," or the "Boy's Town" films featuring Spencer Tracy to find it.

The instruments of mass media, which were once respectful, have changed dramatically.

In a telephone interview with me from his New York office, Donohue said the change began in the 1960s with the start of what he called "a culture war."

"There is a strong animus on the part of the secular elite who occupy the command posts of the media, publishing and academia," he said. "They have hostility to Christianity in general and Catholics in particular."

This hostility toward Catholics was apparent recently on the morning talk program, "The View."

A conversation about the disgraced congressman Mark Foley quickly degenerated into a discussion about the sex scandal in the church when co-host Rosie O'Donnell erroneously stated that Pope Benedict XVI was in charge of investigating allegations of pedophilia as far back as the 1980s.

Actually, the pope, who was then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, was put in charge of the investigation in 2002 when the scandal erupted. Pope Benedict's abhorrence of sex abuse is well documented.

The Catholic League was quick to respond to "The View" via e-mail, its Web page and, of course, the fax machine. Using the fighting words that characterize most statements from the league, Donahue described the exchange as "smearing the pope" and an attack on the Catholic Church.

Donahue makes no excuses for his rabid style of response to defamation and discrimination against individual Catholics and the church.

"This is not a popularity contest. The people who don't like what I stand for are the same ones who don't like what the Catholic Church stands for," he said.

His in-your-face approach appears to have a lot of support. Donahue says membership in the Catholic League has grown from 11,000 members when he was appointed president in 1993 to more than 300,000 today.

Bombast is attractive to the media, and Donahue has no problem getting his point of view across to a large audience. He is frequently seen on network television programs such as "Hardball with Chris Matthews," and "Scarborough Country," both on MSNBC and on EWTN.

But he said it's tougher getting his message to the average Catholics in the pew who don't take attacks on the church personally.

"We can't have this insular relationship that says, 'As long as I'm doing OK, it doesn't matter how the church is doing.' The church's voice is important to be heard in society," he said.

Catholics need to remember that in a free society like ours, unfair criticism of our faith needs a quick, direct response from all of us.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

Podcasts of this column are available at www.charlottediocese.org.

God's sacred, unique gift

Time to examine church teachings on life is now

Guest Column

FATHER
TIMOTHY REID
GUEST COLUMNIST

It's October, which means it is Respect Life Month. Thus it's that time of year again when we, as the Catholic Church, need to come to terms with some difficult things.

We are called to turn our attention to "life" issues, specifically the threats to human life that plague our society.

Generally at this time every year, priests preach about the horrors of abortion, euthanasia, human cloning or embryonic stem cell research — all of the major threats to life. These are difficult topics because they're highly politicized in our country, and opinions on these issues, even among practicing Catholics, tend to vary and to be emotionally charged.

Yet there are even more pro-life issues. Threats to the dignity of human life exist in the realm of sexual ethics as well. Issues such as contraception, family planning and same-sex unions have serious implications for the dignity of life that must also be considered by conscientious Catholics.

And we also must look to social justice issues such as capital punishment, the war in Iraq, health care and poverty — all of which fall under the pro-life banner.

It is not my intention to browbeat you with church teachings on these issues. Most of us know where the church stands on them. I want to invite you to make these teachings your own.

Let's face it: these are hard issues in our society. For many people, it is a difficult thing to believe and practice everything the church teaches, especially when it comes to sexual ethics, and many Catholics struggle with or disagree with at least one of these issues.

I understand that struggle. As a convert to Catholicism, I've had to examine each of these issues, and indeed everything the church teaches, and try to make these teachings my own. And I'd like to be able to tell you that I believed everything the church teaches at the moment I decided to convert, but I didn't. I struggled, just as perhaps you do.

But now I do believe everything the church teaches, and not simply because the church says so. What the church teaches on these issues makes a lot of sense. As Catholics, we have always believed that faith and reason go together, and part of the beauty of Catholicism is its intelligibility.

Furthermore, contrary to what many people think, these are not primarily political issues; they are primarily philosophical, anthropological and moral issues. And when you understand why the church teaches what she teaches on these difficult topics, they become easier to accept.

It's this "why" behind the "what" of Catholic teaching that I invite you to grapple with and make your own.

The basic reasoning behind the church's stance is derived from an understanding of human dignity. Each one of us is a special gift, created in God's own image and likeness. We are living images of the almighty himself. And while we are all created in his image and likeness, we are all unique.

While fully human, we were created with a divine purpose in mind — for eternal union with God. We also have intelligence and freedom of choice — free will. Therefore, we have a particular dignity that other forms of life do not have. And all of us are "good" because of how we're created; we're good by design.

Thus, human life in all its forms should be respected for the unique gift it is. It makes no difference if a person is old, sick, dying or not even born yet. All human life possesses this special dignity.

And because all life is sacred, the act by which life is created is also sacred and, therefore, is not to be misused. When we use our God-given freedom to harm human life or misuse the gift of procreation, we not only rob others of their dignity, but we also rob ourselves of that same dignity.

In short, we become less than who we are called to be.

So often when people talk about the church's stance on life issues, they speak in negative terms, complaining that the church doesn't allow this or that. The church is seen as limiting our freedom. But that's not a fair characterization.

The church wants to safeguard human dignity, and holds the act by which life is created in highest esteem. We are all held in the highest esteem. The church recognizes that each human life — no matter how frail, fragile or broken — is a unique and unrepeatable gift.

While the church does have authority to teach in these areas, her authority is never coercive. We are still free to choose. God never forces himself on us.

Study these teachings and see if they don't make sense, especially if there's something you disagree with. It's OK to struggle with them; struggling with them is part of the process of maturing in faith, a process we all have to go through.

But if you decide to just disagree with or ignore these teachings without truly examining them first, then you're not being fair with God, and you're hurting yourself.

Every human life is sacred and a unique gift, and during this Respect Life Month I invite you to not just respect life, but to love it and defend it! If there's something in the church's teachings on life issues or sexual ethics that you don't agree with, then give the church a chance by examining why she teaches as she does. You might be surprised by what you learn.

But don't do it for the sake of church. Do it for yourself. You are too precious in God's eyes not to.

Father Reid is parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

We can do something about poverty

Steps can be taken to change lives

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Why are so many people poor in a world that has so much? This was among the questions I posed to one of the world's leading economists.

Jeffrey Sachs, special adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former economic consultant to Pope John Paul II, told me that poverty is caused by practical problems that have practical solutions.

He said the poorest of the world's poor, some 1.1 billion people, lack the basic necessities of life.

These fellow human beings, struggling to survive on less than $1 a day, are chronically hungry, unable to obtain health care, lack safe drinking water and sanitation, cannot afford education for their children and dwell in poor leaky huts.

"They live in what the World Bank defines as 'extreme poverty.'" And extreme poverty, said Sachs, "is the poverty that kills."

Every year more than "8 million people die because they are too poor to live."

In sub-Saharan Africa — the world's poorest region — subsistence farmers depend on rain to water crops. But chronic drought often prevents plants from growing.

Because villages lack electric power and roads, they are cut off from local and global markets. And malaria-carrying mosquitoes kill more than 1 million children every year.

But according to Sachs, wells can be dug, rainwater can be collected, improved seeds can be planted, diesel generators can be installed, power lines can be brought in, roads can be built and inexpensive mosquito nets can protect people during sleep from malaria. All very doable solutions!

But what the 22 rich donor nations of the world need to do is honor past promises to give 0.7 percent of their annual income to poverty-focused development assistance. That comes to just 70 cents of every $100 of national income.

Only five countries have met that internationally agreed upon goal. The United States is not one of them. We give only 0.2 percent of our national income to poverty-focused development aid. That's just a mere 20 cents for every $100 of national income.

Sachs told me the $500 billion the U.S. spends annually on the military never will bring lasting peace because our government continues to spend only one-30th of that addressing the desperation of the poorest of the poor.

He added, "Data shows that the poorest regions are more likely to end in conflict. Politicians and rebels manipulate the poor. Great poverty often leads to great instability."

In his encyclical "On Social Concerns," Pope John Paul II wrote, "If 'development is the new name for peace,' war and military preparations are the major enemy of the integral development of peoples."

Diverting approximately $60 billion from our annual military budget — the additional annual amount needed to end extreme global poverty — not only would lift 1.1 billion of the poorest people on earth out of misery but would greatly reduce international conflict, including terrorism, said Sachs.

He asked that we contact the president and our congressional delegation, urging them to honor our past promises to give 0.7 percent of our annual national income to poverty-focused development aid.

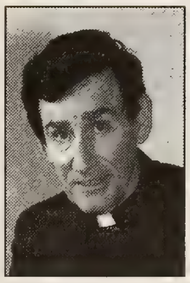
He also suggested we log onto www.unmillenniumproject.org to learn more about the international community's plan to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.

Yesterday's and today's immigrants: The difference

Church's future will be richer, better with unity

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



The state of the church in the United States was the theme of a two-day conference this fall at The Catholic University of America in Washington. The purpose of the conference was to discuss "current realities, dynamics and movements at work, and the challenges and promises ahead" for the church.

At conferences like this, my custom is to zero in on a particular issue that speaks to the moment. My ears perked up when I heard that the present wave of immigrants is much larger and unlike the wave of immigrants who came to America at the turn of the last century.

One sociologist pointed out that immigrants aren't becoming naturalized like past immigrants. New immigrants tend to maintain their communities in the tradition of their homelands.

As the facts were presented, I thought of my daily ride to work when I see 50 to 100 Hispanic laborers. They are doing almost all of the construction in Washington today.

I also thought of two parish staff members who only speak Spanish. We converse daily.

The reason I resonated with the statistics on new immigrants during the conference at Catholic University is that my grandfather was an immigrant who came to the U.S. and worked in construction.

As a young child I lived below my grandparents. The aroma of garlic that flowed through the house was a delight, as was sitting at the kitchen table making homemade ravioli.

At Easter we made Easter bread — a combination of ricotta, Italian sausage, eggs and a number of other ingredients my grandmother included.

One of the first words I remember as a child was "Stata zeet," the phrase from Italy's Abruzzi region meaning "Keep quiet!"

Italian traditions formed my childhood. And when I played baseball my playmates were Greek, Jewish, Irish and Italian. It was common to hear them go back and forth between English and their own languages.

Undoubtedly, a new wave of immigrants is changing the state of the church in the U.S., and no doubt some Catholics have their doubts about the effect this will have:

Will this divide us? Why aren't these immigrants becoming naturalized like the first wave of immigrants did? Why should we accommodate to their languages and customs? Will they eventually take over our churches and replace our traditions with theirs? Whatever happened to the American way of doing things?

In the foreseeable future many Catholic parishes will reflect an immigrant tradition to a very significant extent.

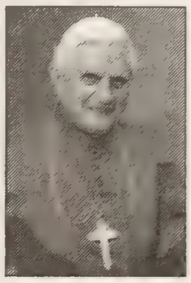
It doesn't take a degree in sociology to know that the state of the American Catholic Church in the future will be richer if we are able to sit around the kitchen preparing our traditional meals together, inhaling the aromas of our spices, listening to music in our languages and breaking bread together.

This has been and always will be our great American tradition!

Pope says living in Jesus' presence not enough to make person holy

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



Pope finishes series about the Twelve Apostles

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 18.

During the audience, the pope focused on the figures of Judas Iscariot and St. Matthias. It marked the last of his series of talks about the Twelve Apostles.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today I conclude my series of reflections on the apostles by speaking of Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Jesus.

Why did he do it? Some say he was too fond of money, and the offer of 30 pieces of silver was too much to resist.

The gnostic writers say he wanted to liberate Jesus from the shackles of mortality.

But the Gospels tell us that Satan entered into the heart of Judas. He yielded to a temptation from the evil one.

It is a mistake to think that the great privilege of living in company with Jesus is enough to make a person holy. Jesus does not force our will when he invites us to follow him along the path of the beatitudes.

The only way to avoid the pitfalls that surround us is to give ourselves entirely to Jesus, to enter into full communion with him, so that we think and act as he did, in total obedience to the Father.

God can turn everything to a good purpose. Even Judas' betrayal became, through divine providence, the occasion for Jesus' supreme act of love, for the salvation of the world.

Finally, a word about the one who was chosen after the Resurrection to take the traitor's place, in a sense compensating for what Judas had done.

All we know about Matthias is that he was a witness to the whole of Jesus' earthly life, and he remained faithful to the end. We, too, are called to make reparation for the sins of others by our faithful witness to Christ.

Holy Infant Church small but vibrant parish in Reidsville

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Holy Infant Church in Reidsville has served Rockingham County Catholics since 1964. Today, the church serves as the spiritual home for about 400 Catholics in the area.

Outreach, migrant ministry highlights of Rockingham County parish

REIDSVILLE — The first Catholics to settle in Rockingham County arrived around 1917.

The American Tobacco Company had made its home in the area, and several of its employees, including company managers, were Catholic.

It was from that initial presence that Holy Infant Church in Reidsville found its beginnings.

During those early years of the 20th century, Rockingham County Catholics traveled south to Greensboro or north to Danville, Va. for Mass. But by the late 1910s, locals began to host liturgies in their home.

As the Catholic population in the area grew, such home celebrations became more common, and families no longer traveled elsewhere for Mass as often.

In addition to homes, people gathered from time to time for liturgies in a funeral home chapel, a courthouse and other locations.

In the late 1930s, Bishop Eugene McGuinness of Raleigh founded and dedicated Rockingham County's first Catholic church, St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden. The Catholic community in Reidsville became a mission of the Eden church.

Two decades passed before Reidsville Catholics began realizing plans for their own church facility. In 1960, land was purchased for a chapel. The present church resides on that same site.

A Connecticut couple, Mr. and Mrs. John Gaetano, donated funds for construction of the church. Other contributors added financial support, and construction was underway.

Ashby Penn and Felix Fournier donated the church tower and tower bells, and in June 1962, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated the new Holy Infant Church.

Father Thomas Clements celebrated the parish's first midnight Christmas Mass in 1964, although the church did not have its first resident pastor until 1968.

Father Edward O'Doherty, whom Bishop Waters had previously met at the Vatican II Council, held that designation. For the first time Holy Infant Church was designated as a parish. Father O'Doherty remained as pastor of Holy Infant Church until 1978.

The year 1972 was a significant one for the parish. Not only was Holy Infant Church incorporated into the newly formed Diocese of Charlotte, but it also welcomed a major expansion: Lufty Hall, a parish hall named for its primary benefactor, Napoleon Bonaparte Lufty.

In January 1982, the church was broken into and set afire. There was a significant amount of damage done to the church, and Mass was held in Lufty Hall until repairs were complete.

In 1985, Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford became the first person, other than a priest, to be appointed to the administrative care of a diocesan parish. During her tenure at Holy Infant Church, the pastor of St. Joseph of the Hills Church assumed sacramental responsibilities for the Reidsville parish.

A highlight of the Reidsville Catholic community's ministerial life has been the migrant ministry established in 1981 and continuing today. With other parishes throughout the Greensboro Vicariate, Holy Infant Church provides weekly meals for the ever-increasing number of migrant farm workers.

Many Hispanics continue to make the area their permanent home as well, thus enhancing the continuing need for outreach. Holy Infant Church celebrates Mass in Spanish every Sunday, and the parish hosts bilingual Christmas and Easter liturgies.

In 1997, Holy Infant Church celebrated the 35th anniversary of its dedication.

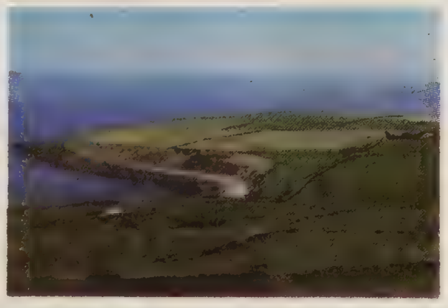
Throughout the year, Reidsville Catholics gather to celebrate many important church holidays, including Pentecost, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

HOLY INFANT CHURCH
1042 Freeway Drive
Reidsville, N.C. 27320
(336) 342-1448

Pastor: Father Joseph Mack
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Gerald W. Potkay
Number of Households: 152

Father Joseph Mack



The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping — PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 27, 2006 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 3

Annual Report

A special 20-page insert containing the annual finance report is included with this issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

The battle at home and abroad

Peace leaders say rise in Iraqi deaths should spur troop withdrawal

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The sharp rise in civilian deaths in Iraq should increase pressure on the United States to remove its troops from the war-torn country, said the leaders of several Catholic peace and justice organizations.

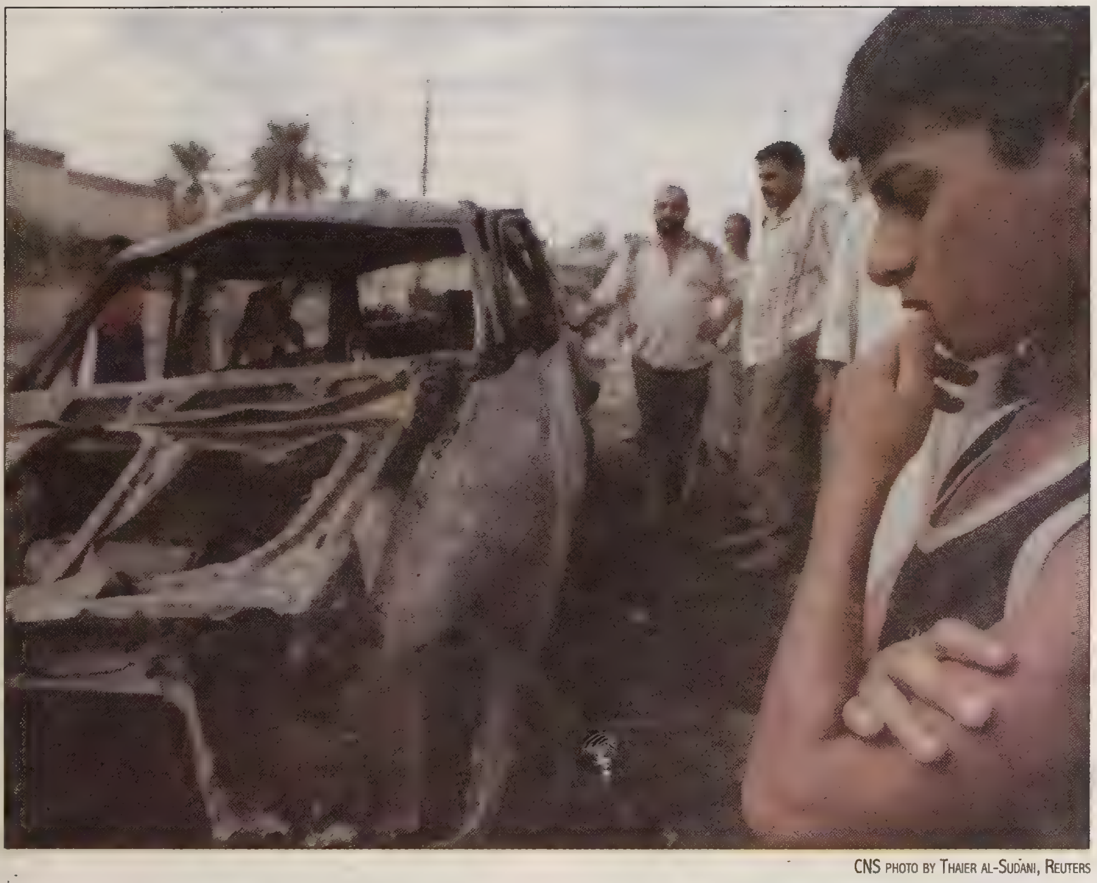
U.S. troops are a magnet for violence, they said, and their removal would be a first

See IRAQ, page 7

MORE COVERAGE

PAGE 7 | POPE URGES WORLD LEADERS TO HELP IRAQIS

PAGE 16 | ARMY FAMILY ADJUST TO HAVING A PARENT IN WAR ZONE



CNS PHOTO BY THAIER AL-SUDANI, REUTERS

A boy looks at a vehicle used in a car-bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 22. Pope Benedict XVI called on religious and political leaders in Iraq and around the world to help the Iraqi people rebuild their country.

Building bridges

Churches form ecumenical effort to help community

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — Christian churches are coming together to make a difference.

Eleven churches in Transylvania County, including Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, have united to form Koinonia, "a committed community among believers."

Sacred Heart Church participates throughout the year, hosting the group's meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Koinonia, a Greek word meaning "a coming together of community," presents opportunities in the Brevard area for interdenominational

See CHURCHES, page 5

Fighting a secret crime

CATHOLIC MAN RECOGNIZED FOR WORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — It is a crime that fits no profile. It is committed by men and women; it is not restricted to the poor or the uneducated nor to any ethnic or religious group.

Rather, domestic violence

See VIOLENCE, page 4

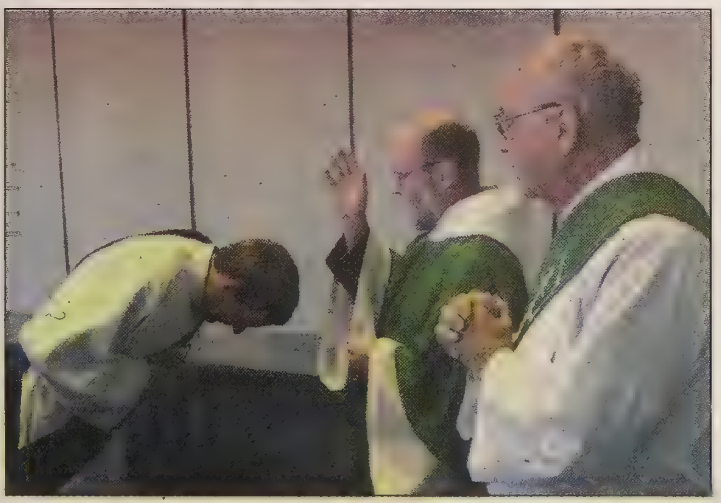


PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacon Ben Wenning (right) watches as Deacon John Kopfle receives a blessing from Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey during Mass at a retreat for deacons and their wives in Hickory Oct. 13-15.

Faith and friendship

Prayer, camaraderie highlight annual retreat for deacons, wives

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — More than 100 deacons and their wives from throughout the Diocese of Charlotte gathered for a retreat at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Oct. 13-15.

Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey served as retreat master.

The deacons came to "grow more deeply in their spirituality while being provided with much needed social interaction among themselves to renew old friendships and gain new friendships," said Deacon Louis Pais, director of the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"I really felt welcomed by all," said Deacon Michael Leahy from

See DEACONS, page 13

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
5-9 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

In Our Schools
Scholarship, alumni awards; living rosary
| PAGES 8-9

Culture Watch
Books, DVD on popes; Madonna's concert edits
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
Designer children?; dangerous detachments
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FRETTING FOR FRANCISCANS

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL FINCH, CATHOLIC SUN

Sam Grosvenor, who crafts handmade guitars, is seen working on a guitar in the basement of the Franciscans' Assisi Center in Syracuse, N.Y. Grosvenor has a burgeoning business called Franciscan Guitars, with all proceeds benefiting the order's ministry.

Sales of craftsman's handmade guitars support Franciscans' ministry

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — Picking up a guitar five years ago, Sam Grosvenor was confronted with a problem.

His fingers weren't quite long enough to wrap comfortably around the neck to reach the frets. Moreover, no matter how many different guitars he tried, he could never quite find the sound he wanted.

Knowing that, at age 53, his fingers were unlikely to grow anymore, his wife, Susan, urged him to build his own guitar.

With no formal training, Grosvenor used an old guitar as a model and set about shaping a 6-foot piece of mahogany into an instrument better suited to his own specifications.

Now Grosvenor has a burgeoning guitar-making business called Franciscan Guitars in the basement of the Assisi Center in Syracuse. Selling the guitars doesn't produce a dime for Grosvenor's own wallet, however; he is a salaried employee of the Franciscans and all the proceeds go back into financing the order's ministry.

"We set up a wood shop in the basement with the understanding that whatever money is made will stay within the Franciscan ministry," said Franciscan Father Canice Connors, rector of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church.

Grosvenor has made a career out of working with his hands, as a union bricklayer and as a trim carpenter. Two years ago, after witnessing the style of Grosvenor's carpentry, the Franciscans asked him to stay on as their full-time construction supervisor.

Grosvenor's signature on many of his guitars is a peace sign and he is fond of finely designed inlays. Often a peace sign will appear in the head of the guitar or in the base of the neck.

It takes Grosvenor roughly 40 hours to produce one guitar so long as the client is asking for "nothing fancy," he said.

The most elaborate guitar Grosvenor has built to date was a wedding present for his nephew, featuring an opening on the body shaped to resemble a shamrock.

Other designs include a heart and a Celtic knot. The bottom of the guitar features a woodcut with a shamrock over individually pieced together bricks.

Grosvenor said that the last feature was an allusion to his own occupation as a bricklayer.

"I'll never build another one like that," he said. "That was too frustrating."

Catholic doctors who won't perform abortions face pressure

ROME (CNS) — Catholic obstetricians who respect the dignity of motherhood and the unborn risk disappearing in societies where abortion is legal, said the head of an international group of Catholic obstetricians and gynecologists.

Obstetricians who oppose having to perform abortions as part of their training or in their practice sometimes face "a sort of medical totalitarianism" and feel tremendous pressure to "do it this way or not at all," said Dr. Robert Walley, executive director of MaterCare International.

Walley and some 60 other obstetricians from 14 countries were in Rome Oct. 11-15 as part of the fourth MaterCare International workshop for Catholic women's health specialists.

Part of the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, MaterCare was founded in 1995 to serve the culture of life wherever mothers and their children are neglected or abandoned. This year's workshop looked at ways the dignity of motherhood and the practice of obstetrics could be protected and promoted.

"Like the dinosaur who was frozen out by a climatic change, that's happening to us," Walley said, explaining that Catholic obstetricians who wish to avoid abortions are being "frozen out by the climatic change that occurred when abortion was brought in 30 years ago."

When he started his studies more than 35 years ago, Walley said he had no idea how great an impact legalized abortion would have on his and other doctors' lives and careers.

"Every civilized country has always recognized conscientious objection even in the time of war, but not in the time of abortion, and it's an outrage," he said, adding that many countries do not protect a doctor's right of conscience.

However, more than a decade ago the U.S. Congress passed legislation that provided a protection of conscience clause when new regulations required abortion training in all residency programs.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat,* 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for Nov. 3 will be "Purgatory and Indulgences." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Father David Valtierra from the Oratory in Rock Hill will lead a retreat Nov. 5, 1-4 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church, 503 N. Main St. The retreat's theme will be *"Jesus: the Prophet of New Life."* The retreat will open with a light meal at 12:30 p.m. No pre-registration needed. For more information, call Call Dennis Teall-Fleming, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholic adults in their 20s and 30s, will meet at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy., Nov. 2, 8 and 15 at 6:45 p.m. Come and experience great speakers, excellent food and conversation. We will be sponsoring a food drive for Urban Ministry. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and School, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The group will be facilitated by parishioner and life coach Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the group is to create a time and a space for women to better connect with their inner wisdom and move forward on their journey in life. For more information or to register call Lucy (336) 632-1940 or email coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

—THE—
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

OCT. 27, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 3

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says predecessor's methods to spread Gospel must be studied

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The message as well as the methods used by Pope John Paul II to spread the Gospel must be studied and duplicated, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"John Paul II, philosopher and theologian, great pastor of the church, left a richness of writings and gestures that express his desire to spread the Gospel of Christ throughout the world," the pope said.

Meeting some 800 directors and supporters of the John Paul II Foundation, Pope Benedict said their efforts to gather, analyze and make known the late pope's teaching must also include efforts "to touch the mystery of his holiness."

The pope did not make any other reference to the process under way for the beatification and canonization of his predecessor.

The Oct. 23 audience marked the 25th anniversary of the John Paul II Foundation, established initially to strengthen the ties between the Vatican and Poland, spread the spiritual values ingrained in Polish culture, deepen reflection on the Christian roots of Europe and provide scholarships for students from Eastern Europe.

After communism fell in Eastern Europe and as Pope John Paul aged, the foundation began a major push to collect, archive and promote the study of the pope's ministry.

Thanking the foundation supporters — including Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Pope John Paul's longtime personal secretary, and U.S. Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit, a longtime foundation board member — Pope Benedict said Pope John Paul's teaching not only must be preserved, but must be shared with future generations.

STONEVILLE — *Fostering Justice Worldwide*, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, will share Catholic Relief Services (CRS) stories. This free event will take place at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, 477 Grogan Rd., St., Nov. 4, 1-4:30 p.m. The program will provide an overview of Catholic social teaching, CRS-related work in the Diocese of Charlotte, CRS work in Africa, presentations on effective advocacy and more. For specific details about the Saturday afternoon events please call the Office of Justice and Peace at (704) 370-3234 or (704) 370-3225, or e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Nov. 9, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 547 6th St. NW. "Signs of Healing" is the theme for this year's service. Stories of healing in situations of conflict and crisis will be share. Child care will be provided. Refreshments will be ser vie,. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — *Respect Life* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *Eucharistic Adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336)940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Dave Bowe will present "Spiritual Growth: Reflections from Life Abroad" Nov. 8. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 2
Mass
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia

Nov. 2 — 6 p.m.
Friends to Seminarians Reception
Charlotte

Nov. 4
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
Maggie Valley

Nov. 5 — 2 p.m.
25th, 50th Wedding Anniversaries Mass
St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte

Pope urges university students to help heal culture, identity crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged university students to help heal "the crises of culture and identity" by searching for truth and meaning in their studies and their lives.

Inaugurating the academic year in Rome, where university classes begin in October, Pope Benedict visited Pontifical Lateran University Oct. 21 and met students and professors from all the city's pontifical universities after an Oct. 23 Mass.

In speeches to both groups, the pope said education should hone a student's thirst for truth and for meaning, especially when his or her studies are taking place at a Vatican-chartered university.

In his Oct. 23 speech in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope reminded the group of "the priority importance of one's spiritual life and the need, alongside cultural growth, for a balanced human maturation and a deep ascetic and religious formation."

The pope said that studying theology and other subjects in preparation to serve the church "presupposes an education in silence and contemplation because it is necessary to be able to hear with one's heart the God who speaks."

In his Oct. 21 speech at Lateran University, where he dedicated the remodeled library and an auditorium bearing his name, Pope Benedict said pontifical universities must challenge students to look for more than just new experiences.

Students, he said, want help responding to questions about the meaning of their own lives and about human existence.

"Overvaluing 'doing,' obscuring 'being' will not help restore the fundamental balance needed to give one's existence a solid foundation and a valid goal," he said.

Catholic universities, he said, must help students aspire to know and love God and to follow him by obeying his commandments.

Pope Benedict pointed to the fable of Icarus who flew with wings held together with wax; although his father warned him to stay close, Icarus tried to soar higher and higher, but the sun melted the wax, the wings fell apart and Icarus plunged to his death.

Seeking "absolute freedom," Icarus found only a great crash and death, the pope said.

Saintly reflections

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Providence Sister Denise Wilkinson, general superior for her religious order, delivers a reflection on the life and heritage of St. Mother Theodore Guerin during Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., Oct. 22. Sisters of Providence, alumnae of St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and other friends of the religious order gathered that Sunday to honor the 166th anniversary of the founding of Indiana's Sisters of Providence and the Oct. 15 canonization of their foundress, Mother Theodore.

The congregation has had a presence in the Diocese Charlotte — at Providence Convent in Charlotte, 1972-1973; and at St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville, 1973 and 1980 — and two sisters still minister here: Providence Sister Betty Paul serves as faith formation coordinator for the northern region of the diocese and resides in Lexington; Providence Sister Katherine Francis French also resides in Lexington.

Catholic man recognized for domestic violence work

VIOLENCE, *from page 1*

is a learned behavior, and one that passes from one generation to the next.

> "Men have to be part of the solution. We must educate other men and say, 'Domestic violence is wrong.'"
>
> — Joseph Marinello

"If a three-year-old boy sees his father abusing his mother, he thinks that is normal behavior," Joseph Marinello said.

Unless the boy unlearns this behavior, he could grow up to be an abuser, he said.

At the launch of North Carolina's Domestic Violence Awareness Month Oct. 2, Marinello was recognized for his work combating domestic violence. He and Barry Bryant, lead victim planner at the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission, were named as the recipients of the 2006 Annual RBC Centura Men For Change awards by the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Marinello, a parishioner of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, works for CMC Behavioral Health and facilitates domestic violence intervention groups for the Mecklenburg County New Options for Violent Actions Program.

He is the program developer and coordinator of the Men Stopping Violence Program and an instructor in the department of criminal justice at UNC-Charlotte.

Originally designed as a pilot program for the North Carolina Department of Correction, Men Stopping Violence is a 20-week, full-time psycho-educational treatment program for male offenders. The inmates or clients have histories of engaging in or perpetrating violence in any form, including domestic violence, sexual violence and homicide.

Marinello has dedicated himself to combating domestic violence, which he considers to be a "social cancer." Domestic violence is a kept secret in many families, he said.

"Only about 10 percent of domestic abuse is reported to the police," he said. "By the time the police are involved, the abuse may have happened five, 10, 15 times."

In the past, domestic violence has been seen as a women's issue, Marinello said. Most victims are women, so most advocates are also women.

But Marinello is working to change that perception.

"Men have to be part of the solution," he said. "We must educate other men and say, 'Domestic violence is wrong.'"

The key to stopping domestic violence by men is for them to be role models in their families.

"A real man is one who is loving and nurturing," Marinello said.

Most physical abuse is preceded by emotional abuse — insults, isolation, intimidation, using money or children as a weapon — Marinello said.

An abuser will use insults to lowers his or her victim's self-esteem, thereby raising his or her own self-esteem.

If, or when, emotional abuse fails to get the desired result, an abuser will resort to physical abuse.

Abusive behavior usually doesn't stop unless the abuser gets psychological treatment, Marinello said.

"If a man hits you once and you let him get away with it, he'll do it again," said Marinello. "Without treatment, men will find another victim. He has no reason to stop."

Today's society, especially the media, has exacerbated the problem of domestic violence, according to Marinello.

"We relate violence to masculinity," Marinello said. "Also, young boys are being inundated by violence on TV and in video games."

Marinello believes it is essential to teach men to not be abusive, because abuse is a core crime for other crimes. He also believes that violent behavior can be stopped with counseling, as men learn to change their behavior.

"Men were not put on this earth to be abusive," Marinello said. "All of Jesus Christ's teachings were about love and peace."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Joseph Marinello's Men Stopping Violence program, visit www.menstoppingviolence.com.

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department presents monthly Domestic Violence "Lunch & Learn" workshops. These free workshops are held the first Tuesday of every month, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon Street. For more information, call Mike Sexton (704) 432-1568 or email dvac@mecklenburgcountync.gov.

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING

A.V. ROOFING
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097

Day with the Gospel of Luke

9 am - 4 pm Thursday, November 16 OR
9 am - 4 pm Saturday, November 18

Our fall Scripture day is dedicated to the Gospel of the new liturgical cycle: Luke (Cycle C). The day includes an overview and outline of the Gospel, prayer, shared reading, noon Eucharist and lunch. The same program is offered both days.

Cost: $35 – includes lunch

SAVE $200 on Closing Costs
End of Year Special
Save when you mention this ad

Your Trusted Mortgage Advisor

Call Jayne McGonnell
Mortgage Loan Originator
(704) 516-9682
jmcgonnell@cimginc.com
Parishioner – St. Thomas Aquinas
Equal Housing Lender
corporate investors mortgage group

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

5th Annual
Vineyard of Hope
Wines Around the World
Wine Tasting & Auction

This annual fundraiser for Catholic Social Services provides vital funds for the programs and services of CSS.

Get a group together and buy your tickets today!
Friday, November 10 — 7 p.m.
Charlotte Marriott SouthPark
(formerly known as The Park Hotel)

All proceeds benefit
Catholic Social Services

The evening includes: Wine Tasting, Heavy hors d'oeuvres
Live entertainment from 'The Sinatra Experience'
Silent Auction

Individual tickets are $75.
Discounted groups of eight and sponsorships are also available.

Call 704-370-3232 or
visit www.vineyardofhope.org

Sponsored by: Sisters of Mercy

Churches form ecumenical effort to help community

CHURCHES, *from page 1*

Christian services and for sponsoring educational opportunities that focus Christian values on timely, and sometimes controversial, issues.

The group's religious symposium in November 2005 explored extreme fundamentalism in Christianity, Islam and Judaism. The group's second symposium, held at Brevard College Oct. 24-26, was themed "Who is My Neighbor? America the Melting Pot: Immigration, Diversity, Assimilation."

The three-day event explored the intricacies of being an immigrant and becoming a citizen. Panelists included Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, and Capuchin Father John Salvas, parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Ramona McCarty, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, volunteered three years ago to represent her parish in Koinonia.

Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Ramona McCarty, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, represents the parish in Koinonia, an ecumencial group of 11 Transylvania County-area churches.

> "Helping our brothers and sisters is a central part of our faith in following in the footsteps of Jesus."
>
> — Ramona McCarty

"I have gained a feeling of belonging to not only the Catholic Church, but also the community of Christian believers," she said. "Helping our brothers and sisters is a central part of our faith in following in the footsteps of Jesus."

Parishioners Pat Sigars and Marcia Harper have joined McCarty as co-representatives for Sacred Heart Church.

Koinonia sponsors several events throughout the year to assist those who seek a closer relationship with Christ, as well as to help those in need.

The group held a Crop Walk Oct. 15 that supports Church World Service, an ecumenical relief, development and refugee assistance ministry. While 75 percent of funds will help provide safe water wells for impoverished people globally, the remaining funds will stay in Transylvania County and be donated to Sharing House, which helps those in need.

Sacred Heart Church also hosts a community-wide Christmas Day dinner that is open to all who want to share a meal. In January, the parish hosts a "Day of Prayer for Christian Unity" as well as prayer luncheons and services on Fridays during Lent.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information about Koinonia or the programs it sponsors, contact Ramona McCarty at (828) 884-8879.

Road to recovery

Program helps Catholics cope with grief

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — The loss of a loved one is often too much for someone to bear. And Rose Mary Charmley wanted to do something about it.

Charmley, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, has developed a program to help those who have lost someone cope with grief.

"I want them to move from what they are doing to where there is hope," Charmley said. "In the end, you want people to feel that life is worth living, that it's going to be OK."

Charmley developed the grief recovery program in 1981 while working as a registered nurse for mental health services in Michigan. Seventy-five percent of mental illness among her elderly patients was depression, she said, largely caused by losing a spouse.

After researching several programs, Charmley designed a program that best suited the needs of her patients.

Upon moving to western North Carolina in 2000, Charmley saw a similar need and initiated the program at Sacred Heart Church. The annual eight-week course, which began Oct. 18, is designed for anyone who has lost someone in his or her life, regardless of the relationship.

Throughout the program, Charmley encourages mutual support among the participants in and out of the meetings. Each participant is given a notebook, to be used for homework based on the meetings and for journaling thoughts and feelings.

"I encourage everyone to use the journal, but it's up to the individual," said Charmley. "I also encourage them to write a love letter to the person they have lost and to attend local support groups."

Meeting topics include understanding the grief process, finding balance in life, facing anniversaries and holidays, self-esteem, stress management and recognizing the role change in the life of the "survivor."

The program also includes a healing ritual designed to help participants learn how to let go and move forward with life. Charmley suggests creating a personal tribute to the deceased in their honor, either through a donation or a memorial.

"Everyone handles grief in his or her own way. There is no wrong way," said Charmley.

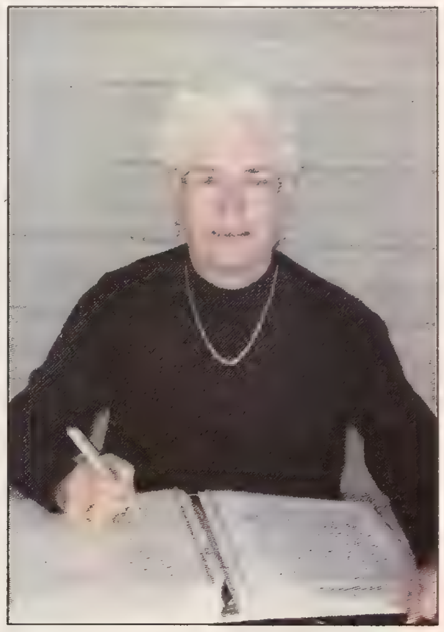


Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Rose Mary Charmley, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, instituted a grief recovery program at the parish.

"I have had people who were able to move on in six months and others who were still having problems after several years," she said. "I ask them, 'In the next five, 10, 20 years, does God want you to die or does he have a plan for you to do?'"

Friendships often develop among the participants. Getting out of the house and being around others is an important step of the healing process, said Charmley.

There are a few things everyone should do when facing grief during the holidays, she said — make a plan for the holiday; don't wait for it to happen; don't expect it to be the same (as before the loss), so do it differently and never do it alone.

"It's never as bad as you think it will be," she said.

WANT MORE INFO?
The grief recovery program at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard runs through Dec. 6. For more information, contact Rose Mary Charmley at (828) 862-8666.

The Asheville Vicariate invites you to a
Day of Reflection featuring
Dr. Scott Hahn
internationally known theologian, author, speaker and professor at Franciscan University
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville
Saturday, Dec. 9 10am - 4pm
Tickets must be obtained in advance.
A $10 donation includes lunch.
Call 828-697-7420 or your parish office for details.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING
For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.
(336) 282-8870
ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park
The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Bilingual music performed, studied in Hamlet

HAMLET — It was a weekend of music and learning at St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet.

Approximately 70 people attended the "music extravaganza" concert at the church Sept. 29, and 30 people attended the bilingual music workshops Sept. 30.

The concert featured English- and Spanish-language singers and musicians from St. James the Greater Church and its mission, Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro. It was the first time the two church choirs and musicians had performed together.

The concert also featured Lourdes Montgomery, a composer, arranger and clinician with Oregon Catholic Press, a publisher of liturgical music, books, choral collections and support materials for the Catholic Church.

Montgomery, a native of Havana, Cuba, also directed workshops in both English and Spanish.

Benedictine Father David Draim, parochial vicar of the churches, said the workshops' goal was to foster greater respect and collaboration between English- and Spanish-language musicians and choirs.

"Both groups are blessed with amazingly talented people and I believe the occasional bilingual liturgies will be a source of blessing and spiritual growth for the entire parish," he said.

The workshops were made possible by Oregon Catholic Press and a grant from Operation Rice Bowl.

"Our choirs and musicians are full of ideas, thanks to Lourdes, and everyone enjoyed the concert," said Father Draim.

> "I believe the occasional bilingual liturgies will be a source of blessing and spiritual growth for the entire parish."
>
> — Benedictine Father David Draim

Courtesy Photo

Music directors from St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet and Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro stand with Lourdes Montgomery (second from right) of Oregon Catholic Press. Pictured are (from left): Sheila Stovall of St. James the Greater Church, Laura Laney of Sacred Heart Church, Pepe Rodriguez of St. James Church, Montgomery and Eleanor Adeimy of St. James Church.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.
THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don't know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don't have time to research even a fraction of them.

Call to learn more about:

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Growing efforts, getting results

Courtesy Photo

Grand Knight Lance Cancro (right) of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 receives a third trimester membership award from state director Bob Grabasky at the council's annual family picnic at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Aug. 27.

The council uses a number of efforts to recruit new members, including bulletin announcements, speakers at Masses and booths at stewardship fairs and social gatherings.

"Heart to Heart"

Media Campaign Fundraiser

Featuring Guest Speaker,
Tom Peterson
President of VirtueMedia

Recently featured on EWTN's Bookmark program.

The North Carolina Right To Life Education Fund invites you to its presentation of the **"Heart to Heart" Media Campaign on Sunday Nov. 5th, from 7:15pm to 8:30pm, at the Ballantyne Resort.**

Please join us for Coffee and Dessert while hearing about the ambitious effort to bring Pro-Life television commercials to Charlotte.

The featured speaker of the event is Tom Peterson, founder and President of VirtueMedia. By combining his innovative professional media background with life-affirming virtues, Mr. Peterson dedicated himself to producing and distributing national quality Pro-Life television and radio commercials.

The Goal of the "Heart to Heart" Media campaign is to cultivate a Pro-Life atmosphere for the purpose of raising public awareness about the Life issues and to save lives.

If you are interested in attending the event or would like to learn more about the "Heart to Heart" Media campaign please contact Jon Capen at voice (704) 496-0480 or by Email at joncapen@earthlink.net

Peace leaders call for troop withdrawal from Iraq

IRAQ, *from page 1*

step toward getting the warring factions in Iraq to the bargaining table under some form of international supervision.

For Franciscan Father Louis V. Iasiello, however, a Navy chaplain on active duty from 1983 until his military retirement earlier this year as chief of Navy chaplains, the escalation in the number of civilian deaths emphasizes the need for a country going to war to have a well-developed postwar plan for bringing peace and political stability to the country it defeats.

This includes sending in troops specially trained in peacekeeping operations, he said.

Father Iasiello, president of the Washington Theological Union, said he has not decided yet whether U.S. troops should be withdrawn in the foreseeable future.

Father Iasiello and the leaders of several Catholic peace and justice groups were interviewed by Catholic News Service after the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Al Mustansiriya University School of Medicine in Baghdad, Iraq, published a study estimating that 601,000 Iraqi civilians have died through violence since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

The study's methodology has produced controversy as to its validity, with some critics saying that the research concentrated on areas of high warfare. President George W. Bush called the study "not credible."

But its methodology has been defended by some pollsters such as John Zogby, head of Zogby International, who has done surveying in Iraq.

The study said that 31 percent of the violent deaths since the invasion were attributed to the U.S.-led coalition forces, but this ratio dropped to 26 percent in 2006 although the total number of deaths attributed to coalition forces rose in 2006.

The Johns Hopkins study interviewed 47 clusters of 40 households each throughout the country to gather its figures, which it then projected on a national level. The interviews were conducted from May to July 2006. The researchers said their methodology was the same used by others to determine civilian deaths in wars in the Congo, Kosovo and Sudan.

The rising number of civilian casualties shows that civilians are the targets of this war, said Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of Network, which lobbies Congress on peace and justice issues.

"I don't know how we can square that with our Catholic Gospel values," she said.

Sister Campbell, a Sister of Social Service, said Network maintains contact with 14 Iraqi women, several of whom came to the United States earlier this year to talk to lawmakers.

"They don't think this (601,000) is a wrong number," she said.

Four of the women have lost close relatives, Sister Campbell added.

"Often they don't know what happens to the loved ones. They just disappear," she said.

A key problem in the civil strife is that different branches of the Iraqi military and police forces are infiltrated by militia members of rival political factions who use the security forces for partisan attacks, Sister Campbell said.

"There is not a strong sense of identity to Iraq. Identity is more toward a sectarian militia or clan," she said.

Marie Dennis, vice president of Pax Christi International, a Vatican-recognized Catholic peace movement, said the rising civilian death toll is morally intolerable.

"When the U.S. started the war, the peace movement and churches said this could lead to a mess and it did," said Dennis, also the director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

"The presence of U.S. troops is fueling the violence," she said.

But a pullout needs to be accompanied by U.S. political and financial support for a multinational peacekeeping process that could include the United Nations, Arab states and other regional powers, she said.

The U.S. also "needs to foot the bill" for rebuilding Iraq, she said.

Another piece of the puzzle is stimulating international pressure to get the various ethnic and religious groups in Iraq to seriously negotiate the country's future, Dennis said.

"The U.S. leaving won't be a magic wand" to solving Iraq's problems, she said. "There is no quick solution."

Dave Robinson, executive director of Pax Christi USA, said the Johns Hopkins research was "the first credible study of what effect the war is having on civilian life."

The U.S. needs to spend less money on military operations and more on reconstruction and to restore the country's infrastructure, he said.

For Iraqi youths "there is no work, no hope. Few schools are working," said Robinson. The U.S. should be "empowering Iraqis to build their own country according to their own priorities."

Father Iasiello said that it is critical in the postwar period for the victor to provide for the security of the people in the occupied country, especially the most vulnerable, in addition to the security of its troops.

Planning for the postwar situation needs to be taken seriously before a war is started, he said.

"We must know what we will be doing in that phase," Father Iasiello said.

The Iraq War is evolutionary and planning needs to be constantly re-evaluated to meet new realities such as an increase in violence, insurgency and tribalism, he said.

Regarding the current debate about U.S. policy in Iraq, Father Iasiello said, "I'm glad we're taking seriously all options."

The drop in civilian deaths attributed to coalition forces from 31 percent to 26 percent shows "that most of our people who fight are moral people" trying to limit the damage to civilians, he said.

Avoiding civilian deaths is also good strategy, he added.

"Commanders realize that if you want to win a counterinsurgency war, you have to win the hearts and minds of the people. You don't do that when you kill family members," said Father Iasiello.

Pope urges world leaders to help Iraqis rebuild troubled nation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called on religious and political leaders in Iraq and around the world to help the Iraqi people rebuild their country, which is so troubled by insecurity and "savage violence."

The pope expressed his deep concern for Iraq's Christian community as well as all victims of the increase in violence and intimidation throughout the country.

After praying the Angelus Oct. 22 in St. Peter's Square, the pope first sent his "cordial greetings" to Muslims around the world who were about to celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan, wishing them all "serenity and peace."

This "joyous atmosphere" of celebration, however, has been clouded by the "very serious situation of insecurity and savage violence" faced by so many innocent people in Iraq solely "because (they are) Shiites, Sunnis or Christians," he said.

The pope said he was aware of the tremendous worry running through Iraq's Christian communities, adding that his thoughts and prayers for "strength and consolation" were with them as with all victims in the conflict.

The pope prayed that God would grant Iraq and the world's religious and political leaders "the needed faith and courage" to help Iraqis rebuild their country and reach reconciliation between factions by realizing "that the plurality of its components is an integral part of (the country's) wealth."

Church leaders in Iraq have expressed concern about an increase in violence; especially against Christians.

Since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, numerous churches have been bombed, and Christians have been kidnapped, killed or threatened.

Half of all Iraqi Christians have fled their country over the past three-and-a-half years, according to Chaldean Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Andreos Abouna of Baghdad. Before the invasion there were about 1.2 million Christians in the predominantly Shiite Muslim state; since then the overall number has dropped to about 600,000.

Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Baghdad said that violence, persecution and instability along with the world's apparent indifference to the plight of the country's Christians have forced them into exile.

Losing Christians to emigration would represent "a big loss not only for Iraq, but for the cause of humankind, and it will have serious consequences for Muslims, too," he said.

Escape Colder Weather And
Join Your Spiritual Director Fr. Page Polk

Hawaii Cruise

15-Day Vacation Departs March 21, 2007

Escape colder weather back home and travel with other Roman Catholics including your YMT Chaplain Father Page Polk. Depart March 21, 2007 and be met by "your man" at the Honolulu airport on this 15-day vacation including an 11-day cruise on NCL's ***Norwegian Wind*** with three hotel nights in Waikiki, with an included Honolulu city tour. In Hawaii visit Kauai, Maui, and on the "Big Island" both Hilo and Kona. As a bonus you'll also spend a day on exotic Fanning Island; see what the South Pacific was like over 100 years ago! Complete prices start from only $2448 (per person/double occupancy) and includes an aloha flower-lei greeting, airport / hotel / ship transfers, the 11-day cruise, three nights hotels, baggage handling, round trip airfare from Charlotte, and all taxes. This will be Father Polk's second trip as a YMT Chaplain. He is Director of the Chaplain Corp in the Archdiocese of Galveston, Texas. Mass will be celebrated once in Honolulu and most days on ship. $300 deposits now due. Family & friends welcome.

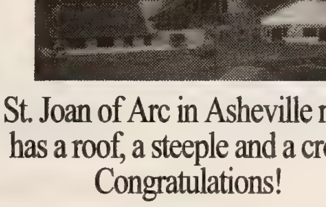
For information reservations, brochure and Fr. Polk's letter call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

Asheville & Arden
The Catholic Funeral Directors
828-252-3535



St. Joan of Arc in Asheville now has a roof, a steeple and a cross! Congratulations!

From one band to another

Courtesy Photo by Mary Luttrell

Emily Cornelius and John Menze, seniors at Charlotte Catholic High School, examine school marching band uniforms to be donated to South Plaquemines High School in Port Sulphur, La., the first week of October. Charlotte Catholic gave more than 100 band uniforms, along with cards and personal notes of encouragement, to the high school affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"Our band was very humbled by that high school struggling to get back on its feet in an area in which many residents are still without electricity," said Jackie McCalla, Charlotte Catholic band booster president. Charlotte Catholic's band was able to purchase new uniforms through fundraising efforts at Carolina Panthers' games.

Praying for life

Courtesy Photo

Students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro honor Mary, the Blessed Mother, with a living rosary in the school gymnasium Oct. 4. With the gym lights out, music playing and blue glow sticks in hand, the students prayed the rosary and reflected on the luminous mysteries, which Pope John Paul II added to the traditional rosary prayers in 2002.

St. Vincent de Paul Women's Guild
HOLIDAY FASHION & GIFT SHOW
Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 PM
St. Vincent de Paul Church
6828 Old Reid Road Charlotte
Great Food
Door Prizes
$5.00 per person
Open to Ladies of the Diocese
Holiday fashion.... Thanksgiving to New Years
Early Bird Shopping - Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Specialty Gifts Jewelry Christmas Collectibles
Fashions by
Dress Barn/Dress Barn Woman
Advance Tickets/ Information: Peggy Gibbons 704/588-5870

CCHS senior receives memorial scholarship

Ciotti selected for outstanding volunteer athletic service

CHARLOTTE — Kaitlyn Ciotti, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, was named the second recipient of a memorial scholarship.

Ciotti received the Gregory Bazluki Sr. Memorial Scholarship, named for longtime Charlotte Catholic assistant football coach who passed away.

The award is dedicated to those who give back to their school community through volunteer athletic service and includes a place on a plaque in the school and a $1,500 scholarship to Charlotte Catholic.

Ciotti received the award from the Bazluki family before the opening kickoff of the Charlotte Catholic homecoming game versus Garinger High School Oct. 13. Also in attendance were Jerry Healy, principal, and Jennifer Johnson, alumni director.

Ciotti has been involved with Charlotte Catholic's sports medicine program for four years, in which she provides care and rehabilitation for school athletes.

She often volunteers as an athletic training student assistant for summer athletic camps at Charlotte Catholic.

She is a volunteer for Mighty Riders, a program that provides students with mental and physical handicaps the opportunity to develop coordination and confidence through interaction with horses.

"She exemplifies the true meaning of a Charlotte Catholic role model — kindness, faith, spirit, respect and dedicated service," said Mary Jayne Dawson, campus minister.

KAITLYN CIOTTI

Courtesy Photo by Jennifer Johnson

Kaitlyn Ciotti, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, accepts the second annual Gregory Bazluki Sr. Memorial Award from members of the Bazluki family before the homecoming game Oct. 13.

You could be singing too after more than 135,000 readers see YOUR company's ad here!
LOW ad rates - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!
Call (704) 370-3332 now! or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"
You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.
Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Emerging beauty

Courtesy Photo by Donna Birkel

tudents at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem study a newly hatched butterfly Oct. 20. The utterfly's cocoon had been kept in a jar in first-grade teacher St. Joseph Sister Emma Yondura's lassroom. When the butterfly began to hatch, the class went outside to watch.

Bishop McGuinness honors alumni during homecoming

KERNERSVILLE — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville celebrated homecoming weekend with its fourth annual Athletic Hall of Fame and third annual Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame induction ceremonies Oct. 6.

The Athletic Hall of Fame honored Lynda Sayers, class of 1983, and Richard Rossitch, class of 1989.

Sayers was a volleyball, basketball and softball player at Bishop McGuinness and helped her basketball and volleyball teams become state champions. She currently resides in Winston-Salem.

Rossitch played baseball, basketball and soccer at Bishop McGuinness and was honored as Male Athlete of the Year in 1988 and 1989; he also was awarded Scholar Athlete of the Year in 1989.

He helped lead the school's Villains varsity baseball team to two state championship wins. Rossitch currently resides in Charlotte.

The Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame honored Dr. Bartholomew Lopina, class of 1992.

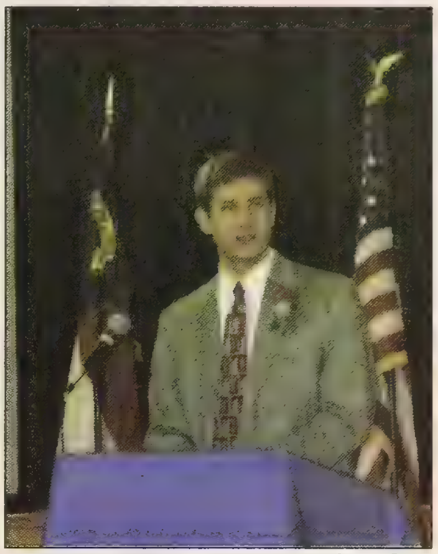
After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill's medical school in 2000, Lopina began his family medicine residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem.

He has continued to be active at Bishop McGuinness, where he served as football team physician for the 2002-2003 season; he also served as an alumni ambassador for the Alumni Relations Committee until 2005.

Lopina currently resides in Newton.

"The legacies of all these exceptional individuals are gifts of extraordinary value to the life and the living memory of this school," said Principal George Repass.

Bishop McGuinness was recognized in 2006 as one of the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the United States by the Catholic High School Honor Roll.



Courtesy Photos

Dr. Bartholomew Lopina (above) and Richard Rossitch and Lynda Sayers (below) were honored Oct. 6 during Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School's homecoming weekend.

November 4th
8 am to 3 pm

Christmas Bazaar

Come one, Come all..
For a great start to your holiday season!
Silent Auction Drawings
Throughout The Day.
St. Mark Catholic Church
Family Life Center - Stumptown Rd.
$1 Admission per adult
For Info: 704-777-1650
or 704-895-6732

Get your photo taken with Santa.

Handmade Chocolates
Designer Jewelry
Pet Toys
Handmade Crafts
Kitchen & Home Products
Religious Gifts

Used Book Sale
Bake Sale
Christmas Decorations
Food and Drinks
Handmade Knitwear
and Lots, Lots More !

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
This week hear Bishop Emeritus Curlin

Subscribe today — it's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Publisher offers books by, about Pope Benedict, DVD on Pope John Paul II

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Three new books from Ignatius Press aim to help readers know Pope Benedict XVI better, through a unique photo collection and through the pope's own words.

"Pope Benedict XVI: Servant of the Truth," by German journalist Peter Seewald, features 190 full-color photo pages, as well as essays by friends and colleagues and some writings by Pope Benedict.

Those who want more of the pope's words can read "What It Means To Be a Christian," a primer on embracing Christian practice, and "Images of Hope: Meditations on Major Feasts," which "weaves together Scripture, history, literature, theology and sacred art," according to the publisher.

Both books were written before he was elected to the papacy.

Ignatius Press also is offering Catholics a chance to see "Pope John Paul II," a film about Pope Benedict's predecessor.

The 180-minute film will be screened free of charge at select parishes, shrines, colleges, Catholic conference centers and schools throughout the United States and Canada through Nov. 19.

The film stars Cary Elwes and Jon Voight, who was nominated for a 2006 Emmy for his portrayal of Karol Wojtyla.

The feature film, which was shown on CBS TV last December but has never been shown in theaters, is being sold on DVD in North America exclusively by the San Francisco-based Ignatius Press.

Editor's Note: Showings of "Pope John Paul II" can be scheduled by calling Diane Hanson at (734) 453-8487.

Anderson Family Medicine
...Healthcare with a heart.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte
HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, (by appt.)
704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!
*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***
- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels.
Asheville 828-665-3944
Charlotte 704-549-4010
Mooresville 704-663-1065

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 5, 2006

Nov. 5, Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

1) Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51
2) Hebrews 7:23-28
3) Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

Love for God and our neighbors

BY DANY LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The encounter begins with a trick question, like asking a coach at a team meeting to name her best player or a parent at Sunday dinner to pick a favorite child.

It's an "either-or" question, and I imagine an edge in the scribe's voice as he asks it, a smirk on his face, glancing at his clever friends.

But if the scribe's opening gambit seems aggressive, Jesus' answer reflects confidence and peace and wisdom. He answers, but not in the narrow categories of the questioner, not ceding the rules of engagement to his prickly opponent.

He answers instead in a way that both disarms his challenger and invites consideration of a new perspective on truths the scribe thought he already grasped.

Jesus' first response is not a statemen but a prayer: "Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! ... Love the Lord your God with all your heart."

The Shema, so called for its opening Hebrew word "Hear!" would have echoed familiarly in the ears of Jesus listeners. Devout Jews recited this prayer three times daily, both as a reminder o God's sovereignty and as a call to fidelity to his gracious covenant.

The scribe asks for only one commandment, but Jesus gives him a second, thus deepening and clarifying the meaning of the first: "Love you neighbor as yourself."

The impulse to division, to an "either-or" approach to wisdom and life and human community, while clarifying in the short run, proves too small for Jesus. To love God deeply, with passionate commitment, always implie a similarly deep and courageous love o our sisters and brothers.

The measure of our love for God and the fruit of authentic worship, is the depth and generosity of our love for each other, demonstrated in our imitation o Christ, God's love made flesh.

Questions:

Who is a person in my life to whom I can demonstrate love more clearly How? What are some concrete ways can cultivate in my heart a deeper lov for God?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 29-NOV. 4
Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday**, Ephesians 4:32--5:8, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Ephesians 5:31-33, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday (All Saints)**, Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Thursday (All Souls)**, Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; **Friday (St. Martin de Porres)**, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. Charles Borromeo)**, Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

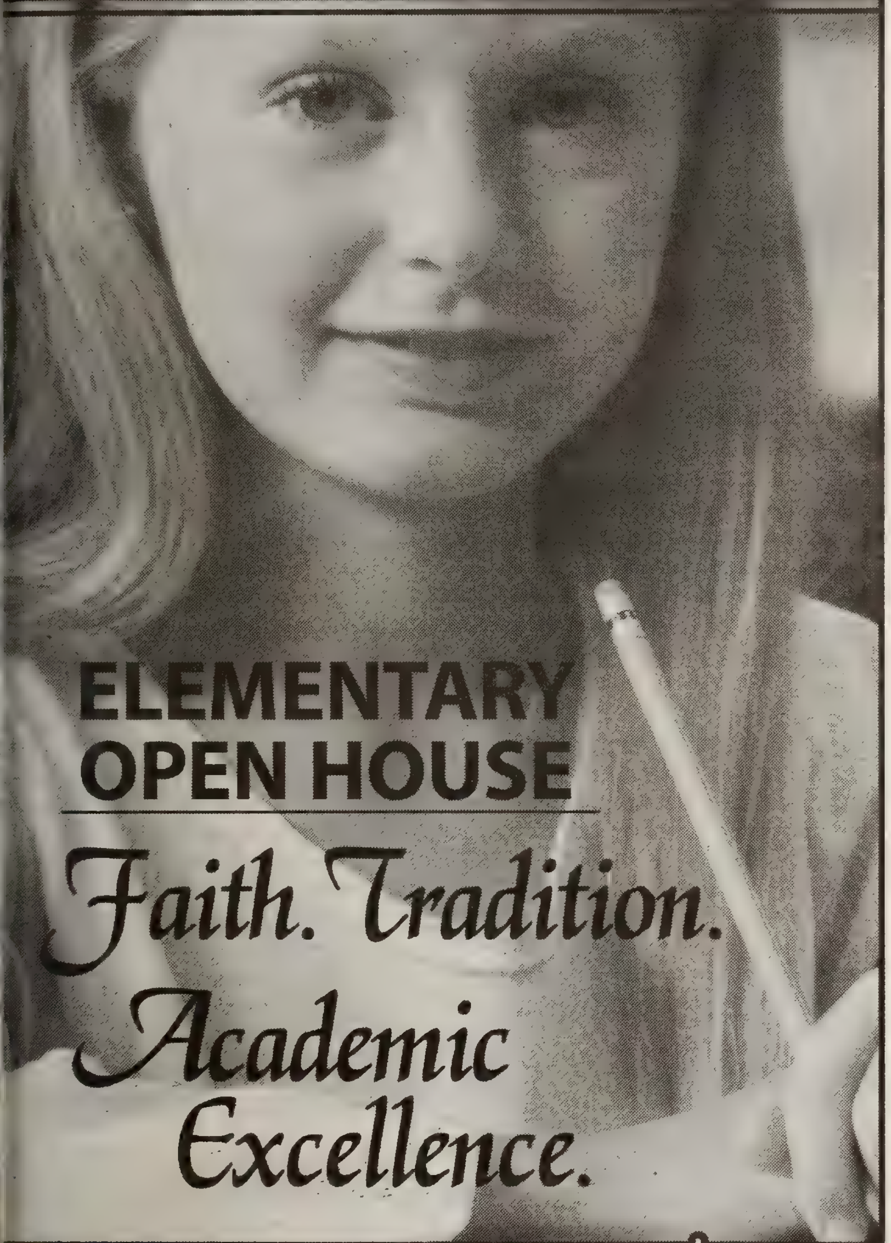
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 5-11
Sunday (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34; **Monday**, Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday**, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)**, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-13, 16-17, John 2:13-22; **Friday (St. Leo the Great)**, Philippians 3:17--4:1 Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday (St. Martin of Tours)**, Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15.

K OF C ®

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of November:

Rev. John P. Bradley	2003
Rev. John J. Hyland	1975
Rev. Msgr. John P. Manley	1981
Rev. John S. Regan	1976
Rev. Stephen A. Sullivan	1989

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus



MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

Faith. Tradition. Academic Excellence.

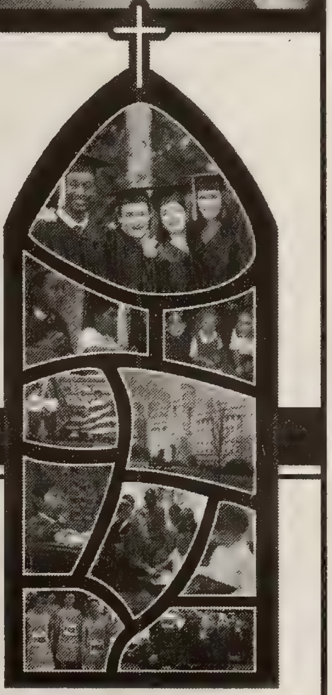
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Sunday Nov. 5, 1:30-3:30pm

Tues. Nov. 7, 9:00am–12:00pm

Our Lady of the Assumption (PK-5) • 4225 Shamrock Drive • Charlotte
St. Ann (TK-5) • 600 Hillside Avenue • Charlotte
St. Gabriel (K-5) • 3028 Providence Road • Charlotte
St. Mark (K-8) • 14750 Stumptown Road • Huntersville
St. Matthew (TK-5) • 11525 Elm Lane • Charlotte
St. Patrick (K-5) • 1125 Buchanan Street • Charlotte

www.charlottediocese.org/macs



For over 70 years, MACS has provided the academic excellence you expect from a Catholic school education. Children learn in an environment where the teachings of Jesus are promoted and upheld as core values of both school and life.

MACS has eight schools serving PK-12.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Admissions Office: (704) 370-3273

MACS admit students of any race, color, sex, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Family-friendly 'Flicka'

CNS PHOTO BY 20TH CENTURY FOX

Alison Lohman and Tim McGraw star in "Flicka," a warmhearted story about a strong-willed teen who, defying her tough but loving dad, determines to tame a spirited wild mustang, ultimately bringing father and daughter closer together. Minimal mildly crass expressions and some minor peril may upset very young viewers. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Singer Madonna won't be shown on cross in her NBC concert special

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Madonna will not be shown on a cross during her planned Nov. 22 NBC special, according to the network.

The sequence, from the song "Live to Tell," will be replaced by other footage filmed during the song, taped at a summer concert at Wembley Stadium in England. The singer was bound to a shimmering cross while wearing a crown of thorns during the song.

"We had upwards of 15 cameras at Wembley," NBC spokeswoman Cameron Blanchard told Catholic News Service. "Obviously we will take other shots of that portion (of the song) where she is on the cross. When she comes off the cross, we will cut to Madonna."

Some concern had been expressed by NBC affiliates as to the special's content. Blanchard said that Madonna, as executive producer of the special, would have had to approve any changes affiliates wanted.

Madonna's summer European concert tour had been sharply criticized by Catholic and other religious leaders for her use of Christian imagery in her performance.

"Madonna is exploiting Christian symbols ... and attempting to mix human passions, including her own personal ones, with something sacred," said a spokesman for the Russian Orthodox Church prior to a September concert in Moscow.

Her August concert in Rome drew disapproval from an Italian cardinal, an official of the Italian Muslim League and a spokesman for Rome's Jewish community. They called the use of the religious symbols offensive.

The cross imagery prompted an editorial, "Desire to make money not a license to offend," in the Oct. 6 issue of the Pittsburgh Catholic, newspaper of the Pittsburgh Diocese.

"NBC might see Madonna as a ticket to bolster ad revenues and ratings. All have the right to their alleged artistic integrity, but there is also the simple matter of human decency," it said. "NBC should know that it is neither entertainment nor good business."

Nov. 22 is part of the "sweeps" rating period, which helps set the rates networks can charge for advertising for the following three months.

LAMB
FOUNDATION OF NC
Helping the developmentally disabled

The St. Matthew Knights of Columbus are selling

SouthPark Evening of Giving

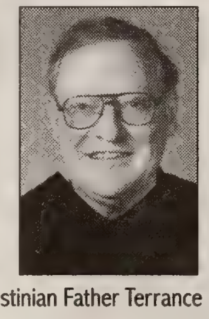
tickets to benefit their main charity, the LAMB Foundation of NC.

On the evening of Sunday, November 19, SouthPark Mall in Charlotte will open exclusively to shoppers who have purchased an EVENING OF GIVING ticket priced at $10 each. This evening, dedicated to helping raise money for charity, features exclusive store discounts for this night only, family entertainment and food sampling. The entire price of your ticket goes to charity. In the case of tickets sold by the Knights of Columbus, 70% will benefit the LAMB Foundation of NC, a Knights of Columbus public charity helping the developmentally disabled in our area; 30% will benefit the Simon Youth Foundation, a nonprofit organization that fosters educational development for at-risk youths. The cost of your ticket(s) is tax deductible.

To purchase tickets, visit out Web site: www.kofc-stmatthew.org.

Augustinian Father Hyland remembered for compassion

Priest among first Augustinians in Diocese of Charlotte



Augustinian Father Terrance Hyland

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Augustinian Father Terrance William Hyland, who had served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died Oct. 13 at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Pennsylvania from complications of several serious illnesses. He was 64.

Burial was in the Augustinian Lot at St. John's Cemetery in Troy, N.Y.

A native of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., Father Hyland was received into the Order of St. Augustine Sept. 9, 1965. After obtaining two master's degrees, he professed solemn vows Sept. 12, 1970 and was ordained to the priesthood Aug. 28, 1971.

His priestly assignments from 1972 to 1998 included serving as teacher, guidance counselor, seminary formation program director, assistant pastor and pastor.

In 1998, Father Hyland was part of the first group of Augustinians welcomed into the Diocese of Charlotte by then-Bishop William G. Curlin.

He served as director of Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center and assisted at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley until 2003, when health problems prompted him to relocate to St. Thomas Monastery at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

With some improvement to his health, he became assistant pastor at St. Rita Church and shrine in Philadelphia, Pa., from 2004 to 2006. Again, health problems caused him to return to the health care unit at St. Thomas Monastery.

"Terry's gentleness, compassion and approachability enabled him to touch the lives of countless individuals. He had a tremendous gift for helping others find God's presence in their lives," said Augustinian Father Donald F. Reilly, prior provincial of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova.

Many sought Father Hyland's spiritual guidance, and his long association with the Cursillo movement helped him to exemplify, in all his ministry, the guiding principle of the movement, "Christ is Counting on You."

The Augustinians of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova are priests and brothers following the rule of St. Augustine. They serve in a variety of ministries along the East Coast, including work in parishes and schools, and have missions in Peru, South Africa and Japan.

Sister Furr, native of Concord, dies at 59

Sister Jean Marie Furr

SCRANTON, Pa. — Sister Jean Marie Furr, a Sister of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate and native of Concord, died July 30 at the hospice unit of Community Medical Center in Scranton, Pa. She was 59.

Sister Furr attended schools in Concord before entering the religious life in 1967. She served as director of religious education at parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington and in New York and Connecticut.

She most recently served as local superior at the sisters' convent in the Diocese of Scranton, and where she also served as formation director.

Burial was at Our Lady of Assumption Cemetery in Blooming Grove, N.Y.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

NANNY: Full-time care for infant. Mon-Fri 8am – 6pm. Good references required; own transportation. Non-smoker. Background check. Begin Februrary. (704) 293-5913

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. (888) 803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

SUSAN is SEVENTY-ONE.

[Okay, she's 10 in this picture.] And 10 is how youthful her spirit still feels today. She loves rose gardens, her grandkids, and the occasional yoga class. To her, wellness is the focus of her future. She plans to live life to the fullest. She plans to live life here...

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God
(336) 886-4103 or toll free (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
NP/GNR/yng1

Prayer, camaraderie highlight annual retreat

DEACONS, *from page 1*

St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Mars Hill.

"It gave me the opportunity to talk with deacons and wives I had never met before," said Debbie Pickett, wife of Deacon Stephen Pickett of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir.

The entire retreat was "enlightening," he said. "It made us look at ourselves nd toward our lives after formation."

In the Catholic Church, a deacon is n ordained minister. Those studying for he priesthood are transitional deacons. Those not planning to be ordained priests re permanent deacons.

Permanent deacons, the only ordained men allowed to be married, may perform many of the sacramental ministries of he church except consecration of the Eucharist, anointing of the sick and econciliation.

Deacon Leahy enjoyed listening to Abbot Solari's talk.

"In 66 years, I've never spent time with an abbot," he said. "His spirit-filled message was the best."

Abbot Solari encouraged the deacons to willingly share the paschal mystery — Christ's suffering, death and resurrection — by giving their lives unconditionally to God, and by asking themselves, "Does what I do or say reflect who I am as a deacon?"

"Does love for Jesus animate your prayer life?" asked Abbot Solari. "Until you are convinced that prayer is the best use of your time, you will not have time to pray."

Deacon David Boissey Sr. of Good Shepherd Church in King found the abbot's talk inspiring.

"Abbot Solari was very succinct and right to the point, especially the point about living Christ in your life," said Deacon Boissey. "It is apparent that the abbot lives that, too. The whole thing was very enriching."

Many deacons and their wives agreed.

"It spoke to most of the major issues that affect all deacons," said Deacon Pais. "I truly believe he (Abbot Solari) was a blessing to have there."

During the retreat, Deacon Ben Wenning was presented with a framed apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI for his years of service as director of the diaconate.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

> "It made us look at ourselves and toward our lives after formation."
>
> — Debbie Pickett, Lenoir

PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Deacon Mark Nash presents an apostolic blessing from Pope Benedict XVI to Deacon Ben Wenning for his years of service as director of the permanent diaconate for the Diocese of Charlotte. Deacon Louis Pais, current director, looks on.

Apply to the Abbey for fall 2007!
Scholarships, financial aid, and housing available.

Inquire and apply online at:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
For more information call 1.888.222.0110 or email: admissions@bac.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Perspectives

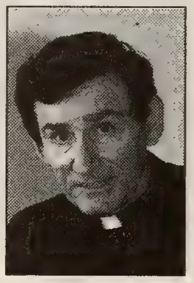
A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Rewarded by God

In the aftermath of a great football game

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



My mother used to say that when you give to others God always rewards you in return. Recently, I learned how true this is.

This year I played in a golf tournament to benefit destitute people in the Capitol Hill area. At the dinner that followed the tournament, I had a winning raffle ticket. The prize was three football tickets to a Redskins-Jaguars football game.

I went to the game, and just as Mom had predicted I was rewarded several times over for having helped others.

One of the joys of going to a Redskins game is taking Metro, as Washington's subway is called. The car I rode in literally was lined with burgundy, gold and white Redskin jerseys and hats worn by fun-loving fans of all ages, races and ethnic groups.

Immersed in this sea of color and joviality, I suddenly felt the oneness and unity we pray for every day at Mass. Everyone was "one" in dress. And all were in accord: The Redskins were going to win! No one was bickering. We were one big family for the moment.

To imbibe this spirit of unity is heavenly! How true is the saying, "In unity there is strength!"

The second payback for helping the poor was to see one of the best football games of my life. It went into overtime with the Redskins winning on an awesome pass reception.

The third payback was totally unexpected. On the way home via Metro, I listened to people recounting the game moment by moment. Then they began to recount other awesome games they had seen. The details and insights into why those games were won or lost was spellbinding. Not only this, but many of those games were played before children on that train even were born. What really tickled me was being immersed in a world of storytelling.

It occurred to me that this is why we have the Bible. People experienced awesome divine events in their lives. Like the people on that Metro train, they couldn't contain themselves. Given the opportunity, they loved to tell these stories and to take pleasure in reliving them.

What particularly struck me then was the value of storytelling in our lives — and especially in our faith. We love to tell and hear stories. One reason we love the Bible is that it holds one story after another. Stories have a remarkable capacity to cut through the clutter and confusion, and bring clarity to our hearts and minds.

Yes, God does reward those who help others. The enthusiasm I experienced in the stories I was hearing was a spiritual delight.

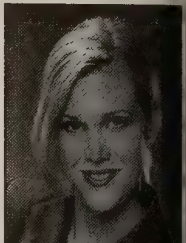
In the Mass, we start the eucharistic prayers with the invitation to lift up our hearts. The uplifted hearts on that train were exactly what we pray for, thanks to the gift of storytelling and experiencing a divine victory.

Goodbye, Barbie

Iconic doll not to be idolized

Our Turn

THERESE BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST



I think Barbie has gained a few pounds since I played with her. But she still seems awfully thin in her movie "Barbie Diaries," which I watched five times last week. In addition to gaining popularity by inventing lipstick that can be disguised as a highlighter (inspired when her best friend got busted for applying lip gloss during science class), she wears these fashionable jeans that show off her totally unrealistic figure.

I cringed when I heard 2-year-old Katherine, whose passion for food exceeds her love for dolls, say, "When I grow up I will turn into Barbie."

Maybe we should move to Madrid, where the fashion industry is having a hot debate about how thin is too thin for models. Ultrathin models, those who had a body mass index well below average, were not allowed to sashay down the catwalk and were banned by organizers of Madrid's Fashion Week. Critics there argued that the starved look is dangerous because fashion models are role models, especially for teenage girls.

"The fashion industry's promotion of beauty as meaning stick thin is damaging to young girls' self-image and to their health," Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell said in a statement to CBS News correspondent Elizabeth Palmer. "Young girls aspire to look like the catwalk models. When those models are unhealthily underweight, it pressures girls to starve themselves to look the same."

It's not any better in the United States, and I'm as guilty as Gap ads for fueling that philosophy. This summer, when children ambled around the pool with their snow cones and pixie sticks, I became somewhat of a health food Nazi. But as any mom knows, as soon as one mom gives in, it's all over. One afternoon my two had gobbled down half the snack bar's Doritos, Skittles, Klondike bars. But Katherine wanted more.

"No," I said, "You're going to get fat!"

I didn't think I had said anything wrong, but the mom-friend next to me shot me dagger eyes.

"Therese, you can't say that to a young girl," she said. "She'll grow up with body-image problems."

"That's what my dad always said to me," I replied.

"And that's why you and your sisters all have weight issues," my husband, who overheard our conversation, chimed in.

He had a point. But doesn't every woman obsess about her weight? How can you have a healthy body image today when every time you pick up a prescription or get some groceries the tabloids are there, flaunting the stick-thin, gorgeous figures of celebrities?

If my dad hadn't told me and my sisters to hop on the treadmill whenever we gained a few pounds, popular culture would have. In eighth grade, when I was dancing competitively, I starved myself in order to look like the other skeletons in my ballet class. I pulled a muscle one night jogging, which I did after intense workouts at the studio. Limping into class the next day, my teacher asked what was the matter.

"I pulled it during my run," I said.

She sized me up and then said, "You're not that fat." So I lost more weight, until I stopped menstruating and screwed up my metabolism for years to come.

Ms. Anorexia-is-cool is what I'm up against as I try to protect my little girl from the war on the body. I want her innocent love for food to stay. I don't want her to become Barbie.

The tomb of the Virgin Mary?

Ancient church commemorates Assumption of Mary

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. I have a map of Jerusalem which was published by our newspaper a few years ago. It shows the location of various holy sites in the city. One is described as the tomb of the Virgin Mary, near the Mount of Olives. How can the grave of Mary be intact, considering the teaching that she was bodily assumed into heaven? (Missouri)

A. There is in old Jerusalem, on the hill called Mount Zion, a church called the Dormition ("falling asleep") of the Virgin. Christians frequently referred to death as sleep, awaiting the resurrection.

The history of this church goes back 1,500 years, especially to a series of fifth-century writings historians call the Transitus Mariae, the passage of Mary. Christians wanted to know more about the passing of the mother of Jesus, and these works, which are inventive and largely fictitious, responded to that desire.

They describe the last hours of Mary in detail, and how the apostles miraculously gathered around her.

During the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries, a feast of the Dormition, or related titles of the Blessed Virgin, was observed in many parts of Eastern and Latin Christianity honoring all her prerogatives as our Lord's mother, including the glorification of her body and soul. More than 1,000 years ago the title of the celebration changed to the feast of the Assumption.

The crypt in the church of the Dormition in Jerusalem contains a sculpture of Mary lying peacefully in death. But no one today considers this the location of her tomb, and no one is sure there even is a tomb.

Did Mary actually die? The question has been debated for centuries, and the church has not declared definitively one way or another. When Pope Pius XII defined the dogma of the Assumption in 1950, he reviewed the history of belief in Mary's Assumption, but in the solemn definition itself he avoided the point about her death.

He said simply that Mary, "having completed the course of her earthly life," was taken body and soul into heavenly glory. There the matter stands.

So the "tomb of Mary" in Jerusalem, as so many historic sites, even in the Holy Land, has little if any relation to what really happened and where.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Vhat's next, designer children?

cience attempting to invade God's ivine territory

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

When people attempt to play od's role, they're led down dangerous athways, as recent discussions of designer babies" demonstrate nce again.

I was in high school in the 1940s when nun visitor came to the classroom to lk to us about her work with children in e mission she was assigned to in China. tartling to us young Catholic children as to hear her tales of how families ere dealt with "overpopulation."

It seemed as if the government-romoted method was accepted by all too any. Simply told, girl babies were not onsidered valuable. The practice was to ring them to the outskirts of villages and ump them.

Sister told us that she and the other uns would try to find the babies before ey died, bring them back to the mission nd nurse them to health. This was God's ork, she said, and she didn't have to onvince us.

Even at a young age we could see the uth of what she told us.

In the decades that followed we have een over and over the ways that humans ant to "play God" when it comes to ho lives and who dies, with the most tiny and innocent of God's children vulnerable to human horror before they take a first breath.

Now comes this new development in the saga of people wanting to control what belongs in the domain of our loving Creator with the loose title "designer babies." It's all about creating just the baby you want with the aid of reproductive genetics.

Recently this was discussed on MSNBC's Tucker Carlson program. His guest, a doctor-researcher, talked about the coming age in reproduction. Simply stated, research may make it possible for people to change the male-female balance in reproduction.

It works like this: A man and a woman want a child, but without guesswork on whether it will be a boy or a girl. No problem. The day is on the horizon when science will enable them to have the baby they want.

Research is "progressing" to the point where it will be possible to choose to have a girl or a boy. In other words, "designer babies" are on the scientific horizon.

This may not be the whole story. Where else can science go with "designing" lives to come? Carlson asked the doctor whether couples will be able to ask for more — to choose eye color, or physical characteristics, or the height and body mass of their child? What about brain power?

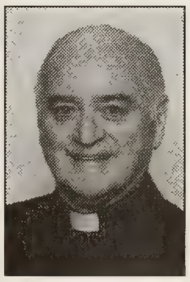
And consider this: If a couple have a child with a disability or a physical illness, can they "design" a new baby whose stem cells might be used to heal or cure the already-born child? And what about the morality of all this or any of this?

Meanwhile, despite all that humankind does to invade what we've known to be God' s territory, I sense that God remains in charge, always bringing to the fore the people who can get good out of weakness, mistakes, tragedies and downright evil. Thankfully, God did promise to be with us, even to "the end of the world."

Dangerous detachment from moral and religious values

opes' teachings condemn violence, killing

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Our two most recent popes have poken out on the nature of evil.

Pope John Paul II once reflected n the 20th century's impact on human istory. He concluded that modern ociety still acts as if it can determine ood and evil without any reference to od.

Pope Benedict XVI said the same hing, applying it to the Islamic jihadists vho in the name of religion justify erciless killing.

The two popes are in perfect greement that God's will must be onored if we are to live in peace and oy.

Pope John Paul said, "If man can ecide alone, without God, what is ood and what is evil, then he can also ecide to exterminate a whole category f human beings." He was referring to bortion and mercy killing.

Pope Benedict XVI condemned oth the secularism of the West and the rrational behavior of radical Muslims, aying, "Violence in the name of religion s contrary to God's nature and contrary o reason."

Pope Benedict wants a return to eason in order to have a basis for the genuine dialogue of cultures and eligions so urgently needed today."

Pope John Paul condemned the ommunist revolution, the rise of Nazism and the installation of the Soviet regime, all of which led to the deaths of over 100 million people. He viewed the 20th century as a stage upon which the forces of good and evil engaged in sharp combat.

Though he felt the forces of good triumphed in World War II, John Paul II was concerned that we have not yet learned our lesson — namely, that when God's will is disregarded, a culture of death and joylessness begins to take root.

The pope noted that Hitler, departing from God's will, got his lawmakers to open the way to aggression against other European countries, to create concentration camps and to introduce the so-called "final solution" to eradicate the Jewish race. It was all done legally, but it was totally immoral.

Totalitarian regimes always proclaim that the end justifies the means. They believe in doing whatever it takes, even killing the innocent, to accomplish their goals.

Pope John Paul warned against this dangerous detachment from moral and religious values: "The most immediate association of ideas that comes to mind are the laws on abortion. The parliaments that create and promulgate such laws should be aware that they are abusing their powers, remaining in open conflict with the law of God and the law of nature.

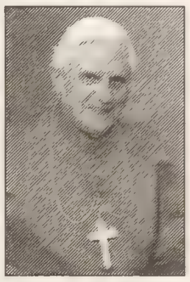
"This new type of totalitarianism has taken aim at basic human values by promoting moral permissiveness, abortion, euthanasia, genetic manipulations, contraception and divorce."

In September, Pope Benedict condemned both the secularism of the West and the violence of Muslim jihadists in his speech at Regensburg University in Germany. The Muslims protested wildly while the secularist West yawned, a clear sign of their total indifference to religious values.

Pope Benedict condemned all the violence done in the name of religion. He also chided those democratic nations who depart from the will of God, killing innocent human beings at will and doing it under legal authority.

Pope: Christians are called to be like St. Paul, 'the 13th Apostle'

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

From Paul we learn to make Christ center of our lives, to see all things in light of God's love, says pope

VATICAN CITY — Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Oct. 25.

The pope said he would begin a series of talks about important personalities of the primitive Christian community, beginning with St. Paul, often called "the 13th apostle."

Even thought St. Paul is not mentioned in the Gospels, the pope said after Jesus he is the person about whom we are most informed.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In our catechesis on the church's apostolic ministry, we now turn from the Twelve Apostles called by Jesus during his earthly life to some other important figures of the early church.

Outstanding among these is St. Paul, who has been called "the 13th apostle."

Paul was a devout follower of the law, whose initial hostility to the Gospel suddenly melted when he encountered the risen Lord on the road to Damascus. His own accounts of this dramatic conversion speak not only about his vision of Jesus, but also his call to be an apostle.

From that moment on, Paul's life was completely dedicated to the service of Christ. From Paul we learn to make Christ the center of our lives and to see all things in the light of God's universal, reconciling love.

Paul's zeal for the Gospel led him to preach the name of Jesus in Asia and Europe and to face countless trials with courage and undying love for the lord. Truly, the love of Christ impelled him (cf. 2 Cor 5:14), even to his death as a martyr here in Rome.

Through the prayers of St. Paul, may we respond joyfully to his challenge to become "imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Cor 11:1).

Longtime Army family is new to having a parent in a war zone

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BEL AIR, Md. — Lt. Col. David Hilber has been in the Army for 17 years, but his wife and four children are finding out for the first time what it's like to have him assigned to a war zone.

At 16 and 17, Morgan and Kristian Hilber have had to make adjustments after their father shipped out for Iraq last spring.

An optometrist, Hilber is spending about a year at a U.S.-run detention center near the Baghdad, Iraq, airport, explained his wife, Natalie Hilber.

Natalie, Kristian and Morgan Hilber described the changes — particularly the new responsibilities — that they've taken on as Hilber is deployed for the first time in his Army career.

When he headed off to be a part of the medical team at Abu Ghraib prison for a few months and then to another detention center outside Baghdad, the family stayed behind, though everyone's daily routines also changed.

Each family member has new household responsibilities, from Natalie Hilber's recently acquired expertise at home repair to 13-year-old Dylan's job of taking out the garbage.

Kristian has become the backup chauffeur, helping get his siblings to and from three different schools and other activities when their mom is working.

Even though, as an optometrist posted in a high-security facility, the day-to-day risks in Iraq are lower for Hilber than for other soldiers, just having him in a war zone is worrisome to his family.

Madison, 10, "sometimes starts crying out of the blue," Natalie Hilber said. "And she definitely spends more nights coming in to sleep with me."

For Morgan, having her dad in Iraq means she makes a point to pray for him and listens carefully to the news.

"If they say something about Iraq, I definitely pay attention more," she said.

Her brother, however, takes a different approach. "I usually don't associate the news with him," Kristian said.

It's in the Catholic youth ministry program that they get their only real sense that other kids are missing family members too, they said. Prayer circles at the end of each session include prayers for family members stationed overseas.

"It helps me to see that other people are in the same situation, too," Kristian said.

The family lives off-base and all the kids attend public schools, so aside from church, little in their daily lives brings the Hilbers into contact with the Army or other Army families.

Natalie Hilber said she occasionally will look at online discussion groups for military families.

"When I read through those I realize we're doing fine, especially compared to a young mother, new to military life, with a husband on the front lines," she said.

Still, the teens are ready for their dad to be home — though that's not scheduled to happen until spring 2007.

"I think I've probably matured a bit since he left," said Kristian. "I feel like I've grown a bit."

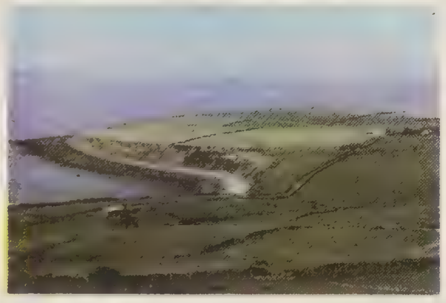
"It's true," said Natalie Hilber. "When I ask him for help with things like getting Dylan to football practice, he doesn't complain. He's been very understanding."

Kristian is anxious to get his other parent's opinion about that.

"I wonder how I'm going to seem to Dad when he gets back," he mused.

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARIN

Kristian Hilber, 17, looks at family photos after coming home from school in Bel Air, Md., Oct. 3. Kristia related ways in which the absence of his father, Lt. Col. David Hilber, who is now in Iraq, has affecte him and his family. He said that he misses daily talks with his father and their shared interests in musi and in some books.



The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping -- PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

Congratulations
Bishop Peter J. Jugis

on the 3rd anniversary of your ordination as bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte —

October 24, 2003

maryimmaculata.com
IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

FULLY STOCKED AND READY FOR FALL!

We're brimming over with the latest in Catholic books, new Bible study materials, spiritual gifts for special occasions, Bibles, artwork, rosaries – a wide inventory awaits you at both locations!

704-655-9090
19905 W. Catawba Ave., #106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28
(Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off all purchases of $35 or more. Present coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 11/30/06

tholic News & Herald, 16:3

W1 FC2B.2
C363c

1 in faith

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE **ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006**

One in Faith

There are 300,000 of us.

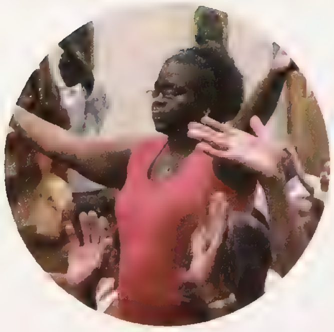
We live on Spencer Mountain and in Maggie Valley,
Biscoe and Boone, Cherokee and Charlotte.

We worship in large parishes and small missions.

We speak English, Spanish, Lao, Vietnamese,
Korean, Sudanese.

We commit our time,
Devote our talent
And share our treasure
To the greater glory of God.

Because we are 1 in faith



October, 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Once again I am pleased to present to you the annual report of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 2006. This report will show you that the Diocese of Charlotte is sound, both spiritually and financially. We are successful because so many people are willing to commit themselves to prayer, to service and to the ongoing support of the diocese. Thank you.

Being One in Faith was evident throughout our diocese during the past 12 months. The Eucharistic Congress that took place as last year's annual report went to press was such a great success that another Congress was held this year. A Eucharistic Conference in Asheville in June brought the inspiring sight of hundreds of Catholics following the Most Blessed Sacrament as they processed on city streets. Devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist, the Source and Summit of Catholic life, is very strong in our diocese.

Success in important events such as eucharistic adoration is a continued testament to the commitment and hard work of the many priests, deacons and religious who serve us in so many different capacities. During this past year, two men, Fathers H. Alejandro Ayala and James Stuhrenberg, were ordained to the priesthood. In addition, 16 men were ordained to the permanent diaconate in June. Our new priests and deacons will celebrate the sacraments and bring God's word to the faithful in our 92 parishes and missions and to places as diverse as hospitals and prisons and even to travelers at airports.

Faith formation, the instruction that brings children and adults a better understanding of Scripture and church teaching, is a source of great pride. Our 18 schools provide pre-kindergarten-through-12th-grade-instruction for 7,351 children that is academically rigorous and rooted in Catholic faith. In addition, nearly 29,000 children and adults participate in parish-based religious education programs throughout the year.

Our ministry to the growing Hispanic population continued during the past year. Spanish-language Masses are offered at more than half of the churches in the diocese. In the springtime of the year, Hispanic people gathered to express support for immigration reform. It is my hope and prayer that our nation will have legislation that will protect our national security interests, ensure the common good and maintain respect for the laws as well as respect the human rights of those who come to our country as refugees from political and economic hardship in their home countries.

Catholic Social Services continues to put our Catholic faith in action as it provides caring help to individuals and families in need. CSS offers adoption services, pregnany support, counseling and marriage preparation as well as outreach and direct services to the poor, to refugees and to the Hispanic community. In the past year, 18,000 of our brothers and sisters received services from CSS.

All of our efforts in prayer, in education and in charity help to make us One in Faith. Working as one in Jesus, we will continue to build the Kingdom of God here in western North Carolina. I ask for your continued prayerful and financial support of the good works of the Diocese of Charlotte and I thank you for your past funding of the Diocesan Support Appeal and so many other needs that you have generously supported.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ Peter J. Jugis

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, J.C.D.
Bishop of Charlotte

Percentage of active diocesan priests ordained:

In the last 10 years: 39%

10 to 25 years ago: 33%

More than 25 years ago: 28%

1

Office of Women Religious

Seminarian Formation

Clergy Continuing Care

Support of Retired Priests

Office of Permanent Diaconate

in faith

Vocations, Clergy, Religious Life

One in Faith serving God's people

Men and women answer God's calling

On June 3, Bishop Peter J. Jugis ordained Father James Stuhrenberg and Father Alejandro Ayala to the priesthood. Father Stuhrenberg is now serving the faithful as parochial vicar at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, and Father Ayala is serving as parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Over the last eight years, 29 men have been ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte. There are currently 18 seminarians presently studying for the priesthood, representing various ethnicities present in our diocese.

On June 10, Bishop Jugis ordained 16 men as permanent deacons. Their training included three-and-a-half years of formation preparation, six months of spiritual direction and completion of the two-year lay ministry training program. These 16 men are assigned to parishes in cities and towns across the diocese, including Arden, Charlotte, Denver, High Point, Huntersville, Greensboro, King, Lenoir, Marion and Morganton.

The Diocese of Charlotte is currently served by more than 130 diocesan and religious order priests, by 85 permanent deacons and by religious sisters from more than 20 orders. In addition, there are 24 retired priests residing in the diocese, many of whom continue to serve the faithful in western North Carolina.

VOCATIONS, CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2006	2005		2006	2005
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT	$3,137,871	$2,691,630	EXPENSES	$3,137,871	$2,691,630
CONTRIBUTIONS -			SEMINARIAN FORMATION	485,974	447,705
CLERGY RETIREMENT COLLECTION	714,653	518,400	PRIESTS' RETIREMENT BENEFITS	1,996,658	1,662,717
SEMINARIAN COLLECTION	194,819	170,274	OTHER	655,239	581,208
FRIENDS OF SEMINARIAN PROGRAM	228,439	185,526			
OTHER	87,896	161,813			
PARISH ASSESSMENTS	469,643	591,507			
GRANTS	13,675	23,675			
DSA FUNDING	250,150	161,127			
ADMINISTRATION FUNDING	1,178,596	879,308			

Number of students during the past year:

Enrolled in diocesan schools: 7,351

Participating in parish faith formation programs: 28,876

Education

One in Faith teaching the Word of God

Education ministries help young and old become one with Christ

What is the purpose of Catholic education? The late Pope John Paul II reminded us that its ultimate aim is to assist and enable maturing believers to become intimate, to become one, with Jesus Christ.

At the Last Supper, Jesus prayed to the Father "that they all may be one even as you and I are one, that they may be one in us, that the world might believe that you have sent me." As the Catholic Church, we must be committed to cultivating and nurturing a spirit of reconciliation with our God, with one another and with all of his children in the name of Jesus and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

After completing two years of study and reflection, 41 men and women graduated from the Education Vicariate's Lay Ministry Training Program in June. Studying topics such as Scripture, Christology, theology and social ministry, these new lay ministers are prepared to take active roles in Christ's mission and help Catholics across western North Carolina become One in Faith.

All the departments that comprise the Education Vicariate recognize their responsibilities to collaborate in the unifying mission of the Catholic Church. Whether inspiring and motivating those who serve in Catholic schools, faith formation, youth ministry, campus ministry or young adult ministry, in each instance the members of the Education Vicariate stress the common call to be one in the Holy Spirit, one in the Lord.

EDUCATION FORMATION OFFICES:

- ***Office of the Vicar***
- ***Campus Ministry***
- ***Young Adult Ministry***
- ***Catholic Schools Office***
- ***Evangelization / Ministry Formation***
- ***Faith Formation Office***
- ***Youth Ministry Office***
- ***Diocesan Media Resource Center***

DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL SCHOOLS:

- ***Our Lady of the Assumption School***
- ***Saint Ann School***
- ***Saint Gabriel School***
- ***Saint Mark School***
- ***Saint Matthew School***
- ***Saint Patrick School***
- ***Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School***
- ***Charlotte Catholic High School***
- ***Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School***

EDUCATION FORMATION OFFICES OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2006	2005		2006	2005
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT *(INCLUDES DSA FUNDING OF $1,160,696 IN 2006 AND $1,160,244 IN 2005)*	$ 1,659,689	$ 1,559,595	EXPENSES	$ 1,659,689	$ 1,559,595

DIOCESAN AND REGIONAL SCHOOLS — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2006	2005		2006	2005
REVENUE	$ 36,180,545	$ 32,452,674	EXPENSES	$ 32,318,776	$ 30,825,428
TUITION AND FEES	29,798,820	27,380,550	INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL	15,803,168	15,367,294
PARISH SUPPORT	2,434,398	2,423,640	OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL COSTS	2,234,066	1,803,782
CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS	1,824,188	1,319,242	FACILITIES	5,829,533	5,644,480
CHANGE IN VALUE OF INTEREST RATE SWAP	653,383	(209,769)	ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL	2,204,029	2,188,600
			SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES	2,877,728	2,676,668
INCOME FROM RENTAL PROPERTY	753,179	758,579	INTEREST	1,403,469	1,273,416
OTHER	716,577	780,432	OTHER	1,966,783	1,871,188

Number of clients during the past year:

Provided direct material assistance: 5,706

Participating in the refugee resettlement program: 1,240

Partaking of counseling services: 652

Catholic Social Services

One in Faith helping those in need

CSS makes a difference in Diocese of Charlotte and beyond

CSS serves people in need, especially the poor and vulnerable, from a wide spectrum of religious affiliations and culturally diverse backgrounds, and has made a difference in the lives of more than 18,000 persons during the past year.

Catholic Social Services offices:

- *Justice and Peace Office*
- *Family Life Office*
- *Refugee Resettlement Office*
- *Charlotte Regional Office*
- *Western Regional Office*
- *Piedmont Triad Regional Office*
- *Administrative Office*

Respect for life is the foundation upon which many of CSS services are built. CSS provided pregnancy support and adoption services to 593 persons with 67 adoptions completed during fiscal 2006. Fulfilling its responsibility to be the voice of the unborn, CSS promoted Respect Life advocacy in parishes and co-sponsored post-abortion workshops that focused on healing and reconciliation.

One in Faith and true to its mission to serve the poor and vulnerable, CSS reached a combined total of 8,473 children, youth, adults and seniors as individuals, couples or families through programs and services including counseling, marriage preparation and marriage enrichment classes, youth programs, elder ministry and various educational events.

CSS facilitated health screening, provided English-as-a-second-language tutoring, and employment preparation and referral to 1,240 refugees. CSS staff provided assistance to more than 1,552 immigrants in the areas of documentation, legal status clarification, translation, information and referral.

Firmly believing that we are one people, our faith mandates that we respond to persons with critical needs. CSS provided food, housing assistance, information, referral and social support services to 6,263 people, while working to alleviate suffering, promote justice and achieve peace.

Catholic Social Services — Financial Highlights for the years ending June 30,

	2006	2005		2006	2005
Revenue & other support	$5,347,732	$5,735,932	Expenses	$5,533,493	$5,116,246
Federal and state agency awards	1,795,022	1,629,795	Adoption program	568,421	560,568
Other grants, contracts & awards	389,655	524,960	Counseling program	317,154	295,969
Contributions - Diocese of Charlotte:			Direct assistance	133,067	130,335
DSA funding	1,438,897	1,391,182	Elder ministries	67,872	66,274
Other support	17,653	17,476	Hand to Hand & YESS programs	301,872	331,176
Contributions - Other	985,558	1,404,078	Hispanic services	603,851	720,637
Fees	636,242	722,092	Host Homes program	295,819	289,843
Other	84,705	46,349	Latino Family Center	138,670	96,471
			New Horizons Program	181,350	-
			Office of Economic Opportunity	151,107	137,418
			Refugee Resettlement	1,441,455	1,301,589
			Other programs	255,997	252,791
			Administrative expenses	934,269	781,466
			Fundraising expenses and direct benefits to donors	142,589	151,709

Number of active employees:

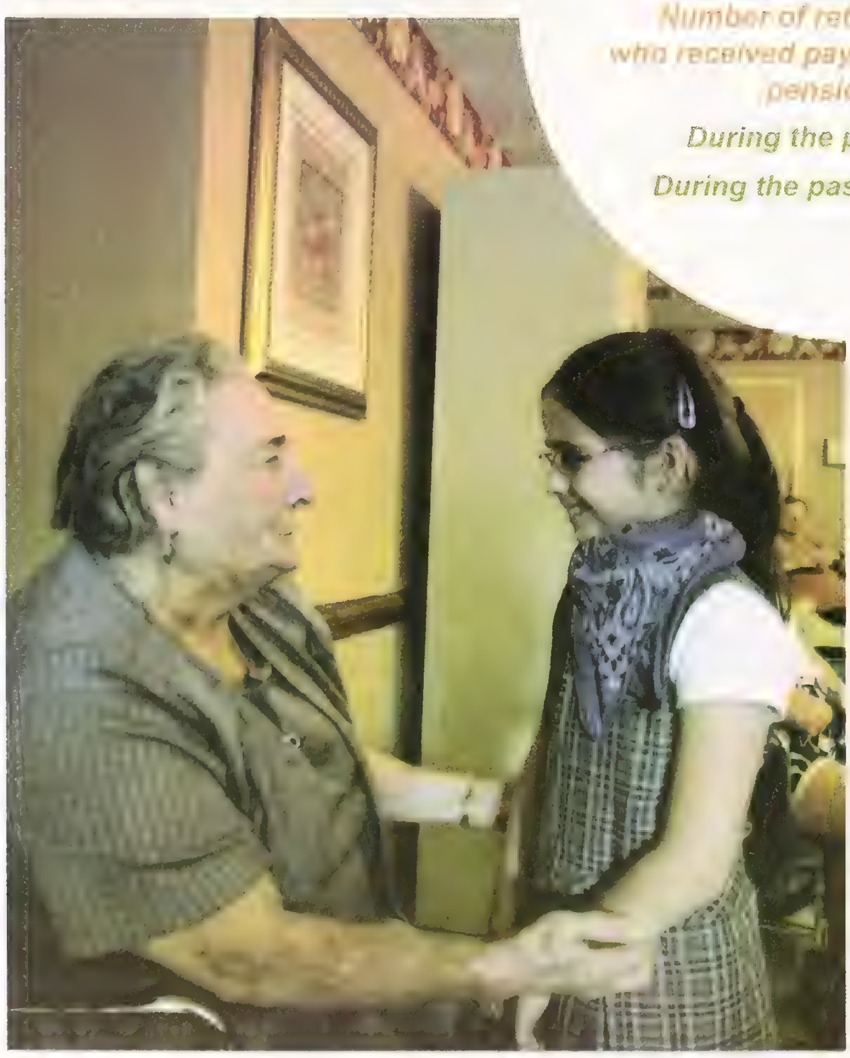
Who are full-time: 889

Who are part-time: 1,105

Number of retired employees who received payments from the lay pension plan:

During the past year: 173

During the past ten years: 470



Human Capital

One in Faith working together

Diocesan employees and volunteers serve many needs, people

The Diocese of Charlotte is blessed with wonderful diversity in its workforce. Although the diocesan employees and volunteers come from different backgrounds, we are all one in faith working together in service to God and to one another.

The diocese establishes and administers policies that ensure just and equal treatment for all of its personnel. The Human Resources Office educates, advises and assists diocesan parishes, schools and offices in the areas of compliance with diocesan policy and with all federal, state and local laws.

The diocese's benefits programs provide support and assistance for employees and their families through a variety of programs. The diocese seeks to offer comprehensive benefits that are affordable for both employees and employers.

The costs of employee benefit programs for all diocesan entities were as follows:

	2006	2005
Long Term Disability Insurance	$ 134,686	$ 108,308
Health and Life Insurance	$ 3,661,410	$ 3,399,549
Lay Pension Plan	$ 2,568,536	$ 1,710,901
403(b) Plan Contributions	$ 569,035	$ 592,261

Through the caring contributions of all its employees and volunteers, the Diocese of Charlotte continues to serve others and to do the work of the Catholic Church in western North Carolina.

in faith 1

Total additions to endowments since inception: $10,567,268

Total distributions since inception: $1,793,606

Total number of endowments at June 30, 2006: 141

The Foundation

One in Faith providing for future needs

Foundation serves parishes, schools and ministries across the Diocese of Charlotte

Since the grant-making program began six years ago, the Foundation has awarded a total of 119 grants.

Twenty-four grants were awarded this past year to help support various programs for the poor, minority communities and evangelism initiatives. Twelve of these grants funded Hispanic programs, including lay minister training, resource materials and outreach programs. The remaining 12 grants funded youth ministry, homeless programs and initiatives for special-needs students.

Last year, the Foundation enrolled its 750th member in the Catholic Heritage Society. Society members, who come from all walks of life across the Diocese of Charlotte, have either remembered the Catholic Church in their estate plans or have committed to do so in an estate plan document.

From a humble beginning 13 years ago with two endowments and $105,452 in assets, the Foundation has grown to 141 endowments and more than $14,000,000 in assets.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE — FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AS OF JUNE 30,

	2006	2005
Assets	$14,433,461	$12,449,675
Cash	153,459	165,597
Receivables	1,352	2,733
Assets held in trust	406,159	391,878
Investments	13,872,491	11,889,467

	2006	2005
Liabilities	$6,964,013	$5,816,696
Accounts payable	15,305	78,441
Custodial & annuity obligations	6,948,708	5,738,255
Net Assets	$7,469,448	$6,632,979
Unrestricted net assets	1,909,777	1,729,816
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,436,399	1,043,720
Permanently restricted net assets	4,123,272	3,859,443

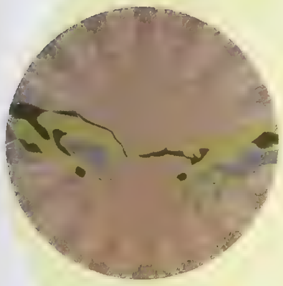
Diocesan Support Appeal

One in Faith providing for today's needs

DSA ministries serve many who are One in Faith

Ministries funded by the 2005 Diocesan Support Appeal touched the lives of countless people: children and elders; Hispanics, African-Americans and Hmongs; seminarians, deacons and lay people. All One in Faith, they are grateful to the more than 18,200 parishioners who contributed $3.95 million to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

DSA gifts help fund 30 diocesan offices, assisting more than 50 ministries that feed, welcome, comfort, counsel and teach thousands of people throughout western North Carolina.



DSA MINISTRY FUNDING FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2006	2005
GRANTS TO CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES	$ 1,438,897	$ 1,391,182
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES	$ 617,007	$ 493,018
HISPANIC	546,017	432,028
AFRICAN AMERICAN	31,132	22,798
HMONG	39,858	38,192
VOCATIONS	$ 250,150	$ 161,127
SEMINARIAN FORMATION	135,295	59,341
PERMANENT DIACONATE	114,855	101,786

	2006	2005
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES	$ 1,160,696	$ 1,160,244
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE	168,780	155,990
CAMPUS MINISTRY	345,927	353,786
FAITH FORMATION	258,237	312,669
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY	45,970	28,570
YOUTH MINISTRY	155,124	131,597
EVANGELIZATION/MINISTRY FORMATION	67,887	63,364
MEDIA RESOURCES	86,279	83,702
VICAR'S OFFICE	32,492	30,566
HOUSING MINISTRY	$ 45,495	$ 58,410
DSA FUNDRAISING COSTS	$ 143,573	$ 114,386

Special Collections

One in Faith providing for special needs

Special collections help recall our solidarity with those around the world who are one with us in faith

When one member of the Body of Christ is in need, we are all called to respond as a people who are One in Faith. We must look beyond the boundaries of our own neighborhoods to help address the needs of others throughout the world.

Last year we watched in horror as thousands of people on the Gulf Coast lost their lives and homes as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Diocesan parishioners responded with an outpouring of generosity that totaled $810,498.

Special collections for the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal, Holy Land, Peter's Pence, Catholic University of America, Catholic Communications Campaign, Church in Latin America, Church in Central and Eastern Europe, Propagation of the Faith, United States Mission Appeal, Catholic Home Missions, Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Religious Retirement raised $884,269 to address the needs of the many who are one with us in faith.

NATIONAL COLLECTIONS: AMOUNTS COLLECTED FOR THE YEARS ENDING JUNE 30,

	2006	2005
INTERNATIONAL - NATIONAL COMBINED COLLECTION	$ 228,913	$ 215,921
CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	174,768	166,238
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION	227,038	201,106
COMBINED MISSION COLLECTION	253,550	218,370
	$ 884,269	$ 801,635

REPORT FROM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

I am pleased to report that the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte remains financially healthy due to the generosity of the people of this diocese. The combined financial statements are presented on the following pages, and include all significant entities of the diocese except for parishes (and parish and inter-parochial schools), which report separately to their parishioners.

Diocesan operations completed the year ended June 30, 2006 with an increase in net assets totaling $12,305,168 which includes a $4,423,685 credit to net assets relating to our pension plans' most recent actuarial valuations. Revenues exceeded expenses by $7,881,483, consisting of:

- $472,474 increase in endowment funds and perpetual trust funds, which are permanent in nature.
- $214,015 increase in net assets whose use is restricted by donor imposed stipulations that had not been satisfied as of year-end.
- $7,194,994 increase in unrestricted net assets. Included in this increase are market adjustments relating to two interest-rate swap agreements (which provide a fixed rate of interest on a majority of diocesan long-term debt) of $1,187,861 and investment income of $3,300,677, substantially all of which has been invested to meet future needs. Also included is the net activity of diocesan schools which, excluding the change in market value of an interest-rate swap agreement and investment income, totaled $2,925,487.

Cash flow resulting from unrestricted activities also provides funds needed for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, and for repayment of long-term debt. At June 30, 2006, the diocese had outstanding long-term debt totaling $31,010,000.

The pie charts below depict the major sources of revenues and summarize expenditures for the fiscal year just ended. Revenues for the year totaled $64,173,485. Support of diocesan programs and ministries, i.e., program expenses, totaled $37,372,658, representing 66% of total expenditures. The remaining expenditures relate to supporting activities, i.e., administrative and fundraising expenses, which totaled $18,919,344, of which 15% represents depreciation and amortization expense ($2,800,037). A further break-out of these expenses by functional area is presented within the Statement of Activities contained on page 16.

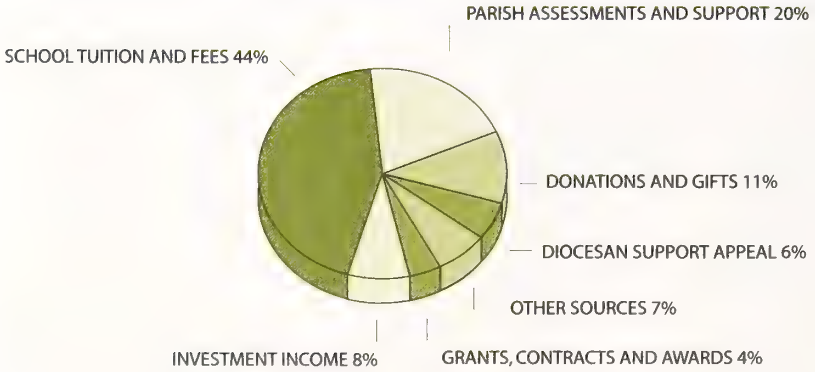
The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability. It is our responsibility to ensure that accounting policies and procedures are being adhered to, and internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard Church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. Financial oversight is provided by routine financial audits and the diocesan Finance Council, which is directly responsible to the bishop.

The combined financial statements of the Diocese of Charlotte for the years ended June 30, 2006 and 2005 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Deloitte and Touché, LLP was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

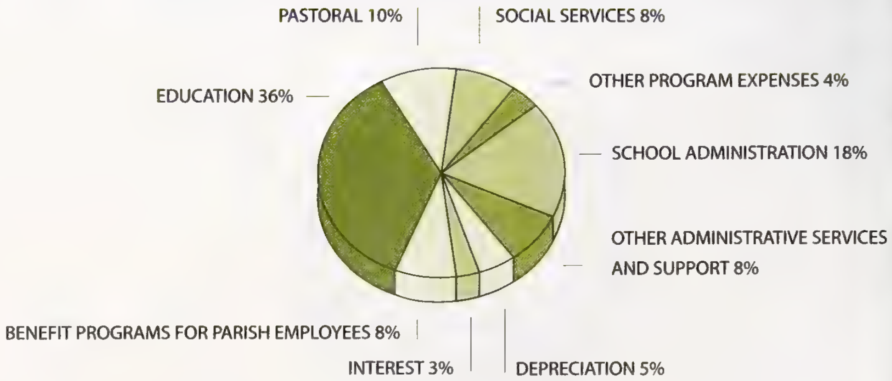
William G Weldon

William G. Weldon, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

SOURCES OF REVENUE



USES OF OUR RESOURCES



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis, Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying combined statements of financial position of The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the "Diocese") as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the related combined statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Diocesan management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Diocese's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Diocese as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Deloitte & Touche LLP

September 22, 2006

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2006 AND 2005

	2006	2005
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 12,762,249	$ 7,453,078
Accounts receivable:		
Pledges—net	1,084,401	1,153,530
Other	1,899,493	1,088,817
Fair market value of interest rate swap agreements	145,616	
Notes receivable—net	1,399,173	774,458
Deferred rent	1,601,345	1,391,325
Advances to parishes—net	2,582,385	2,307,796
Assets held in trust	406,159	391,878
Beneficial interest in perpetual trusts	4,585,433	4,571,128
Investments	45,452,049	41,226,936
Property and equipment—net	58,380,241	59,609,071
Pension intangible asset	4,117,599	3,200,642
Prepaid expenses and other assets	845,738	864,766
TOTAL	$ 135,261,881	$ 124,033,425
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 1,402,889	$ 1,256,051
Accrued salaries, wages, and benefits	2,248,208	2,010,693
Accrued health claims	747,119	781,000
Accrued property/liability claims	95,540	149,601
Accrued pension expense	12,653,387	14,432,773
Accrued health benefits for retired clergy	2,387,919	1,884,028
Unearned revenue	7,219,803	7,009,675
Notes payable		10,000
Bonds payable	31,010,000	32,430,000
Fair market value of interest rate swap agreements		1,042,245
Custodial and annuity obligations	21,487,437	19,322,948
Total liabilities	79,252,302	80,329,014
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	26,949,337	17,460,255
Designated	18,532,411	20,826,501
Net asset charge—Lay Pension Plan	(2,792,534)	(6,498,455)
Net asset charge—Clergy Retirement Plan	(1,724,978)	(2,442,744)
	40,964,236	29,345,557
Temporarily restricted net assets	3,164,389	2,950,374
Permanently restricted net assets	11,880,954	11,408,480
Total net assets	56,009,579	43,704,411
TOTAL	$ 135,261,881	$ 124,033,425

See notes to combined financial statements.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2006 AND 2005

	2006	2005
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Change in net assets	$ 12,305,168	$ 1,553,355
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	2,800,037	2,820,377
Net gains on investments	(2,032,452)	(1,776,831)
Change in fair market value of interest rate swap agreements	(1,187,861)	664,902
Loss (gain) on sale of property	2,284	15,060
Gain on beneficial interest in perpetual trusts	(14,305)	(82,490)
Net asset charge (credit)—Lay Pension Plan and Clergy Retirement Plan	(4,423,685)	3,750,767
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable—other	(810,676)	167,969
Assets held in trust	(14,281)	(15,653)
Deferred rent	(210,020)	(267,518)
Pledges receivable—net	69,129	243,019
Prepaid expenses and other assets	(268)	133,845
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	146,838	(143,012)
Accrued salaries, wages, and benefits	237,515	209,919
Accrued pension expense	1,727,342	798,287
Accrued health claims	(33,881)	47,000
Accrued property/liability claims	(54,061)	(4,469)
Accrued health benefits for retired clergy	503,891	352,221
Unearned revenue	210,128	501,069
Net cash provided by operating activities	9,220,842	8,967,817
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,560,895)	(1,082,140)
Proceeds from the sale of property	6,700	1,800
Purchase of investments—net	(2,548,786)	(11,514,407)
Proceeds from maturity/sales of investments—net	356,125	614,369
Issuance of advances and notes	(3,052,749)	(6,078,006)
Payments received on advances and notes	2,262,072	11,624,695
Increase in discount and allowances on advances and notes	(108,627)	14,423
Increase in custodial obligations	2,164,489	1,791,731
Net cash used in investing activities	(2,481,671)	(4,627,535)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Repayment of bonds payable	$ (1,420,000)	$ (1,235,000)
Repayment of note payable	(10,000)	(5,118)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,430,000)	(1,240,118)
NET CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	5,309,171	3,100,164
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:		
Beginning of year	7,453,078	4,352,914
End of year	$ 12,762,249	$ 7,453,078

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2006 AND 2005

	2006				2005			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES:								
School tuition and fees	$ 28,267,039	$	$	$ 28,267,039	$ 26,005,175	$	$	$ 26,005,175
Contributions—Diocesan Support Appeal ("DSA")	4,100,000			4,100,000	3,950,000			3,950,000
Other support—DSA programs	490,124			490,124	385,702			385,702
Other donations and gifts	4,103,856	2,619,283	307,156	7,030,295	4,553,569	1,646,324	130,921	6,330,814
Parish assessments:								
Employee benefit programs	5,084,899			5,084,899	4,869,907			4,869,907
Property/liability insurance	1,211,339			1,211,339	1,221,074			1,221,074
Catholic News & Herald	766,395			766,395	757,920			757,920
Central Office	2,667,621			2,667,621	2,415,421			2,415,421
Parish support of schools	3,099,287			3,099,287	3,089,141			3,089,141
Federal and state agency awards	1,840,377			1,840,377	1,660,236	16,356		1,676,592
Other grants, contracts, and awards	3,500	644,523		648,023	270	728,315		728,585
Fees for services rendered	1,135,958			1,135,958	1,215,820			1,215,820
Rental income	1,440,370			1,440,370	1,425,740			1,425,740
Interest and dividend income	1,602,629	247,818	135,002	1,985,449	812,430	140,302	124,684	1,077,416
Net realized/unrealized gains on investments	1,698,048	318,001	30,708	2,046,757	962,013	169,793	98,092	1,229,898
Change in fair market value of interest rate swap agreements	1,187,861			1,187,861	(664,902)			(664,902)
Gain (loss) on sale of property	2,284			2,284	(15,060)			(15,060)
Other income	1,169,407			1,169,407	1,146,450	2,036		1,148,486
Net assets released from restrictions—satisfaction of program restrictions	3,616,002	(3,615,610)	(392)		2,566,215	(2,566,215)		
Total revenues	63,486,996	214,015	472,474	64,173,485	56,357,121	136,911	353,697	56,847,729
EXPENSES:								
Program expenses:								
Pastoral:								
Clergy, vocations, and support for retired priests	3,102,954			3,102,954	2,655,920			2,655,920
Multi-cultural ministries	914,766			914,766	790,451			790,451
Contributions, grants, and subsidies	1,530,769			1,530,769	758,133			758,133
Education:								
Regional and diocesan schools	18,762,284			18,762,284	17,744,609			17,744,609
Other education and faith formation	1,678,365			1,678,365	1,563,643			1,563,643
Social service programs	4,456,636			4,456,636	4,183,071			4,183,071
Benefit programs for lay parish employees	4,706,757			4,706,757	3,753,635			3,753,635
Property and liability insurance programs for parishes	685,950			685,950	835,166			835,166
Publication of Catholic News & Herald	858,631			858,631	838,593			838,593
Catholic Conference Center	442,262			442,262	462,035			462,035
Tribunal	233,284			233,284	199,491			199,491
Total program expenses	37,372,658	-	-	37,372,658	33,784,747	-	-	33,784,747
Administrative:								
Central office administration	2,525,615			2,525,615	2,384,145			2,384,145
Regional and diocesan schools administration	9,827,027			9,827,027	9,433,315			9,433,315
Social services administration	894,032			894,032	748,521			748,521
Interest—parish savings and investment programs	484,546			484,546	211,263			211,263
Interest—long-term debt	1,362,758			1,362,758	1,273,416			1,273,416
Depreciation and amortization	2,800,037			2,800,037	2,820,377			2,820,377
Other	410,390			410,390	345,660			345,660
Total administrative expenses	18,304,405	-	-	18,304,405	17,216,697	-	-	17,216,697
Fundraising	614,939			614,939	542,163			542,163
Total expenses	56,292,002	-	-	56,292,002	51,543,607	-	-	51,543,607
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE NET ASSET CREDIT (CHARGE)	7,194,994	214,015	472,474	7,881,483	4,813,514	136,911	353,697	5,304,122
NET ASSET CREDIT (CHARGE) —Lay Pension Plan and Clergy Retirement Plan	4,423,685			4,423,685	(3,750,767)			(3,750,767)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	11,618,679	214,015	472,474	12,305,168	1,062,747	136,911	353,697	1,553,355
NET ASSETS:								
Beginning of year	29,345,557	2,950,374	11,408,480	43,704,411	28,282,810	2,813,463	11,054,783	42,151,056
End of year	$ 40,964,236	$ 3,164,389	$ 11,880,954	$ 56,009,579	$ 29,345,557	$ 2,950,374	$ 11,408,480	$ 43,704,411

See notes to combined financial statements.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2006 AND 2005

1. ORGANIZATION

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the "Diocese") serves the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina. The Diocese comprises a geographic area of 20,470 square miles covering 46 counties ranging from the North Carolina piedmont region to the North Carolina mountain region. However, the accompanying combined financial statements do not include the assets, liabilities (including the Parish Notes discussed in Note 10) or activities of individual parishes and interparochial schools. These excluded activities are operating entities distinct from the offices and organizations included herein, maintain separate accounts, and carry on their own programs.

The accompanying combined financial statements include the accounts of the following organizations which operate under the auspices of the Diocese:

- The Central Administration ("Central Administration"), which provides administrative and other services to parishes, schools, and agencies of the Diocese. Services include: coordination and support of educational programs and multi-cultural ministries; the vocations program; continuing formation of priests and support of retired priests; parish savings and investment program; employee benefit program; property/casualty insurance program; diocesan tribunal; operation of the Catholic Conference Center and Cathedral Publishing, Inc., the publisher of the Catholic News & Herald.
- Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School ("BMCHS"), which provides Catholic secondary education for the Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point areas.
- Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools ("MACS"), which operates eight schools throughout Mecklenburg County, as of June 30, 2006.
- The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation, which conducts and administers fundraising activities for the benefit of MACS.
- The Triad Area Catholic Schools Education Foundation, which conducts and administers fundraising activities for the benefit of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School and the parish-based Catholic schools in the Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point area.
- Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc. ("CSS"), a professional human services agency providing counseling, adoption, pregnancy support, foster care, crisis intervention, material assistance, burial assistance, Hispanic and immigration services, refugee resettlement, justice and peace advocacy and education, along with family enrichment services. CSS oversees the operations of Catholic Legal Services, Inc., which was established to render indigent legal services for the Hispanic community. During fiscal 2006, there was minimal activity on the part of Catholic Legal Services, Inc.
- The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Inc., which receives, administers and disburses funds through the creation of endowments for educational, religious and charitable purposes for the benefit of the Diocese and its various parishes, schools and agencies.

The activities of the above organizations have been combined by functional area in the accompanying combined statements of activities. All significant intradiocesan transactions have been eliminated in combination.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation—The accounts of the Diocese are maintained on the accrual basis. The Diocese complies with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*, and SFAS No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations.*

Funds managed by the Diocese on behalf of affiliated organizations are in accordance with SFAS No. 136, *Transfers of Assets to a Not-for-Profit Organization or Charitable Trust that Raises or Holds Contributions for Others.*

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements—The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents—The Diocese considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Diocese has designated $450,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves as of June 30, 2006 and 2005.

Assets Held in Trust—Assets held in trust represent future beneficial interests to the Diocese under various trust arrangements. Amounts are recorded based on the actuarially determined present value of the future gift.

Investments—Investments are carried at market value. Market values are based on readily available market quotes.

Property and Equipment—Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. At June 30, 2006 and 2005, the major classes of property and equipment represented are as follows:

	2006	2005	Life (in years)
Land	$9,584,928	$9,558,667	N/A
Buildings	51,786,282	51,111,209	30–40
Improvements	5,885,897	5,556,303	10–15
Furniture and equipment	6,480,751	6,658,894	3–10
Vehicles	1,519,397	1,429,038	5
Interest in St. Matthew's Education Center	5,548,618	5,501,256	38.5
	80,805,873	79,815,367	
Less accumulated depreciation	(22,425,632)	(20,206,296)	
	$58,380,241	$59,609,071	

The interest in St. Matthew's Education Center shown above represents the total amount paid by MACS for the acquisition and construction of property and equipment in accordance with a joint-usage agreement with St. Matthew's Catholic Church. It is being amortized over the useful lives of the assets in which MACS has an interest. The amortization is included in accumulated depreciation shown above.

Interest expense incurred that relates to the acquisition or construction of property and equipment is capitalized. No interest expense was capitalized in fiscal years 2006 and 2005.

Custodial Obligations—Custodial funds are managed by the Diocese, as agent, on behalf of the originating organization. These funds are not recorded as contributions or net assets of the Diocese but rather are included as assets and corresponding custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statements of financial position.

Net Assets—Diocesan net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted—Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Diocese which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The Diocese has designated $18,532,411 and $20,826,501 of unrestricted net assets as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, primarily for future expenses relating to DSA program agencies, the pastoral center, employee benefit programs, self-insured programs, retired clergy benefit programs, debt service, grant awards, and endowments.

Temporarily Restricted—Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Diocese is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Diocese. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the accompanying combined statements of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted—Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Diocese is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

School Tuition, Fees, and Parish Support—Tuition and related fees represent amounts paid by students' families, net of applied tuition assistance, and are recognized over the school year in which earned. Parish support of schools represents contributions made by the participating parishes of the Diocese. Amounts received in the current year for the following school year's tuition are recorded as unearned revenue in the accompanying combined statements of financial position.

Investment Income—Changes in the market value of securities are reflected as net realized/unrealized gains (losses) on investments in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

Tax Exempt Status—The Diocese is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been reflected in the accompanying combined financial statements.

3. PLEDGES AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The DSA campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, $925,788 and $1,012,480 in pledges out of a goal of $4,100,000 and $3,950,000, respectively, had not been collected.

The Diocese assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and the *Catholic News and Herald*. Total assessments receivable at June 30, 2006 and 2005, were $22,102 and $130,698, respectively.

4. NOTES RECEIVABLE

The Diocese has $1,399,173 and $774,458 of notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, of which $1,378,072 and $741,154 were with parishes. These notes bear various interest rates.

5. ADVANCES TO PARISHES

The Diocese maintains a revolving loan fund, which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 2006 and 2005, totaled $2,954,617 and $2,813,794, respectively. These advances are long-term in nature and are reflected, net of allowances, at their estimated present value of $2,582,385 and $2,307,796 in the accompanying combined statements of financial position at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

6. INVESTMENTS

The Diocese utilizes financial institutions to provide custodial and recordkeeping services, in addition to investment managers with full discretionary authority, subject to the Diocese's investment policies, to provide investment management services. Investments are carried at market value and net realized and unrealized gains (losses) are reported in the accompanying combined statements of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 2006 and 2005, are summarized below:

	2006	
	Cost	Market
Foundation:		
Endowment funds (including unrestricted and temporarily restricted):		
Cash and cash equivalents	$2,400,564	$2,400,564
Marketable securities:		
Equity securities	7,827,184	9,003,070
Bond funds	2,188,667	2,145,266
Annuity funds:		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,917	7,917
Marketable securities:		
Equity securities	150,799	194,169
Bond funds	127,309	121,505
Total foundation investments	12,702,440	13,872,491
Other:		
Cash	12,554,251	12,554,251
Marketable securities:		
Equity securities	6,203,582	7,641,796
Bonds and bond funds	3,352,000	3,220,627
Mutual funds	7,427,187	8,095,866
Other	67,018	67,018
Total other investments	29,604,038	31,579,558
Total investments	$42,306,478	$45,452,049

	2005	
	Cost	Market
Foundation:		
Endowment funds (including unrestricted and temporarily restricted):		
Cash and cash equivalents	$1,416,415	$1,416,415
Marketable securities:		
Equity securities	6,158,672	7,015,939
Bond funds	3,169,208	3,127,152
Annuity funds:		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,240	3,240
Marketable securities:		
Equity securities	166,643	198,520
Bond funds	128,714	128,201
Total foundation investments	11,042,892	11,889,467
Other:		
Cash	431,272	431,272
Marketable securities:		
Equity securities	11,233,374	12,868,140
Bonds and bond funds	15,132,624	15,018,722
Commodity funds	1,002,763	952,316
Other	67,019	67,019
Total other investments	27,867,052	29,337,469
Total investments	$38,909,944	$41,226,936

7. PARISH SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

The Diocese administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools, and agencies. Interest was earned at Prime less 3.75% for the savings program and Prime less 2.75% for the investment program in fiscal 2006 and 2005. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time, whereas withdrawal of investment program funds is subject to a minimum 18-month investment period.

Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled $15,282,607 and $14,091,116 at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statements of financial position.

8. PENSION AND RETIREMENT PLANS

Lay Noncontributory Defined Benefit Pension Plan—The Diocese sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the "Lay Plan") for all eligible diocesan lay employees. The Lay Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Diocese for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The following table as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, sets forth the funded status of the Lay Plan:

	2006	2005
Reconciliation of benefit obligation:		
Benefit obligation—beginning of year	$(28,387,951)	$(23,275,000)
Service cost	(1,726,732)	(1,369,869)
Interest cost	(1,474,391)	(1,372,516)
Actuarial gain (loss)	3,202,054	(2,979,207)
Benefit payments	948,820	608,641
Benefit obligation—end of year	$(27,438,200)	$(28,387,951)
Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets:		
Fair value of assets—beginning of year	$17,286,030	$15,577,812
Actual return on plan assets	1,951,979	1,016,936
Employer contributions	1,324,241	1,299,923
Benefit payments	(948,820)	(608,641)
Fair value of assets—end of year	$19,613,430	$17,286,030
Statement of financial position:		
Accrued pension expense	$(5,306,083)	$(7,795,878)
Pension intangible asset for unrecognized transition obligation	84,513	112,682
Net asset charge	2,792,534	6,498,455
Net amount recognized	$(2,429,036)	$(1,184,741)
Disclosure of net periodic pension cost:		
Service cost	$1,726,732	$1,369,869
Interest cost	1,474,391	1,372,516
Expected return on assets	(1,458,321)	(1,363,491)
Amortization of transition amount	28,169	28,169
Amortization of loss	797,565	303,838
Net periodic pension cost	$2,568,536	$1,710,901
Weighted-average assumptions:		
Discount rate	6.25 %	5.25 %
Expected return on plan assets	8.00	8.00
Rate of compensation increase	3.25	3.25
Accumulated benefit obligation	$24,919,513	$25,081,908

The assumed long term rate of return is based on historical returns and future expectations.

As of June 30, 2006 and 2005, the Lay Plan's investments are maintained in trust accounts managed by Wachovia Bank, N.A. (the "Trustee"). The Trustee has full discretionary authority, subject to the Plan's investment policy. The following table as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, sets forth the percentage of total investments by asset class:

	2006	2005
Domestic equity	45 %	49 %
Domestic fixed income	17	32
International equity	20	15
Alternative investments	5	4
Cash	13	
Total	100 %	100 %

The Plan's investment policy stipulates five allowable asset classes for inclusion in the portfolio: domestic equity, domestic fixed income, international equity, alternative investments, and cash and cash equivalents. As of June 30, 2006 and 2005, the acceptable asset allocation ranges are as follows:

	2006	2005
Domestic equity	30%–80%	30%–80%
Domestic fixed income	20–60	30–60
International equity	0–25	0–20
Alternative investments	0–10	0–10
Cash and cash equivalents	0–20	0–10

In addition, the policy stipulates socially responsible investment guidelines, investment return objectives, both in the aggregate and relative to applicable investment benchmarks, minimum standards for investment holdings, and other guidelines for the investment of Plan assets.

Each diocesan entity was assessed 4.5% (4.0% in 2005) of lay employees' salaries to fund the contribution to the Lay Plan and certain other employee benefits. The estimated contribution to the Lay Plan for fiscal year 2007 is approximately $1,433,000.

Benefits expected to be paid over the next ten fiscal years, as of June 30, 2006, are as follows:

2007	$ 741,414
2008	856,475
2009	951,166
2010	1,072,238
2011	1,195,086
2012–2016	9,050,997
	$ 13,867,376

Tax-Deferred Annuity Plan—The Diocese sponsors a tax-deferred defined contribution plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for all eligible Diocesan employees. Employer matching contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of employee contributions. Each diocesan entity is responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred defined contribution plan.

Clergy Retirement Plan—The Diocese sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (the "Clergy Plan") to provide pension benefits for diocesan priests. An annual collection is held at each parish to raise funds for clergy retirement and other clergy benefits. Each parish was assigned 3.50% of annual offertory as their goal for this collection for fiscal 2006 and 2005. Any shortfall from goal in the amount collected is paid by the parish. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are reported as temporarily restricted revenues in the accompanying combined statements of activities. The annual contribution to the Clergy Plan is based on the results of an actuarial valuation.

The following table as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, sets forth the funded status of the Clergy Plan:

	2006	2005
Benefit obligation	$ (11,520,894)	$ (10,509,128)
Fair value of plan assets	4,173,590	3,872,233
Funded status	$ (7,347,304)	$ (6,636,895)
Accrued pension expense	$ (7,347,304)	$ (6,636,895)
Pension intangible asset for unrecognized transition obligation	4,033,086	3,087,960
Net asset charge	1,724,978	2,442,744
Net amount recognized	$ (1,589,240)	$ (1,106,191)

	2006	2005
Weighted-average assumptions:		
Discount rate	6.25 %	5.25 %
Expected return on plan assets	8.00	8.00
Benefit cost	$ 909,726	$ 746,181
Employer contribution	426,677	358,872
Benefits paid	559,716	568,773
Accumulated benefit obligation	11,520,894	10,509,128

The assumed long term rate of return is based on historical returns and future expectations.

As of June 30, 2006 and 2005, the Clergy Plan's investments are maintained in trust accounts managed by Wachovia Bank, N.A. (the "Trustee"). The Trustee has full discretionary authority, subject to the Plan's investment policy. The following table as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, sets forth the percentage of total investments by asset class:

	2006	2005
Domestic equity	46 %	49 %
Domestic fixed income	20	32
International equity	21	15
Alternative investments	4	4
Cash	9	
Total	100 %	100 %

The Plan's investment policy stipulates five allowable asset classes for inclusion in the portfolio: domestic equity, domestic fixed income, international equity, alternative investments, and cash and cash equivalents. As of June 30, 2006 and 2005, the acceptable asset allocation ranges are as follows:

	2006	2005
Domestic equity	30%–80%	30%–80%
Domestic fixed income	20–60	30–60
International equity	0–25	0–20
Alternative investments	0–10	0–10
Cash and cash equivalents	0–20	0–10

In addition, the policy stipulates socially responsible investment guidelines, investment return objectives, both in the aggregate and relative to applicable investment benchmarks, minimum standards for investment holdings, and other guidelines for the investment of Plan assets.

The estimated contribution to the Clergy Plan for fiscal year 2007 is approximately $508,000. Benefits expected to be paid over the next 10 fiscal years, as of June 30, 2006, are as follows:

2007	$ 599,292
2008	631,345
2009	680,708
2010	699,427
2011	718,661
2012–2016	5,046,691
	$ 8,376,124

Clergy Retirement Benefits Other Than Pension—In addition to providing th Clergy Plan discussed above, the Diocese sponsors the Retired Clergy Healt Plan which provides retired diocesan priests certain unfunded health an long term care benefits.

The net periodic postretirement benefit cost for the years ended June 30, 2006 and 2005, included the following components:

	2006		2005	
	Long-Term Care	Health	Long-Term Care	Health
Service cost	$ 90,075	$ 154,032	$ 58,265	$ 99,161
Interest cost	102,707	160,711	99,485	146,270
Net amortization of transition obligation	50,716	82,167	50,716	82,167
Amortization of actuarial loss	8,998	24,275		
Net periodic benefit cost	$ 252,496	$ 421,185	$ 208,466	$ 327,598

The following table as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, sets forth the change in projected benefit obligation:

	2006		2005	
	Long-Term Care	Health	Long-Term Care	Health
Reconciliation of projected benefit obligation:				
Obligation—beginning of year	$ 1,990,332	$ 2,944,476	$ 1,591,756	$ 2,340,314
Service cost	90,075	154,032	58,265	99,161
Interest cost	102,707	160,711	99,485	146,270
Actuarial (gain) loss	(710,980)	(404,506)	311,867	471,535
Benefit payments	(51,363)	(118,426)	(71,041)	(112,804)
Obligation—end of year	$ 1,420,771	$ 2,736,287	$ 1,990,332	$ 2,944,476

The following table at June 30, 2006 and 2005, sets forth the net liability recognized in the accompanying combined statements of financial position:

	2006		2005	
	LONG-TERM CARE	HEALTH	LONG-TERM CARE	HEALTH
FUNDED STATUS—JUNE 30	$ (1,420,771)	$ (2,736,287)	$ (1,990,332)	$ (2,944,476)
UNRECOGNIZED TRANSITION OBLIGATION	710,029	1,150,344	760,745	1,232,510
UNRECOGNIZED LOSS	(337,386)	246,152	382,592	674,933
NET LIABILITY	$ (1,048,128)	$ (1,339,791)	$ (846,995)	$ (1,037,033)

The accumulated postretirement benefit obligation was determined using a weighted average discount rate of 6.25% and 5.25% as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, for both the long term care and health plans.

9. EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

The Diocese administers medical and dental insurance coverage for eligible employees of the Diocese. The Diocese charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Diocese has an arrangement with a third party to administer the medical and dental plans. Approximately 17% and 15% of the premiums submitted by diocesan entities were paid to the third-party administrator for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop loss coverages in fiscal 2006 and 2005, respectively. The remaining portion of the premiums is designated by the Diocese to pay claims which are processed by the third-party administrator. The Diocese has specific stop loss coverage at $125,000 per employee and $100,000 per employee in fiscal 2006 and 2005, respectively; and aggregate coverage beginning at 120% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $125,000 and $100,000 for fiscal 2006 and 2005 respectively. Employee health benefits expense was $4,652,005 and $4,401,111 during fiscal 2006 and 2005, respectively.

10. NOTES PAYABLE

CSS had borrowed money from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops to cover the general operating expenses of the refugee office. This loan was unsecured, noninterest bearing, and payable upon demand. The outstanding balance of $10,000 at June 30, 2005 was repaid prior to June 30, 2006.

The Diocese has an unsecured line of credit from a bank for $10,000,000 as of both June 30, 2006 and 2005, with the current line of credit expiring on December 29, 2006. The line of credit incurs interest at the monthly LIBOR index plus 1.0% (6.35% and 4.34% at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively). There were no outstanding borrowings under this line of credit at both June 30, 2006 and 2005.

Additionally, the Diocese has certain notes outstanding with a bank ("Parish Notes"). The proceeds from the Parish Notes are being used to finance various parish construction and capital improvement projects as well as the purchase of equipment. Principal and interest payments on the Parish Notes are currently being paid to the bank directly by the specific parishes benefiting from the use of the proceeds. As of June 30, 2006, all principal and interest payments were current. However, if any parishes default on payments of principal and interest in the future, it is likely that the Diocese would look to the Central Administration, a combined entity, for funding. At June 30, 2006 and 2005, the Central Administration had not recognized any liabilities related to Parish Notes in the accompanying combined financial statements. The outstanding amount under these notes was $23,798,293 and $28,275,504 at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. In addition, the Diocese has entered into certain interest rate swap agreements on the Parish Notes with notional amounts totaling $18,719,823 and $19,156,994 as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The fair value of these interest rate swap agreements was $383,028 as of June 30, 2006.

11. BONDS PAYABLE

Series 2000 Bonds—In June 2000, the North Carolina Educational Facilities Financial Agency issued $19,700,000 of variable rate educational facilities revenue bonds ("Series 2000 Bonds") with final maturity, subject to prior redemption, on June 1, 2017. The proceeds therefrom have been loaned to the Bishop of the Diocese, and are administered by the Central Administration. Such proceeds have been used to finance the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of the current campus of BMCHS, and to refinance the construction and equipping of a MACS entity, as well as to pay a portion of the interest on the bonds and to pay bond issue costs. The Central Administration allocates a pro rata portion of the Series 2000 Bonds to BMCHS and MACS. These affiliated entities have recorded their pro rata interest expense and resulting payable to the Central Administration within their respective financial statements.

Principal and interest payments on the Series 2000 Bonds are supported by an irrevocable, direct pay letter of credit by a bank. The letter of credit, which expires on September 5, 2007 (subject to earlier termination or extension in accordance with the letter of credit agreement), supports the entire loan amount. The annual fee associated with this letter of credit is 0.32%.

The mandatory redemption of the Series 2000 Bonds is being provided by sinking fund payments beginning in June 2002 and ending June 2017. Interest accrues at a variable rate and is due quarterly. The interest rate fluctuates on a weekly basis and was 3.98% and 2.29% at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

In July 2001, the Diocese entered into a five-year interest rate swap agreement at a notional amount of $9,000,000 for a portion of its Series 2000 Bonds. The agreement required the Diocese to pay the counterparty a 4.05% fixed rate of interest on the notional amount. In return, the counterparty paid the Diocese interest at a variable rate based on the published TBMA index in accordance with the swap agreement. The Diocese recorded the interest rate swap in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended, and did not designate the derivative as a hedge instrument. The swap expired on June 1, 2006. The fair value of this derivative of $(111,882) as of June 30, 2005, is reported as the fair value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statement of financial position as of June 30, 2005 and changes in the fair value are reflected as the change in fair value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of activities for the years ended June 30, 2006 and 2005.

In June 2004, the Central Administration entered into an 11-year interest rate swap agreement for a portion of the Series 2000 Bonds, with an effective date of June 1, 2006, the expiration date of the aforementioned 2001 swap. The agreement requires the Diocese to pay the counterparty a 4.50% fixed rate of interest on the notional amount. In return, the counterparty will pay the Diocese interest at a variable rate based on the published TBMA index in accordance with the swap agreement. The Diocese recorded the interest rate swap in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended, and did not designate the derivative as a hedge instrument. The fair value of this derivative of $(327,092) and $(749,688) as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, is reported as the fair value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of financial position and changes in the fair value are reflected as the change in fair value of interest rate swap agreements in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

Series 2002 Bonds—In November 2002, Mauricio W. West, as Administrator of the Diocese, issued variable rate demand bonds for the benefit of MACS ("Series 2002 Bonds"). The initial issuance was in the principal amount of $3,000,000 with subsequent issuances, so that the maximum amount authorized of $15,800,000 was issued. The proceeds therefrom have been used to finance the construction and equipping of new MACS' facilities and to pay bond issuance costs. The Series 2002 Bonds will mature, subject to prior redemption, on May 1, 2014.

Principal and interest payments on the Series 2002 Bonds are supported by an irrevocable, direct pay letter of credit by a bank. As of June 30, 2006, the letter of credit, which expires on December 6, 2006 (subject to earlier termination or extension in accordance with the letter-of-credit agreement), supports the entire loan amount. Management anticipates obtaining an extension of the letter of credit prior to its expiration date. The annual fee associated with this letter of credit is 0.45%.

Interest accrues at a variable rate and is due monthly. The interest rate is adjusted weekly and was 5.35% and 3.34% at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively. The Diocese has covenanted that it will cause the bonds to be redeemed from May 2004 through May 2014. As of June 30, 2006, the Diocese has made the required principal payments according to the redemption schedule.

In December 2002, the Diocese entered into a 12-year interest rate swap agreement for the benefit of MACS for a portion of the Series 2002 Bonds. The notional amount of the agreement at June 30, 2006, was $10,597,500. The agreement requires MACS to pay the counterparty a 4.40% fixed rate of interest on the notional amount. In return, the counterparty will pay MACS interest at a variable rate based on the published LIBOR index in accordance with the swap agreement. MACS recorded the interest rate swap in accordance with SFAS No. 133, *Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities*, as amended, and did not designate the derivative as a hedge instrument. The fair value of this derivative of $472,708 and $(180,675) as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, is reported as the fair value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of financial position and changes in the fair value are reflected as the change in fair value of interest rate swap agreement in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

The future repayment requirements of the Series 2000 and 2002 Bonds, assuming the bonds continue to be remarketed and mature over their scheduled repayment terms, are as follows:

	SERIES 2000 BONDS	SERIES 2002 BONDS	TOTAL
2007	$ 870,000	$ 955,000	$ 1,825,000
2008	1,010,000	1,235,000	2,245,000
2009	1,150,000	1,565,000	2,715,000
2010	1,320,000	1,905,000	3,225,000
2011	1,480,000	2,020,000	3,500,000
THEREAFTER	11,050,000	6,450,000	17,500,000
AMOUNTS OUTSTANDING—JUNE 30, 2006	$ 16,880,000	$ 14,130,000	$ 31,010,000

12. FACILITIES USAGE AND LEASE AGREEMENTS

MACS has agreements with participating parishes and the Central Administration for their use of various facilities, with terms ranging from 12 to 18 years. These agreements provide for contingent rentals based on usage and may be amended or modified at any time. Expenses totaled $499,755 and $488,997 for fiscal 2006 and 2005, respectively, and are reported within regional and diocesan schools administration expense in the accompanying combined statements of activities.

In November 2003, MACS entered into an agreement to lease the former All Saints School to a third party beginning July 1, 2004, for a 10-year period. In 2004, MACS paid to a broker a leasing commission of $222,000. In 2005, MACS paid an additional $208,673 in leasing commission to the broker. This total leasing commission is being amortized over the life of the lease. In accordance with the lease agreement, the third party was required to pay a portion of its first year's rent in advance. Rental revenue is recognized on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. As cumulative revenue recognized exceeds rental payments received, deferred rent of $547,052 and $302,275 is recorded on the combined statements of financial position as of June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

The Diocese is the lessor in a ground lease agreement and the lessee in a space lease agreement with the same third party. In fiscal year 2003, the third party paid to the Diocese the net amount due for the entire terms of these lease agreements of $290,128. The Diocese is also responsible for monthly payments relating to the operating costs associated with the space lease agreement. Prepaid rent relating to the space lease of $1,054,293 and $1,089,050 at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively, is included in deferred rent in the accompanying combined statements of financial position. Unearned revenue relating to the ground lease of $1,231,617 and $1,272,219 at June 30, 2006 and 2005, respectively is reflected in the accompanying combined statements of financial position. The prepaid rent expense on the space lease and the unearned revenue related to the ground lease are both being amortized on a straight line basis over the lives of the respective leases.

13. CONTINGENCIES

From time to time, the Diocese is subject to various disputes and legal proceedings arising in the ordinary course of its business. Management is of the opinion, based upon information presently available, that it is unlikely that any liability to the extent not provided for through insurance or otherwise, would be material in relation to the Diocese financial position or operations.

1 in faith

Protecting God's Children

The Diocese of Charlotte continues its commitment to providing a safe environment for all people, especially the young and the vulnerable.

In 2002, the U.S. bishops issued the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (charter). The charter addressed the Catholic Church's commitment to respond effectively, appropriately and compassionately to cases of abuse of minors by priests, deacons or other church personnel.

On July 1, 2003, the diocese issued the revised Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel. This diocesan policy covers requirements for reporting abuse; screening of clergy, religious, seminarians and lay employees; procedures when allegations are made; education; media and communications; and sanctions for non-compliance. All diocesan personnel who work with children receive a copy of the policy, acknowledge its receipt and are required to comply with the policy in its entirety.

In August 2005, the diocese underwent a self-audit conducted by the Gavin Group, an agency contracted by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to ascertain and document the progress made by dioceses in the United States in the implementation of the charter.

The audit measured the diocese in various areas addressed by the charter, in particular Article 12, which states that dioceses must establish safe environment programs, and Article 13, which states that dioceses must evaluate the backgrounds of all priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese, and of all diocesan, parish and school employees and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. At the conclusion of the audit, the Diocese of Charlotte was found to be compliant with all articles of the charter.

The Diocese of Charlotte's commitment to being one in faith with Christ is evident in our efforts to protect our children from sexual abuse. The "Protecting God's Children" training program enables the diocese to educate those who work most closely with children to recognize and prevent sexual abuse. To date, approximately 13,000 employees and volunteers have attended this training at nearly 400 workshops held throughout the diocese. During this past fiscal year, approximately 2,300 diocesan personnel attended these training sessions.

The diocese also recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the young and the vulnerable through adequate screening of clergy, religious, employees and volunteers. In the past year, 4,500 background checks were processed.

Our diocese has a Victim Assistance Coordinator to assist victims of sexual abuse, whether the abuse took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese. In 1995, the diocese established a Review Board to serve as a confidential consultative body to the Bishop. The board reviews cases of sexual abuse of children that are reported to the diocese.

These activities represent a significant commitment by the diocese to provide a safe environment for our children and young people. The cost of the various programs and measures outlined herein totaled $70,937 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

Our response as a diocese will always be one of sincere compassion in addressing the personal, psychological and spiritual needs of the people God entrusted to its care. When abusive conduct is reported, in addition to immediate action and investigation into the allegation, an immediate response to the alleged victim and his/her family is undertaken. During this year, the diocese provided financial assistance to, or on behalf of, victims totaling $11,880, all of which was for counseling. As in the past, none of these funds came from the Diocesan Support Appeal or from parish savings.

Restored trust and healing will come with time and through the Diocese of Charlotte's commitment to keeping our children safe from sexual abuse.

Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

(704) 370-6299
www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

NOVEMBER 3, 2006 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 16 Nº 4

Perspectives

A look at the upcoming U.S. bishops' meeting; CRS helps others help themselves

| PAGES 14-15

A yearning to live free

Palestinian teens teach, learn in Charlotte

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For many teenagers, freedom means a later curfew or driving Dad's sedan instead of Mom's minivan.

For Christian teenagers living in the Holy Land, freedom is attending Easter Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, or traveling from one city to another without spending hours at checkpoints.

"There is no mall, no movie theaters," said Haneen Shihadeh, who lives in Birzeit, a university town on the outskirts of Ramallah. "We just go to school, go to church and spend time with our friends."

See **FREEDOM**, page 9

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Mariana Tanas (front row, left); Haneen Shihadeh (front row, far right); Tania Shomaly (second row, far right) sit in on a Spanish class at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte Oct. 30. The eighth-graders are Palestinian Christians who have spent the past six weeks in Charlotte experiencing life in America and sharing stories about everyday life in the Holy Land. Also pictured is Sally Kaissieh, the girls' chaperone (third row, far right).

The coming catastrophe

Culture of death must be fought, says apologist at banquet

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE—People of today are facing an impending catastrophe spawned by the culture of death, according to a well-known Catholic apologist.

"We're facing a global catastrophe, something that our parents and grandparents never saw," said Patrick Madrid, who has been involved in Catholic apologetics for many years.

"You and I are living in the day when the evil of abortion is now going to have serious backlash against us," he said during his speech, "The Ticking Time Bomb." Nearly 1,400

See **BANQUET**, page 8

Making good in the neighborhood

CCHD encourages advocacy efforts

BY TERRI JARINA
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — In order to persuade the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) to relocate a bus stop, Ashby Morton learned a lot about how the bureaucratic process works.

Morton has lived for two years in one of the 64 apartments at McCreesh Place on North Davidson Street in Charlotte. He serves as secretary of the resident association, a position he agreed to take "to avoid getting involved in politics."

Owned by St. Peter's Homes Inc., McCreesh Place provides affordable housing to ensure stability and self-sufficiency for its residents, who have been homeless and are challenged by disabilities.

The agency received a $5,000 local grant from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, in 2006.

See **CCHD**, page 5

COURTESY PHOTO

Ashby Morton inspects a new bus stop, which he advocated for, outside McCreesh Place in Charlotte. McCreesh Place provides housing to homeless and disabled persons and has received Catholic Campaign for Human Development grant.

Guided by God

PARISH CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF FAITH, SERVICE

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

SWANNANOA — Spotlighting "prayer and service," St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa celebrated its 70th anniversary Oct. 16 with a Mass and reception.

"On this feast of St. Margaret Mary, we reflect on 70 years of service to the people of this valley," said Father Frank Seabo, pastor, in remarks before Mass.

"Albaré" ("O Come and Sing"), the opening hymn,

See **SWANNANOA**, page 7

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-B P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Around the Diocese

Sisters of Mercy recloate; sister honored for service

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch

Vatican newspaper turns 145; new Mass for JPII

| PAGES 10-11

In the News

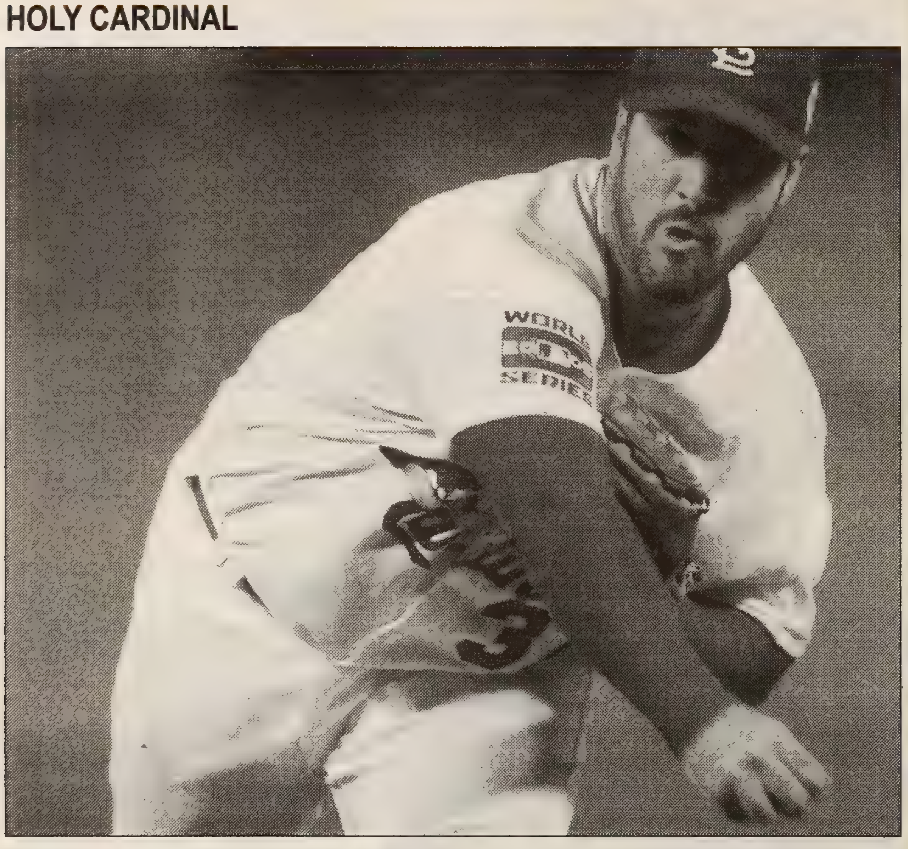
Shrine's chapel a gift from Vietnamese-Americans

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HOLY CARDINAL



CNS PHOTO BY JOHN MABANGLO, REUTERS

St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Jeff Suppan, who is Catholic, throws in the first inning of game four of Major League Baseball's World Series against the Detroit Tigers in St Louis Oct. 26. The Cardinals won the World Series against the Tigers in game five in St. Louis Oct. 27.

Pitcher tells students to know why they believe what they believe

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Jeff Suppan wowed his fans one day in September, and he wasn't even on the mound.

He received a standing ovation from more than 400 youths and adults following his talk on how he lives out his Catholic faith as a professional baseball player and in his daily life.

Suppan spoke at St. Joseph's Academy in Frontenac.

The Cardinals hurler — whose team won Major League Baseball's World Series against the Detroit Tigers in St. Louis Oct. 27 — encouraged the middle school and high school students "to keep Jesus No. 1" in their lives.

Said Suppan, "I try to put Jesus in front of everything I do." He lets Jesus "really lead me and not try to do it on my own."

As Catholics, they will be regularly questioned about their faith, Suppan told the youths, and now is the time for them to gain a good foundation.

"You need to know why you believe in what you believe in because you will be challenged" by others, particularly other Christians, he said.

That has been his experience, Suppan said. Growing up in California, he attended Catholic elementary and high schools.

At 18, he signed to play baseball right out of high school and never went to college. It was his first time away from family and friends. Drugs, pornography and promiscuity were readily available. He turned to God for help and began to seriously study his faith.

"My biggest challenge was to learn, to take my formation and learn more about why I believed. ... I believed 100 percent, but I had to learn why," he said.

A priest got him going to confession regularly. He found that the more he went and examined his conscience, the more he felt Jesus was helping him "carry the load."

Suppan said he encounters Christ in confession and receives grace to help overcome future temptations.

Suppan also spoke about the importance of the Eucharist, attending Mass, taking part in eucharistic adoration and prayer.

He tries "to remain in prayer. When I struggle, I pray. When I'm not struggling, I pray," he said, noting that he keeps a rosary in his ballpark locker.

He showed a short home movie of his November 2005 visit to the Vatican, where he met Pope Benedict XVI, and to Assisi, Italy. He also took several questions from the audience.

Asked what his favorite pitch was, Suppan replied, "A strike."

Summit focuses on Catholic campus ministry at nation's black colleges

ATLANTA (CNS) — After four years of planning and preparation, Catholic campus ministers, directors of campus ministry and student representatives from the nation's historically black colleges and universities assembled at the first summit on the state of Catholic campus ministry at their institutions.

The gathering took place Oct. 13-14 at Lyke House, the Catholic center at Atlanta University Center.

The sessions included presentations by Beverly Carroll, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for African-American Catholics; Michael Galligan-Stierle, outgoing assistant secretary for higher education and campus ministry for the U.S. bishops; Desmond Drummer, a senior at Morehouse College in Atlanta; and Candis Mayweather, an alumna of Spelman College in Atlanta.

Presentations were followed by discussions about how campus ministry could be enhanced. Summit attendees shared ministry experiences, exchanged information and laid the groundwork for the next summit.

Sessions included an in-depth discussion on a possible pastoral plan for black Catholic campus ministry. Participants planned to take home information from the summit to formulate the pastoral plan.

They also hoped to focus on identifying and recruiting 60 prospective black Catholic campus ministers for training and certification for campus ministry.

Of the 103 institutions identified as historically black colleges and universities, 44 have a Catholic campus ministry presence staffed by a layperson or clergyman.

Father Edward Branch, a campus minister for 27 years, shared his idea for the summit with some colleagues after the 2002 national convention of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association.

Father Branch, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., said he was pleased with how the meeting turned out.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for Nov. 18 will be "The Church's Mt. St. Helen's — Humanae Vitae." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

BOONE VICARIATE

BOONE — Father David Valtierra will present the eighth installment of his "A day with ..." Scripture series Nov. 11 at 9 a.m. The theme will be *"The Many Images of Jesus."* Lunch will be provided. Register by calling (828) 264-8338.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Father Patrick Winslow, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, will speak on the topic of *"American Culture"* as part of the dessert and devotion program at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Father Winslow will be speaking in the church, and dessert and coffee will be served in the reception room after his talk. For more information, e-mail rdobrien@earthlink.net or gail@catholicscripturestudy.com or call (704) 287-4624.

CHARLOTTE — Janice Olive will facilitate a program for adults concerning *"The Death of a Parent in Adulthood,"* Nov. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The loss of a parent as an adult is the single most common form of bereavement. This program is for those who have lost a parent or minister to the bereaved. For more information, call (704) 364-5431.

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., is sponsoring an *"Internet Safety"* program for parents Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the worship space. Experts from the FBI and Catholic Social Services will provide parents with insights into specific dangers associated with their child on the internet and practical tips that each parent can use in assuring their child's safety. For information call (704) 948-1306. ext 104.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church* will have an informational meeting on the Eastern Rite Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. A liturgy will follow at 11 a.m. These are open to anyone who would like to attend or learn more about the Eastern Rite For more information, please contact Deacon Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Father David Valtierra from the Oratory in Rock Hill will lead a retreat Nov. 5, 1-4 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. The retreat's theme will be *"Jesus: the Prophet of New Life."* The retreat will open with a light meal at 12:30 p.m. No pre-registration needed. For more information, call Contact Dennis Teall-Fleming, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholic adults in their 20s and 30s, will meet at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy., Nov. 8 and 15 at 6:45 p.m. Come and experience great speakers, excellent food and conversation. We will be sponsoring a food drive for Urban Ministry. For more information, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

NOVEMBER 3, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 4

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says Christians must heal divisions to be sign of hope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians have a responsibility to heal their divisions so that they can be a real sign of hope for the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Those who profess that Jesus Christ is lord are tragically divided and cannot always give a consistent common witness," the pope said during an Oct. 27 meeting with representatives of the world's major Christian communities.

The Conference of Secretaries of Christian World Communions held its annual meeting in Rome. Since 1957, the conference has brought together top officials of the international offices of 18 Christian churches and denominations for informal discussions.

The secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity has represented the Vatican at the meetings, which also include representatives of the Anglican Communion, mainline Protestant federations, Orthodox churches, Mennonites and others.

The group does not engage in an official dialogue, but rather serves as a forum for sharing information about the official dialogues and ways to support them.

"The theological dialogues in which many Christian world communions have been engaged are characterized by a commitment to move beyond the things that divide, toward the unity in Christ which we seek," said the pope. "However ... we must not lose sight of the final goal: full visible communion in Christ and in the church."

The world needs to hear the Gospel and the Christian message of hope, he said, but that message is clouded when Christ's disciples are divided.

Despite many obstacles, "we firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is ever present and will guide us along the right path," said the pope.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of Seeing Everyone Again* (HOSEA), a program to invite Catholics who have distanced themselves from the Catholic Church to return. This small group meets Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., Nov. 14-Dec. 19, to discuss various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Nov. 9, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. A representative from the Greensboro Police Department will speak on "Safety during your holiday shopping." Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* announces its annual Memorial Mass for its deceased members, relatives and friends Nov. 15 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The 11 a.m. Mass will be followed by lunch. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — *"Called by name: Following your personal spirituality"* will be presented at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St., Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Father Ken Whittington, pastor, and Dr. Ronda Chervin will lead this day of exploration for musicians, singers, artists, writers, actors, dancers, photographers, sculptors, weavers, and other crafts persons and appreciators of the arts. Topics will include spirituality and beauty, healing of emotions through the arts, new ways of opening to God's love and inspiration, listening to sacred music and more.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Dave Bowe will present "Spiritual Growth: Reflections from Life Abroad" Nov. 8. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 7 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Nov. 7 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. James the Greater Church, Concord

Nov. 8 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Charlotte

Nov. 9 — 6:15 p.m.
Room at the Inn of the Triad,
Greensboro

Pope mourns dead, including Muslim leader, after Nigerian plane crash

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI mourned the deaths of about 100 people, including the spiritual leader of Nigeria's Sunni Muslims, in an airline crash.

The pope prayed for those who died after a plane crashed Oct. 29 immediately after takeoff from the Nigerian city of Abuja. Only a few passengers survived.

Officials said among those killed in the crash was Muhammadu Maccido, spiritual leader of the country's Sunni Muslims.

The pope expressed his deep sadness over the "tragic air disaster in Nigeria" in a telegram sent Oct. 30 from the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, to Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja.

"His Holiness wishes to convey his heartfelt condolence to the families of all who mourn their loved ones," the telegram said.

Archbishop Felix Alaba Job of Ibadan, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, told Catholic News Service Oct. 30, "It is tragic and unfortunate that Nigeria has been witnessing several plane crashes in recent months."

The Abuja crash was the third major plane crash in Nigeria this year.

Archbishop Job urged that "proper attention is paid to the aviation industry."

He also urged the federal government to update aviation equipment such as radar and control towers.

Hands of freedom

CNS PHOTO BY THAIER AL-SUDANI, REUTERS

A U.S. soldier from the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team shakes hands with a boy at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 27. The U.S. military complied Oct. 31 with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's demand that checkpoints around the Shiite slum of Sadr city in Baghdad be removed.

Bishop seeks steps to halt persecution of Christians in Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy, has asked U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to "take several specific measures" to reverse the growing persecution of Christians and other minorities in Iraq.

In a recent letter to Rice, Bishop Wenski said the bishops feel "deep concern and growing alarm at the rapidly deteriorating situation of Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq."

Among steps he urged the U.S. government to consider are the creation of a new administrative region in the Plain of Nineveh area, where many Iraqi Christians live, and the adoption of a "more generous refugee and asylum policy" to assist displaced Iraqi Christians.

Bishop Wenski said he was writing on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The growing and deliberate targeting of Christians is an ominous sign of the breakdown in Iraqi society of civil order and interreligious respect and represents a grave violation of human rights and religious liberty," Bishop Wenski wrote.

Because of violence, he said, "Christians continue to decline from a prewar population of over 1.2 million to a current estimate of about 600,000."

"The recent beheading of a Syriac Orthodox priest in Mosul, the crucifixion of a Christian teenager in Albasra, the frequent kidnappings for ransom of Christians including four priests, ... the rape of Christian women and teenage girls, and the bombings of churches are all indicators that the situation has reached a crisis point," he wrote.

He also urged the U.S. government to work with Kurdish authorities who control areas of northern Iraq where many Christians are fleeing.

Bishop Wenski called for "an urgent review of economic reconstruction aid programs" to assure that aid is distributed fairly to all sectors of Iraqi society.

Par for the cause

Courtesy Photo

PGA professional golfer Chip Beck (right) is pictured during a golf event at Skybrook Golf Club in Huntersville Sept. 25 to benefit the "Foundation for Our Future" capital campaign at St. Mark Church in Huntersville. Beck is the brother of parishioner Mary Stapleton. The capital campaign began last year to raise funds to build a new church.

Also pictured are (from left) Jason Stapleton, Beck's nephew; Corey Breece; and Jeff Thomas, a golf pro at Skybrook.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...

"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.

We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®

(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**

Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area

www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

St. Therese Catholic Church
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

COME FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS,
FOOD AND FUN!

Saturday - November 11
8:30 am to 1:30 pm

We'll help inspire your holiday decorating and give you some great gift ideas!

- Beautiful handmade crafts
- Festive seasonal wreaths
- Gorgeous gift baskets
- Quality photos with Santa!
- Bake sale … and more!

Breakfast and lunch for sale, too —

217 Brawley School Road (I-77 exit 33) Mooresville

For the least among us

Courtesy Photo by Fred Hogan

Above: Brian Finnerty, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Family Church in Clemmons, and his son, Andrew, take part in the Knights' Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) Tootsie Roll drive outside a Kernersville-area Wal-Mart Sept. 9. During the drive, which ran Sept. 8-Oct. 8, the Knights collected more than $15,800. Distribution to various organizations will be in early 2007. Last year, proceeds benefited schools, senior services and Special Olympics in Forsyth County.

Below: Members of Knights of Columbus Council 8886 at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard and others are seen during the council's Operation LAMB drive at the church Oct. 21. Pictured: (back row) Seminarian Joe Kaup, Marty Felker, John Banas, Chuck Saleski; (front row) Debbie Felker, Lil Saleski. The money collected benefits the mentally challenged in Transylvania County.

Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!

***** Now with 3 locations to serve you*****

- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting **Angels.**

Asheville 828-665-3944
Charlotte 704-549-4010
Mooresville 704-663-1065

CCHD encourages advocacy efforts here, abroad

CCHD, *from page 1*

McCreesh Place incorporates hall meetings and the resident association in the communal single-resident occupancy housing setting. Residents volunteer at the facility and in the neighborhood.

Support Services staff encourage residents to increase their skills and to participate in job training. They assisted Morton in obtaining names and phone numbers so he could lead the advocacy efforts with Department of Transportation and CATS representatives to move the bus stop to a more accessible location.

The original location was between a driveway and a fence, which made it difficult for those in wheelchairs to board and exit the bus. Negotiating the path to the bus stop was difficult for Morton, who wears a prosthesis.

When city and CATS employees came for a fact-finding visit, Morton presented a petition containing nearly 100 signatures, including all 64 men who live at McCreesh Place as well as staff, board members and several neighbors.

The relocation request was quickly approved with the addition of a shelter and a bench, as well as a concrete ramp for those in wheelchairs to access the bus. Progress slowed down for several months, but Morton persisted with follow-up phone calls throughout the nine-month process.

An added bonus to Morton's effort is that the bus stop across the street also was moved to a better location and upgraded.

Since 1970, CCHD has worked to break the cycle of poverty for thousands of people. CCHD is awarding nearly $9 million in grants this year to support projects working to eliminate the root causes of poverty in the United States.

The grants will be distributed to 326 projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

CCHD funding comes from Catholics who contribute to an annual fall collection, which will be taken up in parishes Nov. 18-19.

In 2005, the Diocese of Charlotte's CCHD collection topped $170,000 for the first time with a total of $173,359.87. The diocese was second in the nation after the Diocese of Anchorage for per-Catholic giving with $0.82 per Catholic.

Three-fourths of the collection is sent to the national CCHD office in Washington, D.C., to fund educational programs and national level grants. CCHD grants between $5,000 and $50,000 in annual national-level funding for community organizing and for economic development.

Contributions from the Diocese of Charlotte for national-level CCHD grants between 1972 and 2005 totaled $1,709,466. From 1977 to 2006, $1,930,675 has been awarded in the Diocese of Charlotte for 60 national CCHD grants.

Local grants between $500 and $5,000 are awarded for one year. Since 1977, $489,696.48 has been awarded to 356 organizations in local CCHD grants across the 46 counties of the diocese.

WANT MORE INFO?

Applications for CCHD grants will be available Nov. 15, 2006 with a postmark deadline of Feb. 15, 2007. For more info on CCHD national and local grant programs, contact Terri Jarina with Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace, at (704) 370-3234 or thjarina@charlottediocese.org.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

The Asheville Vicariate invites you to a
Day of Reflection featuring
Dr. Scott Hahn
internationally known theologian, author, speaker and professor at Franciscan University

Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville
Saturday, Dec. 9 10am - 4pm
Tickets must be obtained in advance.
A $10 donation includes lunch.
Call 828-697-7420 or your parish office for details.

Spreading stewardship

THE LIFE OF A STEWARD
YOUTH STE
IN ACTION
ST. PIUS THE TENTH PARISH

Courtesy Photo by Barbara Gaddy

Parishioners of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro present information on stewardship at their booth at the annual International Catholic Stewardship Council meeting in Boston Oct. 1-4.

Diocese, parishes represented at international conference

BOSTON — Nearly 2,000 Catholic stewards from around the globe recently had a chance to see how two parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte embrace stewardship.

St. Pius X Church in Greensboro and St. Matthew Church in Charlotte were showcased at the parish fair exhibition during the International Catholic Stewardship Council's annual meeting in Boston Oct. 1-4.

Each year, 24 parishes from around the world are invited to share their stewardship efforts with conference participants.

"St. Matthew and St. Pius X churches are outstanding models of how to promote stewardship among the faithful of the parish," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

St. Matthew Church's stewardship video, "Every Day is a Gift," played for visitors to the parish's booth. Pat White, parish director of volunteer ministries, and Joe Linus, chair of the parish stewardship committee, shared their stewardship materials and answered questions about how their large Charlotte parish brings stewardship messages to its more than 5,000 households.

Thanks to generous members of the Greensboro business community, St. Pius X Church's booth captured participants' attention with free bottles of North Carolina barbecue sauce. Staff members Pat Spivey, Tracy Welliver and Toni Redifer joined stewardship committee members Gary and Lynne Fly to answer questions, give away samples of their stewardship materials and share experiences of promoting stewardship in their parish.

Representing the Diocese of Charlotte on the conference's speaker platform were Gaddy; Jim Kelley, director of development for the diocese; and Tim Garrison, former chairman of St. Matthew Church's stewardship committee.

Gaddy's presentation, "Children are Stewards, Too!," provided concrete ways to include children in parish stewardship efforts. Kelley spoke on planned giving, while Garrison spoke on "Communicating the Stewardship Message."

RELATED COVERAGE

Please read Bishop Peter J. Jugis' column on Stewardship Awareness Sunday on page 14.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on promoting stewardship as a way of life in your parish, contact Barbara Gaddy at (704) 370-3302 or e-mail bagaddy@charlottediocese.org.

maryimmaculata.com
IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES
FULLY STOCKED AND READY FOR FALL!
We're brimming over with the latest in Catholic books, new Bible study materials, spiritual gifts for special occasions, Bibles, artwork, rosaries – a wide inventory awaits you at both locations!

704-655-9090
19905 W. Catawba Ave., #106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28
(Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off all purchases of $35 or more. Present coupon.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 11/30/06

Sisters of Mercy relocate administrative offices

Belmont location selected; plan part of restructuring, strengthening efforts

CINCINNATI, Ohio — Leadership members of four regional communities and two regions of the Sisters of Mercy recently announced the selection of Belmont, N.C., as the location of their new South Central administrative offices.

This decision, announced Nov. 1, is part of a major restructuring plan to strengthen the mission and ministries of the Sisters of Mercy while reducing duplication of management functions.

While similar moves and mergers are occurring throughout the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the Belmont headquarters will be home to the former regional communities and regions of Baltimore, Cincinnati, Guam, Jamaica, North Carolina and St. Louis.

The group includes more than 800 Mercy sisters and 600 associates and companions.

The Sisters of Mercy considered three potential sites for the community's new administrative offices.

"Using a reflective process, we took an in-depth view of each site, weighed the pros and cons for each and considered the alternate uses of each site," said Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina in Belmont.

"Through our assessments, we concluded that Belmont holds the most benefits to serve as our administrative site," she said.

Traditionally, the community of religious women, founded by Catherine McAuley, serves in the areas of health care and education, with special attention to the needs of women and children.

Creative new ministries in recent years include housing for those of low and moderate income, work with immigrants and new citizens, as well as expanded social services.

According to a press release announcing the changes, locating the South Central administrative hub in the Charlotte area strengthens the presence of the Catholic religious community in the South, which has long been represented by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina in Belmont, part of the merging South Central group.

Sister Gamber receives award for chaplain work

Retired sister honored for years of ministering to sick, dying

Sister of St. Joseph
Dennis Eileen Gamber

WINSTON-SALEM — Sister of St. Joseph Dennis Eileen Gamber recently received a Distinguished Service Award from the Wake Forest University School of Medicine Medical Alumni Association for her dedication as a hospital chaplain.

Sister Gamber, 90, retired in 2005 to live with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Flourtown, Pa.

The award, presented during the school's Dean's Leadership Circle Dinner Oct. 5, was accepted on her behalf by Joanne Parcell, a chaplain at North Carolina Baptist Hospital, and her son, Thomas Parcell, 16, a former patient.

Sister Gamber joined the convent in 1934. Her teaching career stretched from 1936 until 1985, when she began full-time work, often working six days a week, as a chaplain to Catholic patients at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

"Of all the blessings God has given me, his greatest is (the opportunity) to visit the sick and the needy," she said during her goodbye celebration at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem in June 2005.

For those who are dying, she said, "I love to help somebody get a peace and calm before they are called, and to be there for the family."

Sister Gamber is a founding and lifetime board member of AIDS Care Services in Winston-Salem. She has received the "Be A Star" award from the hospital's patient relations department, the Inspiration Award from the Winston-Salem Mayor's Council for Persons with Disabilities and the Mother Teresa Memorial Award from the Knights of Columbus of the Diocese of Charlotte.

BLACK CATHOLICS: CONTINUING TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CHARLOTTE DIOCESAN DAY OF REFLECTION
IN PREPARATION FOR
NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CONGRESS X
BUFFALO, NEW YORK - JULY 12 – 15, 2007

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 9 AM – 4:30 PM
CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CENTER, HICKORY

THEME: "CHRIST IS WITH US: CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE SACRAMENTS"

Purpose: The Day of Reflection is intended to plant the seeds for a meaningful and powerful Congress experience, by enabling participants to begin prayerful reflection on the theme long before the event; by providing input to NBCC staff and the presenters as they prepare for Congress; and by building awareness of and enthusiasm in the Charlotte Diocese for the upcoming Congress. In 2006, we hope that our diocesan gathering will promote Spirit-filled reflection in anticipation of the 2007 theme, "Christ is with Us: Celebrating the Gift of the Sacraments."

Process: The Day of Reflection for the Diocese of Charlotte will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2006, 9 am - 4 pm, The Catholic Center, Hickory, NC. Anyone who plans to attend the NBCC – Congress X must attend this meeting. It will include a variety of activities from prayer and liturgy to homilies, witnesses, small group discussions, or other activities, and results in written feedback to the NBCC about the theme of the coming Congress.

Prerequisite:
Attendance at the Day of Reflection for each diocese remains a prerequisite for attendance at the Congress. However, all are welcome to attend. So please complete the registration form and return it by mail ASAP.

REGISTRATION – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Completed registration forms must be received no later than November 18, 2006.

(Anyone planning to attend NBCC Congress X must attend a Day of Reflection. Attendance will be verified by the Office of Black Catholics.)

Name: ______________________________ Age ____ (Optional for those 30+)

Address: ____

Phone: _____________ E Mail Address ________________________________

Parish : ____________________________

***Note: Limited free transportation** will be provided on a "as needed-first come, first served basis" with departures from St. Mary's in Greensboro, with stops at Christ the King in High Point and St. Benedict the Moor in Winston Salem; from Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte, with stops at Queen of Apostles in Belmont and St. Michael in Gastonia. Pickup up will begin at the first point by 7 AM. Depending upon registration, some form of transportation may be provided from Asheville and other stops made on the two above routes. Departure from the Catholic Center will be at approximately 4:30 pm back to the designated stops made in route to Hickory. (Circle answers below)

- Would you ride the bus? Yes No
- What pickup point would you use?__________________
- Are you interested in attending the National Congress in July 2007? Yes No
- Would you like to get involved with the AAAA Ministry? Yes No.
- Would you be willing to serve on committees to coordinate AAAM events? Yes No

Lunch will be provided by the Catholic Conference Center for $8.50. Attach your check or money order to your registration form.

- If you have dietary restrictions, what are they?

Signature__________________________Date___________________
(All valid registrations must be signed.)

___Check or Money Order attached for $8.50 for lunch made payable to African-African-American Affairs Ministry.

Mail to: African-African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

*Those desiring transportation will be contacted and informed of times and places of scheduled pickups.

MECKLENBURG AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY
OPEN HOUSE
Faith. Tradition.
Academic
Excellence.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Sunday Nov. 5, 1:30-3:30pm
Tues. Nov. 7, 9:00am–12:00pm

Our Lady of the Assumption (PK-5) • 4225 Shamrock Drive • Charlotte
St. Ann (TK-5) • 600 Hillside Avenue • Charlotte
St. Gabriel (K-5) • 3028 Providence Road • Charlotte
St. Mark (K-8) • 14750 Stumptown Road • Huntersville
St. Matthew (TK-5) • 11525 Elm Lane • Charlotte
St. Patrick (K-5) • 1125 Buchanan Street • Charlotte

www.charlottediocese.org/macs

For over 70 years, MACS has provided the academic excellence you expect from a Catholic school education. Children learn in an environment where the teachings of Jesus are promoted and upheld as core values of both school and life.

MACS has eight schools serving PK-12.

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Admissions Office: (704) 370-3273

MACS admit students of any race, color, sex, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Parish celebrates 70 years of faith, service

SWANNANOA, ***from page 1***

was sung in Spanish and English. The entrance procession included 15 fourth-degree Knights of Columbus from the St. Lawrence, St. Barnabas and Great Smoky Mountain assemblies.

"Our parish is alive and growing," Father Seabo said. "Whether we're 80 years old or 20 years old, our parish is young."

"After 70 years of prayer and service our parish is as young today as it was (in 1936), because we are in the heart of Jesus, who renews everything," Father Seabo said.

Inside the church, near the main entrance, the blue votive lights of the shrine to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque glowed during the Mass. St. Margaret Mary (1647-90), a Visitation Sister, had great devotion to Jesus' Sacred Heart.

In the mid-1900s, textile companies were moving from New England to the South. Bishop W.J. Hafey of Raleigh dedicated St. Margaret Mary Church Oct. 13, 1936, to serve the growing number of Catholics moving to the Swannanoa Valley to work for these textile companies.

Before St. Margaret Mary Church opened, the nearest Catholic church was St. Lawrence Church in Asheville, 20 miles away over dirt roads.

George Lemieux was on St. Margaret Mary Church's building committee. He and his wife, Opal, were married at St. Lawrence Church (her home parish) in 1941, and are still active members of St. Margaret Mary Church.

"The first furnace we had in this church was a hand-fired coal furnace," he recalled. "We'd have to come in on Saturday to get it started (for Sunday Mass)."

For years, Lemieux oversaw the maintenance around the church.

"I resigned when I got to be 90," he said.

Lemieux, said Father Seabo, "is the embodiment of our parish."

"It's been a work of love for me all these years," Lemieux said before he cut the congratulatory cake at the anniversary reception.

"As a parish, we're people journeying as God guides us," Father Seabo said. "Our lives are young in Jesus. Even as our bodies grow weaker, our souls grow stronger."

That strength shows in parishioners' commitment to the surrounding community. They're involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries, Meals on Wheels, a local food pantry, and with the Presbyterian Home for Children in nearby Black Mountain.

"I see the church as being visible to the community because they take their faith into the community," Father Seabo said.

Rosie Palmisano is one such parishioner. She teaches fitness classes at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and is advisor to the school's Catholic student association.

"I always tell my students to thank the Lord for what we have because our health is given to us by the Lord," she said.

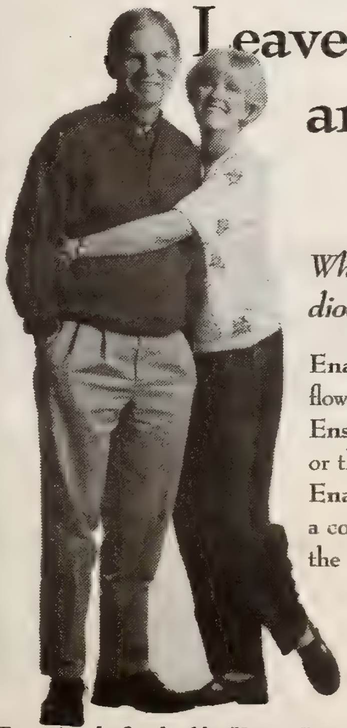
Palmisano joined the Catholic faith at St. Margaret Mary Church in 1994.

"It was the faith of the members, how they embraced the Lord and their religion and how they made me feel welcome," she said. "When they gave the sign of peace, they embraced you and shook your hand, and after Mass they would talk to me."

Palmisano is an altar server, usher and extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

She organized parishioners for the local Crop Walk Oct. 8 to raise money to fight hunger locally and nationally.

"Yeah," she said, "this is a great parish."



Leave a Legacy Through an Endowment

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support. Every year, your "legacy" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.
Ensure a Strong Future. Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.
Enact a Lasting Legacy. Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values – your faith and the mission of the church.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Culture of death must be fought, says apologist

BANQUET, *from page 1*

people attended the 12th annual banquet benefiting Room at the Inn, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 26.

Room at the Inn is a Catholic maternity home in Charlotte that offers pregnancy assistance for unmarried pregnant women and their babies, both born and unborn. Since 1994, Room at the Inn's residential program has served 400 mothers and children. The non-residential programs, established in 2004, have served more than 550 mothers and children.

"The reason we're here tonight is to support this wonderful organization, Room at the Inn ... to protect the unborn children, to help their mothers, to offer them choices, but there's a bigger picture even beyond that," said Madrid.

The "tidal wave of the culture of death is upon us," he said. Abortion is "killing the West. It is leading in the direction of some terrible dilemmas that will face this country and other western countries in the not-so-distant future, certainly within our lifetimes."

"The menace of abortion, the menace of the culture of death, must be opposed, in all its many forms," said Madrid, who has been active in Catholic apologetics since the late 1980s.

Apologetics is the systematic defense of Christianity. The word "apologetics" comes from the Greek "apologia," which means to create a defense.

Madrid is a familiar figure to EWTN viewers as the host of three EWTN television and radio series: "Pope Fiction," "The Truth About Scripture and Tradition," and "Search and Rescue."

He also is the publisher of Envoy magazine, a Catholic journal of apologetics and evangelization; has written several books on apologetics; and has produced many tape sets defending the Catholic faith. He and his wife, Nancy, have 11 children.

Madrid said fertility rates have fallen dramatically in the western world due to abortion and contraception.

Photos by Kevin E. Murray

Left: Cindy Brown, Room at the Inn's executive director, presents Father Conrad Kimbrough with an outstanding service award during a fundraising banquet in Charlotte Oct. 26. Above: Patrick Madrid speaks on the culture of death.

"Contraception is a mentality that gives rise to the possibility of seeing someone only so far as he or she is beneficial or convenient to others," he said. "This door leads to a very real and grave problem we face today, and that is abortion."

And like the people who sailed on the Titanic, he said, "we are faced with a looming iceberg of global aging that is directly caused by abortion."

Global aging is becoming a concern, he said, due to the declining fertility and longer lifespans.

"The good news is ... we live in a time when medical science is capable not only of prolonging life, but also making the quality of life so much better," said Madrid. "The bad news is ... fewer people being born will cause not enough people to be in the workplace to support this ever-growing superstructure of elderly people ... who are not working, who will need medicine."

Global aging's cost will be difficult to predict and compensate for, he said, and will have direct economic implications in the billions of dollars that will dwarf all other challenges faced by society.

"One of the dilemmas will be, what do we do with all the old people?" said Madrid. "And in a materialistic society, which values life only so far as it's beneficial to others in some way, what do you think will happen?"

Terri Schindler Schiavo, a comatose Florida woman who died in March 2005 after the Supreme Court approved the removal of her feeding tube, is an example of the culture of death, said Madrid.

"It became the decision of other people who decided that her quality of life was not up to their standard of living, so they conspired to murder her," he said. "That case was the tip of the spear — what we saw there is going to grow and produce more terrible situations just like that."

Madrid said Catholics must take "decisive action today" to fight the culture of death on all its fronts — abortion, euthanasia, cloning.

"We cannot sit here and be complacent. We cannot stand by and watch these terrible things unfold before our very eyes and then say later on that we should have done something but didn't know what to do."

What to do? Madrid said Catholics must live, speak and suffer for the truth. And that requires action and a willingness to change.

"Let's not leave here tonight without committing to heroic action of our own," he said.

The banquet was the most successful one in Room at the Inn's history, raising more than $200,000, according to Cindy Brown, executive director.

"We were overjoyed by the tremendous response to this year's banquet," said Brown.

"I was moved by the overwhelming regional support for and love of this organization," said Jeannie Wray, Room at the Inn's director of development. "As a fund-raiser, I feel privileged to be a part of an organization that has such positive community impact."

During the banquet, Father Conrad Kimbrough received the Mgsr. William Wellein Outstanding Service Award.

Father Kimbrough, a native of Salisbury who has served in parishes throughout the Diocese of Charlotte, helped found Room at the Inn in 1994.

He has long been an outspoken advocate for the unborn. He has regularly prayed outside abortion clinics — twice being incarcerated for doing so — and attends pro-life rallies such as the national March for Life in Washington, D.C.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Room at the Inn, visit www.rati.org, or call (704) 525-4673.

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Making your will?

Request a free Wills Kit from Catholic Relief Services.

It will help you practice good stewardship and create a lasting legacy to help the poor overseas.

1-800-235-2772 ext.7318

PEOPLE OF FAITH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

invites you to our

12th Anniversary Awards Banquet

Saturday, November 18 – 6:30 pm

St. Gabriel Catholic Church – 3016 Providence Road – Charlotte

Join us in honoring:

St. Peter's Catholic Church – from which grew the Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now (CCMN): Faith in Action Award

Ted Frazer -- co-founder and former coordinator of CCMN and NC Coalition for a Moratorium: Rev. Robert E. Seymour Award

James Cooney -- death penalty attorney who worked to educate faith communities on the death penalty: Community Service Award

James Megivern -- author of The Death Penalty: An Historical and Theological Survey, faith community organizer: Community Service Award

Marilyn Ozer -- death penalty attorney, faith community organizer: Community Service Award

The Hon. Pricey Harrison: The Rev. Hall Partrick Award (from Greensboro Chapter of PFADP)

PEOPLE OF FAITH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Keynote Speaker: David Kaczynski

Founder of Unibomber Survivors Fund and brother of Ted Kaczynski

Executive Director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty and national leader in efforts to end the death penalty for the mentally ill

Special reduced ticket price for The Catholic News & Herald Readers!

Tickets for Catholic News & Herald readers are $50 each if ordered by Nov. 14 ($75 thereafter). Mention this ad or write "News & Herald" in check memo. Make checks payable to PFADP and send to PFADP, 110 W. Main St., Suite 2-G, Carrboro, NC 27510. To use credit card or for information, call (919) 933-7567 or visit www.pfadp.org.

Palestinian teens teach, learn in Charlotte

FREEDOM, *from page 1*

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Mariana Tanas joins Jennifer Pendleton's Spanish class as they pray the "Our Father" in Spanish Oct. 30. Mariana is one of five Palestinian Christian students who have spent the past six weeks in Charlotte, attending Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School and visiting schools, churches and lay organizations, speaking about life for Christians in the Holy Land.

Haneen, four other Christian students and their teacher have spent the past six weeks in Charlotte enjoying the everyday freedoms of Americans, while sharing their stories about life in the Holy Land with more than 25 groups, parishes and schools.

The students were taking part in the Children's Peace Project, which is sponsored by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation. The foundation seeks to "replace despair with hope, fear with security, and humiliation with human dignity" in the Holy Land, according to the organization's Web site.

The Children's Peace Project is an effort to make a personal connection between western Christians and the Christians living in the Holy Land. Each student lived with a family from St. Matthew Church and attended Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School during their stay in Charlotte.

"I came to America to be an ambassador for the Holy Land," said Tania Shomaly, who lives in Beit Sahour, a town of about 14,500 residents located southeast of Jerusalem.

Tania, Haneen and their companions, Mariana Tanas, Dima Khalil and Yacoub Sayej, and their chaperone, Sally Kaissieh, spoke with The Catholic News & Herald Oct. 30.

Yacoub was on a field trip with his classmates and could not be interviewed for this story.

In the past few years, restrictions on the everyday comings and goings of Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, have been increased. These include going through checkpoints, which can take several hours, and people are often denied access.

"We can't move from one Palestinian city to another without going through checkpoints," said Kaissieh, who teaches religion in Bethlehem. "We feel like we are being kept prisoner in our cities. Every year it is harder and harder."

"We are like birds without wings," she said.

Despite the restrictions on their personal freedoms, none of the girls would consider emigrating from Palestine.

"We don't want to leave the Holy Land," said Tania. "This is our home."

"We have the right to live our lives in the Holy Land," said Kaissieh. "The Jews have made life difficult for us, humiliating and controlling us."

"Even with all that has happened to us, we don't hate the Jews — we hate the actions of the government," Kaissieh said. "I hate what is happening to me and to my life."

"Some people have been separated from their families for five years," said Haleen. "My sister's fiancé lives in Jerusalem, but we can't visit him there. He has to come to Birziet."

Over and over again, the girls said their favorite thing about the United States was the freedom, especially the freedom to travel. They were amazed that they didn't need permission to visit Washington, D.C. and that they never had to stop at a checkpoint during the 400-mile trip.

"We are all people created in God's image," Kaissieh said. "We love all people. We are brothers and sisters as grandchildren of Abraham."

What the Holy Land needs most, the girls said, is support and understanding.

"Come and visit the Holy Land," said Haneen. "Pray for us. We need your understanding."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

5th Annual
Vineyard of Hope
Wines Around the World
Wine Tasting & Auction

This annual fundraiser for Catholic Social Services provides vital funds for the programs and services of CSS.

Get a group together and buy your tickets today!

Friday, November 10 — 7 p.m.
Charlotte Marriott SouthPark
(formerly known as The Park Hotel)

All proceeds benefit
Catholic Social Services

The evening includes: *Wine Tasting, Heavy hors d'oeuvres*
Live entertainment from 'The Sinatra Experience'
Silent Auction

Individual tickets are $75.

Discounted groups of eight and sponsorships are also available.

Call 704-370-3232 or
visit www.vineyardofhope.org

Sponsored by: Sisters of Mercy

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

L'Osservatore Romano: 145 years as 'genuine face of the church'

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Juggling a phone, tapping out headline changes on his keyboard and greeting yet another visitor to his office inside the headquarters of L'Osservatore Romano, Antonio Chila' serenely glides through the myriad of tasks that continually fly his way.

The chief editor of the Vatican newspaper must keep scores of incoming calls, e-mails, edited news articles, faxes and requests on his radar and guide them all to their proper place.

Freshly typed copy of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in German from his Oct. 25 general audience lands on Chila's desk just as the paper's German section calls to say the text has been revised to reflect the pope's spoken remarks.

Translators check each prewritten papal text against what the pope actually says, since he often speaks off the cuff. Chila' then sends the modified copy to the Secretariat of State for approval before he can direct it to the layout staff.

Published within the Vatican, the semiofficial newspaper was born 145 years ago during a highly tumultuous time for the Papal States. Italy's unification began in 1861, and the new kingdom's first legislators declared Rome the capital.

Pontifical authorities supported the idea of having a newspaper that would uphold the importance of the Papal States and the values they espoused. The first issue of L'Osservatore Romano appeared in Rome July 1, 1861, and was "deliberately polemical and propagandist," according to the Vatican's Web site.

The paper's motto included two snippets from the Gospels: "Unicuique Suum" ("to each his own") and "Non Praevalebunt" (the forces of evil "shall not prevail"), said Chila'.

But over time the newspaper took on a more objective and pastoral stance, and today it prides itself in "presenting the genuine face of the church and the ideals of freedom," said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican's secretary of state.

L'Osservatore Romano became "an instrument for spreading the teachings of the successor of Peter and for information about church events," he said Oct. 24, inaugurating a new exhibit on the newspaper's founding and history.

The exhibit shows how L'Osservatore Romano has become a forceful champion of human rights and a vocal proponent of peaceful, nonviolent solutions to the political and social upheavals of the 20th century and beyond.

Each pope has used the paper as an international soapbox to launch appeals against "the useless massacre" of World War I and to condemn anti-Semitism, totalitarianism and "atheist communism."

Chila' told Catholic News Service Oct. 25 that, just as it did then, L'Osservatore Romano still exerts "notable influence" in both political and religious spheres.

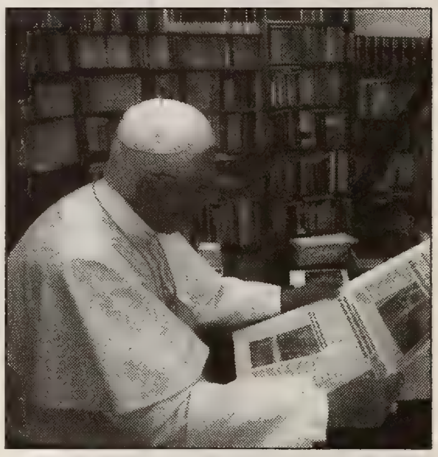
Not only are readers 100 percent certain that the exact words of the pope and church officials appear on its pages, but international news is treated with an objectivity that journalists from either political extreme find laudable, Chila' said.

The English edition alone reaches more than 129 countries. Besides the daily paper in Italian, L'Osservatore Romano publishes weekly editions in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German and a monthly paper in Polish.

Though the paper "tries to be objective to the utmost," Chila' said its content and editorial comment "come down hard" on abortion, euthanasia and workers dying on the job due to negligence.

"In these cases we are, let's say, very critical against those who carry out these crimes," which also include unjust warfare, he said.

"When the pope takes a position, that is our official position which we go with and follow," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI reads the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, in this 2005 photo. The newspaper's editorial views correspond to Catholic teaching and positions taken by the pope.

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING

A.V. ROOFING

BBB Member Southern Piedmont Charlotte

Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com

704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 12, 2006

Nov. 12, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

1) 1 Kings 17:10-16
   Psalms 146:7-10
2) Hebrews 9:24-28
3) Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

The gift that keeps on giving

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Gift-giving always has been a challenge for me. Besides factoring in the time and money required, I usually struggle with finding just the right gift, one that will be unique to the recipient.

When I have the time, the present I most like to give is a quilted minicomforter that I make out of fabrics in the person's favorite colors or from a print that expresses his or her hobbies or interests. It's a unique gift of my own time and creativity, and years later many of the recipients — from children to college students to adults — tell me that they still enjoy using their quilts.

Last year my mother gave me a personal blender that I use to make on-the-run breakfast smoothies almost every day, and when I do I invariably think of her and thank her across the miles. Although I don't unwrap that blender anew each morning, I cherish it as a "gift that keeps on giving."

Today's passage from the Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes that the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary is unrepeatable and unique, in contrast with the annual bloody offerings of animals in the Jerusalem temple. "Once for all," Jesus' offering took away the "sins of many."

Yet, the term "sacrifice" is often applied to the Eucharist, much to the objection and confusion of Christians who criticize Catholics for offering Jesus repeatedly, as if Calvary were somehow not enough.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in Paragraphs 1365-1368, is very clear on this issue. Catholic teaching affirms the uniqueness of the sacrifice at Calvary, but because Jesus' self-offering is "made present" and is visibly extended to believers through the Eucharist and because the church as Christ's body is offering itself in union with Christ, the Eucharist can indeed be called a "sacrifice in an unbloody manner" — the Lord offering himself, both once for all and continuously throughout time for each individual.

The poor but generous widow of Zarephath sacrificed all she had so that the prophet Elijah could eat — resulting in an endless supply of flour and oil. Likewise Jesus, made eucharistically present in you and me, is the "gift that keeps on giving" as we bring him to the world in generous and ceaseless offering.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 5-11
Sunday (Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34; **Monday,** Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday,** Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday,** Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)**, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-13, 16-17, John 2:13-22; **Friday (St. Leo the Great),** Philippians 3:17–4:1 Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday (St. Martin of Tours),** Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 12-18
Sunday (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 17:10-16, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44; **Monday (St. Frances Cabrini),** Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday,** Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday (St. Albert the Great),** Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:1-19; **Thursday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude),** Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary),** 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne),** 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.

(336) 282-8870

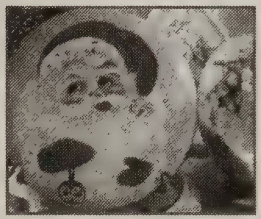
ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

the WORLD *of* CHRISTMAS

awaits you and your friends at the 39th annual Southern Christmas Show. Discover crafts and holiday decorations from near to home and around the globe. Find gifts for everyone on your list. Delight in all that's Christmas wherever you are.

It's the South's favorite holiday tradition.



November
9 -19, 2006
Charlotte Merchandise Mart

Weekdays & Saturdays 10 am to 9 pm.
Sundays 10 am to 6 pm.
Adults: $8.00 door/$7.00 advance
Ages 6 – 12: $3.00
Under 6 free with paying adult
Group rates available

The Charlotte Observer
www.charlotte.com

For more information call 704-376-6594
www.SouthernChristmasShow.com
A Southern Shows Inc. Production

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Southern Christmas Show®

New Orleans composer pens Mass honoring Pope John Paul II

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Jay Weigel had never composed a Mass before. But he has his first Mass under his belt now: "The Mass of Pope John Paul II the Great."

Nurturing the Mass from its beginning to the present was an arduous journey, complicated by the fact that Weigel lives in New Orleans and was buffeted by Hurricane Katrina.

The CD was going to be released a year ago, but the hurricane interrupted the final touches to the music.

"I had to call (the head of the record label) and say, 'I don't have the time to deal with this. I don't know what my house is like. I don't know what my work is like,'" said Weigel.

"I wasn't able to get on it (again) until Easter time," said Weigel, who was commissioned by the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans to compose the Mass.

As it was, Weigel's house was not flooded — the waters came within 20 feet of his home. But he was only able to move back this October to the Contemporary Arts Center in New Orleans, where he is executive director, after it sustained $2.1 million in damage.

Weigel was raised in St. Catherine of Siena Church in New Orleans, and is now a member of St. Pius Church there, but "currently I go to the St. Louis Cathedral now more than any other place," he said.

For the past dozen years, Weigel has arranged for concerts to be held nearly every night in December at the cathedral.

Msgr. Crosby Kern, cathedral rector, at one point told Weigel, "I'd like you to write a Mass for Pope John Paul II," who was alive at the time. (The pope died April 2, 2005.)

Weigel set to work. He sent drafts to the cathedral, and got notes in return on language use to make it usable at Masses as well as for concert performances. Weigel is now working on a "reduction" of the Mass that requires only an organ rather than a symphony orchestra.

"Stylistically, harmonically and melodically," Weigel said, "I wanted each movement to have a feel that was geographically identifiable. In the 'Credo,' for instance, the chord structure and the melody have a very Eastern European structure to them."

The Mass debuted in spring 2005 at the close of New Orleans' annual French Quarter Festival.

"There were people at the concert who handed me checks so we could record the piece," Weigel said. "I said to Father Kern, 'We're going to record it.'"

Weigel said he thought it would be a "vanity press" recording, meaning it would be self-financed, and he would give the priest 500 copies he could sell "over time and keep the money."

But Weigel sent the score to a friend of his, who runs a jazz music label, MCG Jazz Records. "Marty (Ashby) had a distribution company that would get it around. He thought it deserved a wider audience than just me handing it out to my friends," he said.

Proceeds from sales of the CD will go toward repairing damage St. Louis Cathedral suffered during the hurricane.

Weigel noted that he tried to get Catholic commentator and papal biographer George Weigel — they are not related — to write the album's liner notes but he couldn't get him to do it.

"I had read his mammoth book" — "Witness to Hope," the papal biography — but "he des not involve himself in anything other than his own work," composer Weigel said.

"The Mass of Pope John Paul II the Great" was released Oct. 17, too recently for composer Weigel to chart the public's reaction.

"I'm in that great nervous stage," he said, likening it to waiting for, or waiting out, a hurricane. "In New Orleans we have a lot of great nervous stages."

www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family Medicine

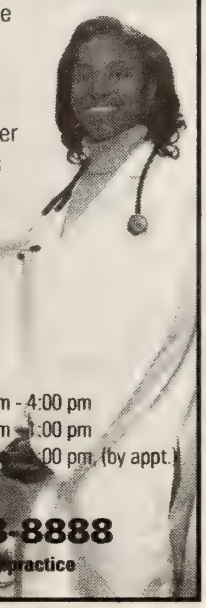
...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - [illegible]:00 pm (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice



Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

St. Gabriel at St. Gabriel

Courtesy Photo

“St. Gabriel,” portrayed by music teacher Darrin Patterson, visits a classroom at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte Sept. 27. The school’s patron saint announced his visit to each classroom with a trumpet blast, then spoke to students about the saint and left them with prayer cards. The visits were arranged by the school’s Faith Advisory Committee, a parent group committed to enriching the religious education curriculum. Future visits by saints are planned, including an October visit from St. Francis of Assisi, and the traditional visit from St. Nicholas in December.

Line of saints

Courtesy Photo

Students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem dress up as their favorite saints on All Saints’ Day, Nov. 1. Represented saints included Sts. Joan of Arc, Therese, Bernadette and Joseph.

Saintly celebration

Courtesy Photos by Joseph Pureli

Children enjoy a tractor-drawn hayride an
dressing as their favorite saints during the “A
Saints Celebration — Trunk or Treat” at S
Michael Church in Gastonia Oct. 29.

The children were encouraged to dress as saint
to “celebrate our brothers and sisters in histor
who have lived the faith well,” said Father Rog
Arnsparger, pastor, who distributed prizes to th
participating children.

Classifieds

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. (888) 803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332.**

Rachel’s Vineyard Weekend Retreat
for Post-Abortion Healing

Upcoming Retreat: December 8 – 10
(Information: (336) 287-8421 or Rachelnetwork@sprynet.com)

Turn your pain into hope, learn to forgive yourself, and find the unconditional love of Christ.

Open to both men and women, Catholic and non-Catholic, this retreat will give you a chance to be nurtured and supported by experienced retreat leaders. You will not be rushed or hurried, but allowed time to reflect and be open to the gradual healing process.

All information is confidential.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Sponsored by Charlotte Diocese Respect Life Office,
Catholic Social Services – 704-370-3229

Helping our furry friends

Courtesy Photo

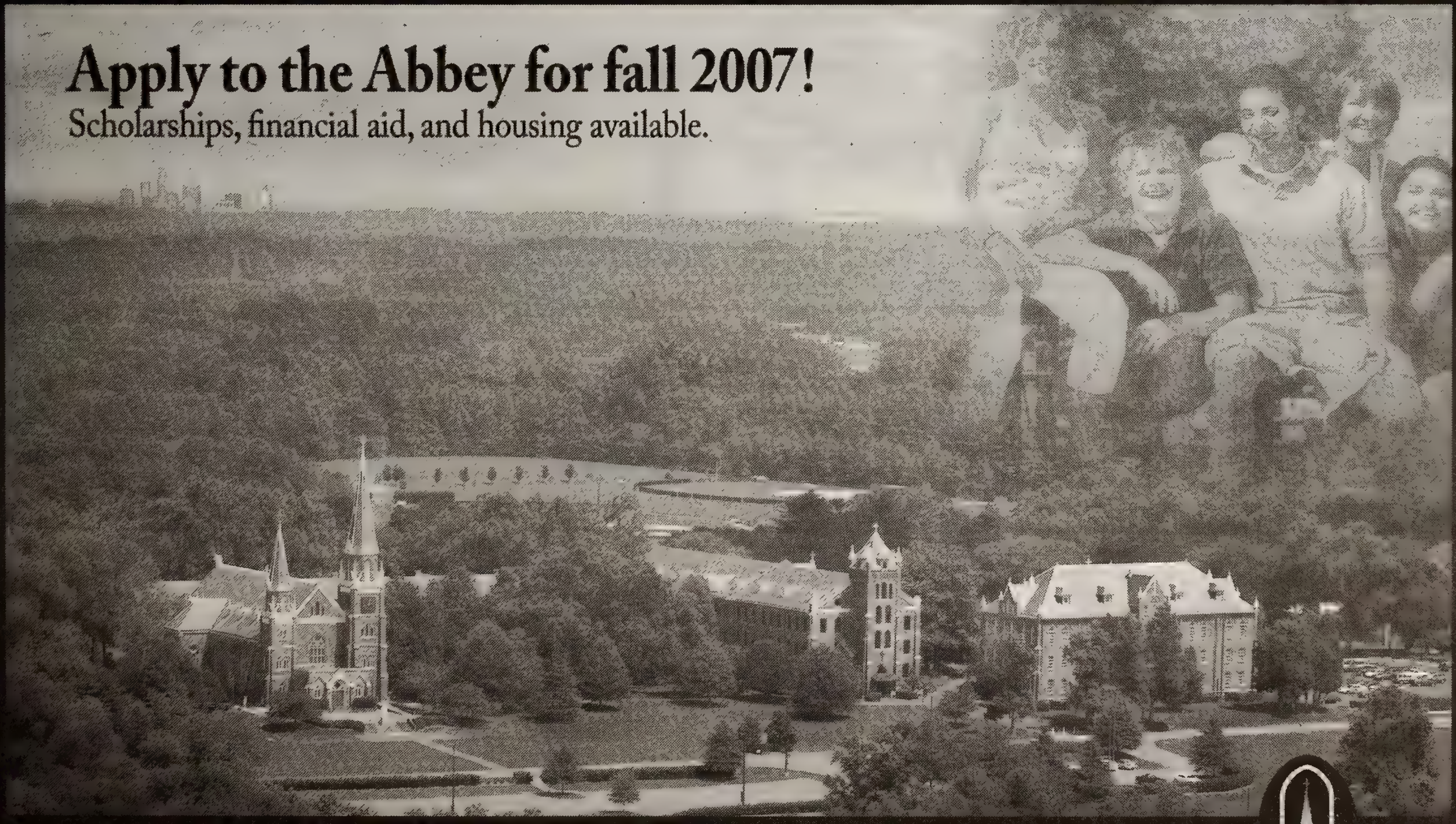
Four Girl Scouts from Hornet's Nest Council Troop 3504, three of whom are students at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte, are pictured with a doghouse they built as part of their service project to earn a Bronze Award.For their project, the girls selected SPCA Alliance and baked more than 700 dog biscuits and made more than 100 bandanas for adopted pets to wear when leaving the shelter. They donated the doghouse to a family with an outside dog that lacks adequate shelter. The girls received their Bronze Award pins during a ceremony Sept. 17. Pictured (clockwise from left): Carolyn Bahar, Marah Hild-Laderbauche, Adele Clifford and Melanie Runkle. Carolyn, Adele and Melanie are seventh-graders at Holy Trinity.

Respect Life winners

Courtesy Photo by Debby Davis

Michael McDaniel, Stephanie Verdi and Courtney Guy, eighth-graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point, are pictured Oct. 26 as the winners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church's Respect Life Essay Contest. The annual contest, sponsored by the parish's Respect Life Committee, is open to all eighth-graders at the school. The winners received certificates and cash awards during the school's Wednesday Mass, Oct. 25.

Michael won first place for his essay on abortion; Stephanie placed second for her essay on abortion; and Courtney won third place for her prose about children with mental disabilities.


Apply to the Abbey for fall 2007!
Scholarships, financial aid, and housing available.

Inquire and apply online at:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
For more information call 1.888.222.0110 or email: admissions@bac.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Tackling the truth in Baltimore

Secular press may focus on negatives, not positives of U.S. bishops' meeting

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The U.S. bishops have almost guaranteed a lot of news coverage for their upcoming meeting.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will be holding its bi-annual meeting in Baltimore, Md., Nov. 13-16. Why will this meeting be different from others? The answer is the three-letter word so dearly loved by the media in America: S-E-X.

The 200 or so U.S. bishops meet twice every year and discuss church and social issues on a regular basis. At their June meeting, the bishops approved some minor changes in the language of the Mass. On the social justice side, the bishops called for comprehensive immigration reform.

The meeting was covered in this newspaper but received little notice outside the Catholic press.

At this month's meeting the bishops will discuss homosexuality and clergy sex abuse, among other things. The status of homosexuals in American society is arguably the most popular topic in secular news coverage.

And the scheduled clergy sex abuse discussion will give radio and TV talk shows the opportunity to bash the Catholic Church yet again.

Homosexuality will be addressed when the bishops vote on the statement, "Ministry to Persons With a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care."

The guidelines, which have been developed over the past four years, clearly enunciate the doctrine of "hate the sin, love the sinner" that is fundamental to Christianity. The guidelines were developed from Scripture and church teaching and recognize that people who engage in homosexual acts aren't alone in their sex-related sinfulness. The guidelines state, "because of both Original Sin and personal sin, moral disorder is all too common in our world today, among both heterosexual and homosexual persons."

The guidelines are important because "more than a few persons with a homosexual inclination feel themselves to be unwelcome and rejected." The statement calls for Catholic churches to invite homosexuals to "take an active role in the life of the faith community."

The statement also reiterates opposition to same-sex marriage, civil unions and the adoption of children by gay couples and instructs ministers "not to bless such unions or promote them in any way."

Expect the secular press accounts to focus on what the guidelines prohibit.

The sex abuse crisis returns to the spotlight when the bishops consider the expenditure of $350,000 to fund a continuing study of sex abuse in the church by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, which reported the original 50-year study of sex abuse that was published in 2004.

The latest study will have three components. It will compare the incidence of sexual abuse of children by priests over the past 50 years to sexual abuse of children by the rest of society. The second part will look at the institutional response of church leadership to the crisis.

The third segment aims "to understand on an individual level, how priests with allegations of sexual abuse differ from other priests as well as (from) sex offenders who are not priests."

The findings of the study will be reported in 2009.

The study will benefit the Catholic Church as it seeks to prevent a reoccurrence of the sinful crime of sexually abusing children and to be open about these transgressions. It will also help society by providing a better understanding of a criminal behavior pattern that, unfortunately, continues to occur far too often in homes and non-church social settings.

But don't expect the media to say "thank you" to the U.S. bishops or the Catholic Church for continuing to air this problem or for systematically addressing the larger societal issues.

Instead, we are likely to hear from people seeking payouts from diocesan funds and revenge-seeking advocates who will demand firings, demotions and, if permissible, public whippings.

Sex abuse victims may also speak up. Unlike some of the others, their voices — painful as they often are — must be heard as a continued reminder to all of the life-altering consequences of this crime.

You may experience a different slant when the secular press begins covering the bishops' November meeting. But is there any other American institution that clearly states its teachings, offers compassion and, when confronted with its own mistakes, admits wrongdoing and seeks ways to heal, both itself and society, of the scourge of abuse?

Sex sells. Truth is boring. Which do you want?

Responding with a grateful heart

Stewardship Awareness Sunday is Nov. 12

From the Bishop

BISHOP
PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the story of a widow who has become a symbol of faith, trust and true charity. He recalls how the well-to-do people were taking from their surplus and dropping their offerings in the temple treasury.

A poor widow dropped in the equivalent of two pennies — all that she had to live on. We can only imagine the confusion on the face of his Apostles when Jesus said, "This widow ... has put in more than all the others."

Her gift represented a total giving of self — an act of faith and trust in God's Divine Providence.

We are all called to that same faith and trust in God; not by giving our last two cents to the Catholic Church, but by being good stewards of God's gifts to us. God asks each of us to spend time in prayer, searching our own consciences and responding to his generosity with grateful hearts.

Stewardship is part of our response to our baptismal calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ. It is an act of faith, trust and charity in which we return to God a portion of the time, talent and treasure entrusted to us.

Stewardship is a way of life that calls us to recognize God as the source of everything we have, we are and will ever become. Our response must be one of gratitude.

Stewardship Awareness Sunday is Nov. 12. It is a time to prayerfully reflect on the Gospel of the widow's mite and give serious consideration to how each one of us gives of our time, talent and treasure.

We might ask ourselves these questions:

"Do I give of the first fruits, like the widow, or do I give God the leftovers of my life? Is everything I do centered on God through prayer, or do I pray only when I need something?

"Do I give a proportionate amount of time in service to others in my parish and community, or do I think someone else will take care of that? Do I thank God for the talents he has given me by using them in parish and community volunteer ministries, or do I use them only when I am paid?

"Do I truly recognize God as the giver of all that I have, or do I think I have somehow earned it 'all by myself?'"

The stewardship way of life takes a leap of faith — one that is countercultural to the messages we hear every day. It calls each of us to ask some tough questions and respond with faith, trust and a grateful heart.

Letters to the Editor

Respecting life may require some violence

People of good will disagree about political issues. Political truth is, by definition, elusive.

But the absolute pacifist position that Tony Magliano advances in his Oct. 13 column ("Respect Life, reject violence") simply is not consistent with the Catholic Church's historical teaching.

While abortion always claims an innocent victim and the church has always proclaimed this fact, it is not the church's position that capital punishment is wrong and that war is always wrong And while it's easy enough to say in a age of weapons of mass destruction tha the just-war theory needs to be revised it's just as easy to argue that in suc an era a war may need to be fought t prevent their use.

In fact, it may be evil not to figh such a war, if the deaths of millions coul be prevented.

— John Salmon
Gastonia

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Pope says saints encourage Catholics to follow in their footsteps

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's Note: In lieu of his weekly general audience, the pope celebrated Mass at the Vatican to mark All Saints' Day, Nov. 1.

VATICAN CITY — The saints of the Catholic Church are a source of inspiration, encouraging the faithful to follow in their footsteps and experience true happiness found with God's love, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Saints are for us friends and role nodels of life," the pope said Nov. 1, All Saints' Day.

Together with Christ, they point eople toward God and his divine plan, showing them how to "experience he joy of someone who trusts in God ecause the one real cause of sadness and mhappiness for humanity is to live apart rom him," the pope said.

During a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, he pope said God wants all his children o strive for holiness and that "it is ossible for everyone because (holiness) s above all a gift of God more than an ccomplishment of mankind."

The community of saints, the pope said, is "not a small elite caste, but an infinite multitude" of people including anonymous, unknown Christians who "tried with love and fidelity to carry out God's will."

To be holy does not mean having to perform superhuman feats or "possess exceptional charisms"; one simply must serve Jesus by listening to and following him "without losing heart when faced with difficulties," the pope said.

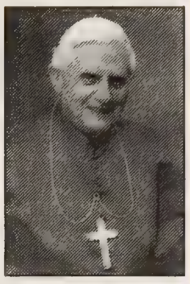
All the saints had their own "way of the cross" to surmount, and holiness always necessitates overcoming some kind of difficulty, the pope said. But nothing "can block the path of the Christian who follows the footsteps of Christ," he said.

Pope Benedict said God never abandons the faithful to "the hostile and unknown forces" of the world; "he takes care of us despite our sins and our ingratitude," and "lovingly always guides and helps us with his heavenly mercy," he said.

Anticipating All Souls' Day Nov. 2, Pope Benedict focused on the Christian concept of eternal life during his Nov. 1 noonday Angelus to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



The eternal life experienced in heaven is "not only a life that lasts forever, but (indicates) a new quality of existence" where one is "fully immersed in God's love" and is freed from evil and death together with all of God's friends, he said.

Perhaps for some, the pope said, eternal life represents an old mythology that no longer has any use in a modern world, but people yearn and reach for "something greater that transcends" themselves.

Confronted with the great mystery of death, many people still hope and wish to find their loved ones in the afterlife, he said.

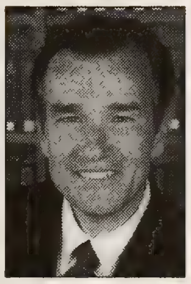
During these days of offering prayers for departed loved ones, the pope asked that people also pray for all departed souls, "especially for the most forgotten and needy."

The Roberts court faces its first abortion challenge

Homicide of partial birth abortion must be stopped

Guest Column

DOUGLAS W.
KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST



As the newly configured Roberts ourt takes up the constitutionality of the ederal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, atholic hope once again is raised that e U.S. Supreme Court "justices" will ccomplish justice.

We have been here before. When I erved President Ronald Reagan as his gal counsel, we asked the court five mes to overturn "Roe v. Wade" in order return the issue to the states. The court efused, but said in reaffirming "Roe" 1992 that the states would retain a critical and legitimate" role in protecting fe from the moment of conception.

In 2000, the state of Nebraska tempted to do just that by banning hat all concede to be the most cruel f abortion procedures — beginning elivery in order to pierce the infant's ull for the purpose of draining out all ance of life. Again the court dug in its dicial heels.

Now it claimed Nebraska's law was gue, might impede other abortion actices and lacked a health exception.

There was nothing vague about ebraska's law. And it is just plain rwellian to hold that a "health" ception is needed for something at overwhelming medical evidence dicates is never necessary to save a oman's life and that, itself, presents nificant health risks.

Well, Congress is nothing if not silient. The national legislature ghtened up the definition of the nned procedure.

A doctor must "deliberately and intentionally" set out to do the "overt act" that he "knows will kill the partially delivered living" child. No doctor can go to jail for accidental behavior or for undertaking other abortion procedures.

And on the issue of a health exception, Congress heard extensive medical testimony in four Congresses, finding the following:

"The procedure [itself] poses serious risks to the health of a woman undergoing" it; "there is no credible evidence" that it is "safe or safer" than other procedures; and even the doctor who developed it concedes it "never to be medically necessary."

Of course, Planned Parenthood has doctors who say the opposite.

But total medical consensus is not the legal standard. If it were, the objection of even a single doctor could defeat any state regulation.

The standard created by the court is whether the ban creates "a significant health risk creating a substantial obstacle for women seeking abortion in a large fraction" of cases. No one has produced evidence of that.

And even if one wants to credit the pro-abortion claims of risk, these hypotheticals pale against the vital interest of banning a practice bordering on infanticide.

Surely the judicially invented abortion right does not mean Congress is entitled to no deference. Laws, after all, are supposed to be products of legislative deliberation.

There is an even more basic point. When "Roe" was argued in the 1970s, one of the most liberal members of the bench, Thurgood Marshall, made clear that actions taken during the childbirth process could not be shielded by abortion.

By definition, Marshall meant, an abortion "terminates a pregnancy," and every common medical dictionary reveals that pregnancy ends with "the onset of the birth process."

What then is the killing of a child in the birth process — a practice Texas law labeled "parturition"?

Here is the transcript from "Roe." Let it speak for itself:

Justice Marshall: What does that [parturition] statute mean?

Texas lawyer: Sir?

Justice Stewart: That it is an offense to kill a child in the process of childbirth?

Texas lawyer: Yes sir. It would be immediately before childbirth or right in the proximity of the child being born.

Justice Marshall: Which is not an abortion.

Texas Lawyer: Which is not — would not be an abortion, yes, sir. You're correct, sir. It would be homicide.

What was a homicide Oct 11, 1972, when "Roe" was argued is a homicide in 2006. Let us pray the new court is honest enough to say so.

CRS's fair trade initiatives assist many here, abroad

Guest Column

JOSEPH PURELLO
GUEST COLUMNIST

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), headquartered in Baltimore, Md., is the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency. During October, CRS joined other international development organizations in celebrating National Fair Trade Month.

Through its Fair Trade initiatives, CRS works overseas to provide assistance to low-income coffee and cocoa farmers and artisans. CRS also supports them by promoting the purchase of CRS Fair Trade items in the United States.

CRS Fair Trade is rooted in the principles of human dignity, economic justice and global solidarity. By ensuring farmers and artisans earn a fair price for their coffee, cocoa and handcrafts, CRS helps them provide for their families, establish businesses, strengthen their communities and build better futures.

CRS Fair Trade also assists farmers and artisans by facilitating their access to credit and technical assistance, thereby helping them survive in a competitive international market. Through promoting and marketing their products, CRS works to establish long-term relationships with the farmers and the artisans who supply items sold in the CRS Work of Human Hands catalogue.

CRS Fair Trade helps producers overseas by assisting in the formation of cooperatives. Long-distance relationships are also established among producers overseas and consumers and shops in the United States.

CRS Divine Fair Trade Chocolate is made using only 100 percent fair-trade certified cocoa grown by the members of Kuapa Kokoo, a cocoa farmers' association in southern Ghana. The farmers own one-third of Day Chocolate, the parent company; sit on its board of directors; share in the profits; and participate in business decisions.

CRS works with more than 300 coffee farmers in Nicaragua and is in the process of building relationships with farmers in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico.

CRS Fair Trade coffee distributors are located in many U.S. cities.

Please consider hosting a CRS Fair Trade sale to sell CRS Fair Trade crafts, coffee and chocolate in your parish, school, office or community. Doing so helps farmers and artisans in many nations and supports CRS programs; you also receive a small portion of the sale for your parish, school or organization.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on CRS Fair Trade, visit www.crsfairtrade.org, or contact Jacqueline DeCarlo at (410) 951-7508 or e-mail jdecarlo@crs.org.

Shrine's Our Lady of La Vang Chapel a gift from Vietnamese-Americans

BY CAROL GRIFFITH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington celebrated Mass and dedicated a chapel to Our Lady of La Vang, the Madonna of Vietnam, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Oct. 21.

The new chapel is a gift from Vietnamese-Americans to the Washington shrine, emphasizing the solidarity between Catholics in the United States and Vietnam. Approximately 5,300 people — from as far away as California, Texas, Mississippi and Massachusetts — attended the ceremony.

The story of Our Lady of La Vang goes back to the 18th century. Beginning about 1798, the emperor of Vietnam, during a period of political upheaval, restricted the practice of Catholicism and persecuted believers.

Catholics fled to the nearby jungle, known as the La Vang region, in central Vietnam. Legend has it that the name "La Vang" derives from the words for "crying out," referring to the sounds the displaced people made while attempting to chase away wild animals or their cries for help.

While in hiding, every night the people gathered at the foot of a large tree to pray the rosary. One night they saw an apparition of a beautiful woman in a native Vietnamese blue and white dress and magnificent cloak, carrying an infant son.

Announcing herself as the mother of God, she consoled the people and promised to receive their prayers. She then gave the Catholics the leaves of a fern to use to treat their physical illnesses as a sign of her loving care.

Mary appeared many times at the same place throughout nearly a century of religious persecution.

Auxiliary Bishop Dominic M. Luong of Orange, Calif., the first Vietnamese-American bishop, gave the homily, sharing his reflections on having recently celebrated Mass at La Vang in Vietnam.

Although 117 Vietnamese martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1988, there were more than 130,000 Vietnamese Catholics martyred for their faith. Therefore, he said, all Vietnamese Catholics are children of the martyrs.

He recalled the words of Our Lady of La Vang when she appeared to the people there: "Your prayers have drawn me to this place. From now on, the prayers of everyone who comes here to pray will be answered."

The chapel was planned as a sign of devotion to, and hope in, Our Lady of La Vang and to express gratitude to the U.S. for taking in many Vietnamese refugees, he said.

On this day, "the Vietnamese church stands hand-in-hand with the American church" in dedicating the chapel," he said.

The chapel contains many symbols of Jesus and Mary and of Vietnamese history.

Behind the altar, a column of red marble holds a pedestal upon which stands a 5-foot statue of Our Lady of La Vang holding the infant Jesus. Each color of the statue is marble obtained from a different part of the world. The crown, headband and a starburst mosaic behind the statue are made of gold leaf. The walls and floor are marble, and the ceiling above the altar is a dark blue mosaic with 24 stars, which represent the hours of the day.

On the walls, a plaque tells the story of the Marian image and two mosaics depict the Vietnamese martyrs and people devoted to Our Lady of La Vang.

HAIL MARY FULL OF GRACE
THE LORD IS WITH THEE

CNS PHOTO BY MATTHEW BARRICK, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

A girl participates in the dedication of Our Lady of La Vang Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Oct. 21. The chapel was a gift from Vietnamese-Americans.

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping -- PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

Month 3
"I grabbed my hand today!"

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte
Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

NOVEMBER 10, 2006 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 16 Nº 5

Perspectives

Helping the poor; positive consequences

| PAGES 14-15

Anniversary couples celebrate sacrament of matrimony

Photo by Karen A. Evans

A couple renews their marriage vows during the diocesan Anniversary Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Nov. 5. Couples celebrating 25th, 50th and other milestone anniversaries were invited to the annual Mass.

BISHOP SAYS THE LORD IS PLACED FIRST IN LASTING MARRIAGES

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — In 50 years of marriage, Frances Sikso only thought of leaving her husband, Andrew, once, but she didn't.

"I had to go get supper," said the parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, laughing at the memory.

The high school sweethearts said communication and patience have been the secrets to their long union.

The Siksos were among 174 couples invited to renew their matrimonial vows during the annual diocesan wedding anniversary Mass and celebration at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Nov. 5.

Gathering together from across the Diocese of Charlotte, 49 couples celebrated 50 years and 125 couples celebrated

See MARRIAGE, page 5

THE CALL TO ACTION

Seminarian hopes to follow in Jesus' footsteps

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — The priestly vocation requires much from those who are called. And for Joseph Kaup, the call to serve came through loud and clear.

"I had 'the call' a lot of people experience," said Kaup, a seminarian for the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"For a long time, I kept denying it. I wasn't sure about not getting married and having a family, but finally I decided to give it a try," he said.

Kaup, 23, of Brevard, heard the call through a variety of channels, including his family, community and encounters during adolescence with two Catholic leaders — Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Pope John Paul II.

See SEMINARIAN, page 7

To build bridges

VATICAN OFFICIALS DOWNPLAY NEW TENSIONS OVER PAPAL TRIP TO TURKEY

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Vatican officials downplayed new tensions over Pope Benedict XVI's planned trip to Turkey in late November, following a shooting incident

See TURKEY, page 6

Building a broader church

Parish celebrates mission with ecumenical service

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission wrapped up its 50th year by paying tribute to its partners in outreach.

Father George Kloster, pastor, thanked God for the parish's many blessings during an Oct. 26 service commemorating the year.

"One of those blessings is to be in this community," Father Kloster said. "The Glenmarys recognized the importance of collaborating with others in the community."

Glenmary Missionary priests were the first resident priests in western mountain communities like Hayesville, Murphy, Andrews and Robbinsville.

Before Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission became a

See MISSION, page 9

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission and Hayesville residents join hands to sing "The Lord's Prayer" during an ecumenical service Oct. 26.

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Around the Diocese

DSA surpasses goal; 'Granny' opens attic for poor

| PAGE 8

Culture Watch

Prayer book for Alzheimer's caregivers; 'Stranger Than Fiction'

| PAGES 10-11

Parish Profile

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission honors Cherokees

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own

HEAVENLY CALLS

CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

Father Paul Bonacci, center, and Deacon Dan Pavlina, left of Father Bonacci, jog down the field as they officiate a football game in Trumansburg, N.Y., in late September. Father Bonacci says players are often caught off guard when they find out what his day job is.

New York priest wields whistle during football season

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Black-and-white attire plays heavily into Father Paul Bonacci's identity — and it's not just his priestly vocation that makes this so.

On autumn Friday nights, Father Bonacci trades in his Roman collar for a striped jersey. In fact, his tenure as a high school football official dates back further than his priesthood.

Father Bonacci, a priest in the Diocese of Rochester, said players are often caught off guard when they learn of his day job. While chatting with them during breaks in the action, he asks if they know certain people from their community — then enjoys watching the double takes when he tells them, "Father Paul said to say 'hi.'"

For 15 years Father Bonacci, 47, has committed his Fridays to officiating games. The season "only goes for a couple of months, but it's a great group of officials I work with, a great camaraderie," he said.

He normally works as an umpire, with his primary responsibility to stand behind the defense and look for holding penalties by offensive linemen. Umpires also judge some passing plays.

It was as an umpire that Father Bonacci enjoyed the highlight of his officiating career last November — working at his first state final, Father Bonacci earned the assignment by virtue of his top-10 ranking among fellow officials.

"Oh my gosh, it was such a thrill," he said of the final. In addition, Father Bonacci has been named a past "official of the year" by the Finger Lakes Chapter of Certified Football Officials and is also a football chaplain.

Yet these lofty credentials don't always insulate him from complaints. One coach protesting a call said he deserved better treatment because he goes to church on Sundays — to which Father Bonacci replied, "Well, go this Sunday and pray for my eyesight."

Then there was the fellow official who lost his beanbag — an item used to mark where the football should be spotted. So Father Bonacci recited a quick prayer to the patron saint of lost items. Sure enough, the beanbag soon reappeared.

Father Bonacci's love of football began as a player in a Vince Lombardi youth league in his native Waterloo. He went on to play for Waterloo High School. While still in high school, he became involved in officials' work through his father, Frank, who would take him along on officials' meetings.

"I think sports are a wonderful thing, especially for our youth," said Father Bonacci. "It helps teach teamwork, discipline and organization. I grew up in sports and believe in sports — not just being on the sidelines, but being in the action. It's awesome."

Along with refereeing duties, Father Bonacci serves as chaplain of the Ithaca Police Department. He said these connections often breed ministerial opportunities that may not otherwise arise.

"I've gotten questions about God and Catholicism, made appointments to talk about issues. I've gotten baptisms, weddings and funerals out of it," he said, adding that his presence in public venues sends out a key message to youths about vocations.

"Entering into religious life or the diaconate doesn't separate you from the world," he told the Catholic Courier, Rochester's diocesan newspaper. "A lot of people have the image of a priest locked away in his closet, praying. But Jesus walked among his people."

AROUND THE WORLD

Pope buys first bond supporting children's immunizations

LONDON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI was the official first buyer of a $1,000 bond supporting a campaign to immunize 500 million children in the world's poorest countries.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, picked up the pope's $1,000 bond during a Nov. 7 ceremony in London.

Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, U2 singer Bono, singer-activist Bob Geldof and leaders of Britain's Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities also participated in the ceremony and purchased bonds from the International Finance Facility for Immunization.

The finance facility is supported by the governments of Great Britain, France, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Spain, South Africa and Brazil and by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Cardinal Martino said the pope "is pleased to help light the way for others who might also wish to join him in empowering those living in poverty to take an active role in providing themselves and their family the opportunity to build a better life."

"It is the hope of Pope Benedict that the participation by the church in this program will help to inspire others to take the step toward concrete action," he said.

The launch of the bonds will ensure that the GAVI Alliance will have long-term, predictable funding to immunize children and improve health care in the world's poorest countries and promote the development of new vaccines.

The alliance has estimated that its current funding will help prevent the deaths of 1.5 million children between 2006 and 2015; the bond funding will help prevent an additional 5 million child deaths from diseases that can be prevented by immunization.

Every year up to 3 million children die from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines that are available now or could be in the near future.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love,* a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for Nov. 18 will be "The Church's Mt. St. Helen's — Humanae Vitae." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Janice Olive will facilitate a program for adults concerning *"The Death of a Parent in Adulthood,"* Nov. 16, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The loss of a parent as an adult is the single most common form of bereavement. This program is for those who have lost a parent or minister to the bereaved. For more information, call (704) 364-5431.

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., is sponsoring an *"Internet Safety"* program for parents Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the worship space. Experts from the FBI and Catholic Social Services will provide parents with insights into specific dangers associated with their child on the internet and practical tips that each parent can use in assuring their child's safety. For information contact (704) 948-1306. ext 104.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church* will have an informational meeting on the Eastern Rite Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. A liturgy will follow at 11 a.m. These are open to anyone who would like to attend or learn more about the Eastern Rite For more information, please contact Deacon Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — The *Society of Mary and Martha* meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, call Peggy Pohlheber at (704) 588-7311.

CHARLOTTE — *Healing Hearts*, a support group for people coping with the death of a spouse, meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Rd. For more information, contact Sister Therese Galligan, facilitator, at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., will host a *free Thanksgiving Celebration* Nov. 23 12-3 p.m. in the parish center. Family and friends are all invited for food and fellowship. Transportation is available for those needing rides. Meals will be delivered to those who cannot attend. Call the church office at (704) 867-6212 for details.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of Seeing Everyone Again* (HOSEA), a program to invite Catholics who have distanced themselves from the Catholic Church to return. This small group meets

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

NOV. 10, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 5

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

IN OUR NATION

Group wants eBay to enforce ban that would prohibit sale of sacred relics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A California group is advocating a boycott of eBay unless the online auction house enforces its own rules against selling body parts to prohibit the sale of saints' relics.

"They've had opportunities to stop the sales, and they don't even enforce their own regulations," said Tom Serafin, founder and president of the International Crusade for Holy Relics.

According to Serafin, even a "cursory search" of the popular site will turn up dozens of relics "often purporting to be the bones of saints" for sale.

Catherine England, an eBay spokeswoman, told the Florida Catholic Nov. 6 that the auction site is aware of the organized boycott and that officials from eBay have had conversations with representatives from the International Crusade for Holy Relics in the past, but not recently and so were surprised at the boycott call.

England said eBay does enforce its policies against selling certain human body parts such as bones and organs, but that other items that are legal to buy and sell in the United States are allowed to be sold on the site.

Some relics are fraudulent — Serafin said he once saw an offer that included "a feather from the Holy Spirit" — but for verifiable relics there are "people who rescue them and bring them back to the church."

The sale of sacred relics is "absolutely forbidden," according to Canon 1190 of the Code of Canon Law.

"The relics of saints cannot be bought or sold," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte. "There is no dollar figure that can adequately value the sacred bodies of the saints."

Bishops' president joins other faith leaders in condemning torture

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that "the soul of our nation" is at stake, the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other religious leaders have called for an end to the use of torture and inhumane treatment of prisoners.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., was among leaders joining in a statement coordinated by the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

"Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions hold dear," the statement said. "It degrades everyone involved — policymakers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished values."

Signers of the statement included Jewish, Muslim, Orthodox and other Christian leaders.

"Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable," they said. "Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation.

"What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed?" the statement said. "Let America abolish torture now — without exceptions."

Although Bishop Skylstad was the only Catholic signer of the statement made public Nov. 2, other Catholic organizations have signed on to the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Participating members, with representatives on the campaign's coordinating committee, include the Holy Name Province of the Franciscan Friars, Pax Christi USA and the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.

Endorsing members include the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, U.S. Catholic Mission Association, New York province of the Jesuits and all three branches of the Maryknoll family - Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Lay Missioners and Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic.

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., Nov. 14-Dec. 19, to discuss various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — All Irish-Catholic women are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. A representative from the Greensboro Police Department will speak on "Safety during your holiday shopping." Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Giff at (336) 855-7014.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* announces its annual Memorial Mass for its deceased members, relatives and friends Nov. 15 at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The 11 a.m. Mass will be followed by lunch. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Sister Carey D'Agostino, will present "Youth Ministry: Who's ministering to whom?" Nov. 15. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Maryann Tyrer will speak about "Catholic Moral Theology" Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. For more

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

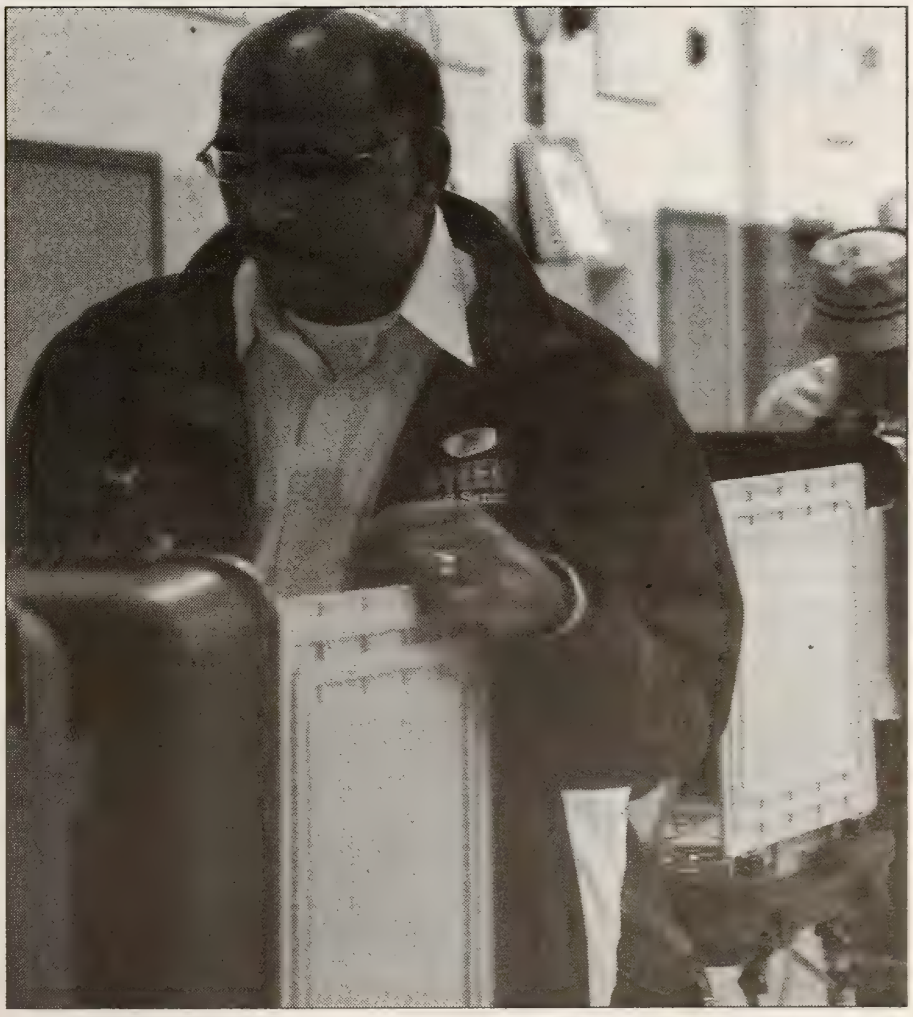
Nov. 11 – 16
USCCB General Meeting
Baltimore, MD

Nov. 18 — 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Saint Matthew Church, Charlotte

Nov. 26
50th Anniversary Celebration Mass
Archdiocese of Atlanta

Nov. 29
Aniversary Mass for the Dedication of the Cathedral
Richmond, VA

Casting a vote for change



CNS PHOTO BY JONATHAN ERNST, REUTERS

Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, a Catholic Republican running for U.S. senator, votes at his polling place during midterm elections in Upper Marlboro, Md., Nov. 7. Steele was the first African-American elected to a statewide office in Maryland history. He was defeated by Democratic candidate Benjamin Cardin, currently a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Correction

In the Nov. 3 issue, the story "Making good in the neighborhood: CCHD encourages advocacy efforts," it was stated that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development advocates for domestic and international anti-poverty efforts. The CCHD is the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, working to break the cycle of poverty in the United States.

Creating opportunities

Refugee office receives BB&T grant

CHARLOTTE — The Refugee Employment Services Office of Catholic Social Services recently received a grant from the BB&T Charitable Foundation.

The $26,232 grant will be used to hire additional staff to reach out to local employers who are willing to hire refugees.

Employment assistance is part of the comprehensive resettlement services offered by Catholic Social Services. Since 1979, CSS has resettled more than 9,000 refugees in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Refugees enter the United States legally to escape religious or political oppression in their countries of origin. Refugees receive CSS' resettlement services without regard to their religious affiliations.

Since 1998, BB&T, a Winston-Salem-based bank, has hired refugees at its regional operations center in Charlotte.

"This is a win-win-win situation for us, for the refugees and for the refugee office," said Mike Rearden, a senior vice-president with the bank.

"We have hired more than 40 refugees, each of whom has a high commitment to performance and excellence," he said.

Cira Ponce, CSS' Refugee Resettlement Office director, said the office was grateful to the BB&T Foundation.

"They are a wonderful community partner, and this grant money will greatly enhance our ability to serve refugees eager to support themselves and their families in their new home," she said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office, visit www.cssnc.org/refugee.html, or call (704) 370-3277.

PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Mike Rearden (right), a senior vice president with BB&T in Charlotte, is pictured with Vyacheslav Fedko, Mikhail Priyemskiy and Alexsey Priyemskiy, three new employees and refugees from the former Soviet Union. The refugees found their jobs through Catholic Social Services' Refugee Employment Services Office.

100 faithful years

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Dale Grubba, a priest from Wisconsin, celebrates a special birthday Mass for his friend, Katherine "Kittie" Allison, who celebrated her 100th birthday at the Little Flower Assisted Living residence in Charlotte Oct. 12.

A native of Park Ridge, N.J., Allison, a lifelong Catholic, gave birth to 13 children, five of whom died (three in infancy, one as a teen from cystic fibrosis, one as an adult from cancer). Among her eight surviving children are Bobby and Donnie Allison, original members of NASCAR's "Alabama Gang."

Allison has 25 grandchildren (22 living), 34 great-grandchildren and her first great-great-grandchild is due in early 2007.

She has lived at Little Flower since July 2003 and attends Mass in its chapel.

Everything you need for a great meeting!

The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

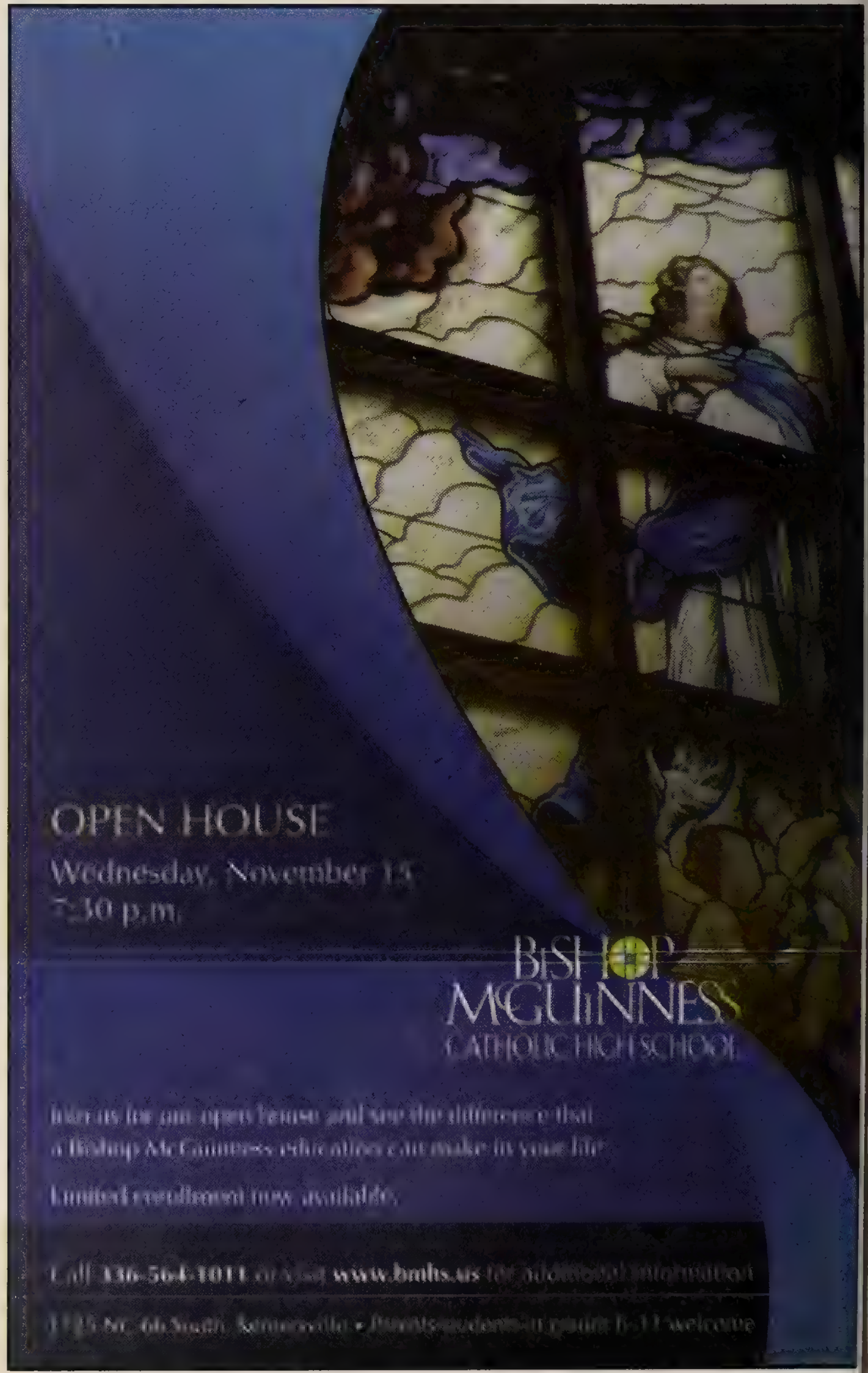


Photo by Karen A. Evans

A couple kisses after renewing their wedding vows during the Anniversary Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Nov. 5.

Marriages honored at Mass

MARRIAGE, *from page 1*

25 years of marriage this year. Other couples celebrated more than 40 and 50 years of marriage.

One couple, Harry and Martha Barnhardt of St. Joseph Mission in Kannapolis, celebrated 65 years of marriage; two couples, Edwin and Kitty Shaver and Bobby and June Williams also of St. Joseph Mission, celebrated 61 years of marriage.

In his homily, Bishop Peter J. Jugis said couples must place God first in their relationships in order to have successful marriages.

"You have opened your hearts to Jesus, and allowed him to be a part of your marriage, and he has been faithful to you," he said.

"Because Our Lord has been a part of your marriage, you are able today to give thanks to him for blessings he has given to you, despite some crosses that also may have come to you along the way," he said.

Bishop Jugis recalled how God always was placed first in his own family.

"Sunday always was family day, beginning first with Mass, and the rest of the day would be spent together as family, either at home or on an outing," he said. "Even during the week, connection to the Church and to our spiritual life was important. Jesus was invited to stay a part of our home."

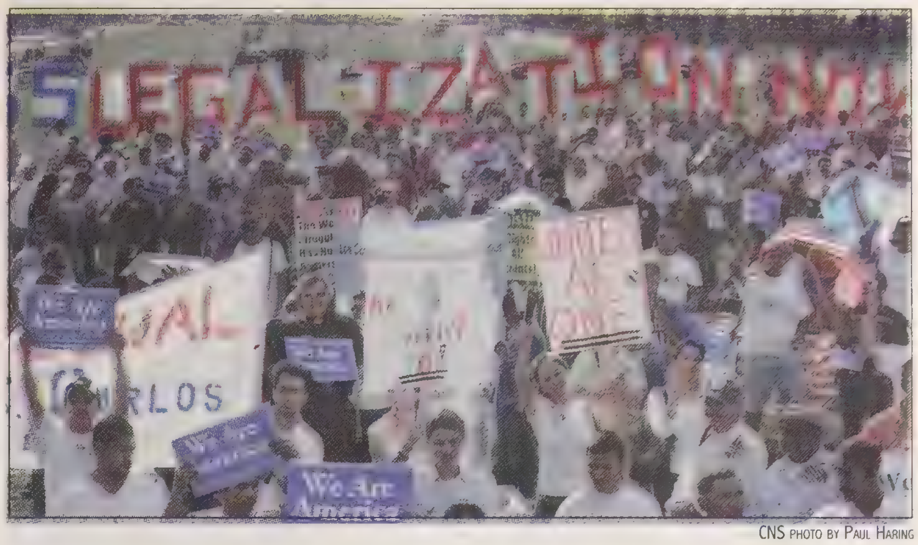
"Marriage is not always easy, but the couples' commitments to one another and to God have helped them endure," said Gerard Carter, director of the diocesan Catholic Social Services' Family Life Office, which organizes the celebration.

"I never gave a thought to leaving," said Sally Ballard, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Newton. "I figured we were married and it was for life."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

It's news and
inspiration about
the Diocese of Charlotte!
New Feature:
"The Seminarians"
Subscribe today
— it's FREE!
Check it out at
www.CharlotteDiocese.org.
docPod

RALLYING FOR REFORM



CNS photo by Paul Haring

Signs call for the legalization of undocumented immigrants during a pro-immigration rally in Washington Sept. 7. Bishop Jugis has named Father Shawn O'Neal to be the diocesan contact person for the Bishops' Campaign for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, "Justice for Immigrants."

Bishop names diocesan contact for immigration reform

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Jugis has named Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee, to be the diocesan contact person for the Bishops' Campaign for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, "Justice for Immigrants."

In June 2004, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee (USCCB) on Migration and The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., board of directors resolved to make comprehensive immigration reform, with special emphasis on legalization, a major public policy priority within the Catholic Church.

As part of the church's response, a diverse group of Catholic organizations joined the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope campaign designed to unite and mobilize a growing network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good faith in support of a broad legalization program and comprehensive immigration reform.

In January 2003, U.S. and Mexican Catholic bishops issued a pastoral letter entitled "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope."

In it, the bishops called for a "globalization of solidarity" and an overhaul of the U.S. immigration system.

Additionally, the bishops recognized that the conditions that compel people to leave their homes — desperation and lack of opportunities to provide for themselves and their families — must be addressed if an effective response to migration is to be achieved.

The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform aims to reduce poverty through trade, aid and debt reforms. The campaign also aims to reach beyond the networks of the participating national agencies, and to enlist the support of Catholic individuals and institutions in dioceses throughout the country.

CFCC
Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Come eat, shop and have fun at
ST. LUKE CHRISTMAS CRAFT BAZAAR
Saturday, Nov. 18th 8 am until 2 pm
Handmade gifts and treasures featured
by more than 50 artists and craftsmen!
AND St. Louis BBQ (11 am - 8 pm) eat-in or
take-out - featuring grilled pork steaks, burgers, and brats!
13700 Lawyers Road, Charlotte Info: (704)841-1372

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Turkish police officers stand outside the Italian Consulate as they talk to consulate security personnel in Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 2. Police arrested a 26-year-old man who fired three shots in the air outside the consulate in protest of Pope Benedict XVI's planned visit to Turkey.

Papal visit to Turkey intended to build bridges

TURKEY, *from page 1*

and an apparent political snub.

Police arrested a 26-year-old man who fired three shots in the air outside the Italian Consulate in Istanbul Nov. 2 in protest of the papal visit. After firing, he threw his gun into the garden of the consulate grounds.

Turkish media quoted the man, Ibrahim Ak, as saying he would kill the pope if he had a chance, and that he hoped his gesture would inspire similar acts of protest.

As he awaited questioning by anti-terrorist officials at a local police station, Ak told a Turkish news agency: "I did what every Muslim has to do. God willing, the pope will not come to Turkey, but if he does he will see what will happen to him.

"I will shoot at the head of anyone who calls the Prophet a terrorist," Ak said.

He was apparently referring to a recent papal speech in Regensburg, Germany. In it, the pope quoted a medieval emperor's remark that the founder of Islam, the prophet Mohammed, had brought "things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith."

The pope later made clear he did not agree with the emperor's assessment and said he was sorry that Muslims had taken offense.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, played down the shooting incident, saying it was unfortunate but that it would not affect planning for the Nov. 28-Dec. 1 visit.

"The Holy Father is going to Ankara and Istanbul to build bridges, and I think this episode is completely marginal. It will not jeopardize the serene preparation of the visit," the Vatican spokesman said.

Earlier, Father Lombardi issued a statement downplaying the news that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan would be out of the country and unable to meet with the pope when the pontiff visits the capital, Ankara.

It is unusual that a head of government would not be present to welcome the pope on a foreign visit; Italian newspapers had described it as a serious political rebuff to the pope.

But Father Lombardi said the Vatican had been aware of the scheduling conflict for some time and understood that there was no guarantee of a meeting with the prime minister.

Erdogan will be attending a NATO summit with U.S. President George W. Bush in Latvia Nov. 28-29, when the pope plans to visit the capital, Ankara, and meet with government officials.

The prime minister's spokesman said Erdogan would be back in Turkey Nov. 30, when the pope will be in Istanbul for ecumenical meetings. Although Erdogan was to preside over a government meeting that day, the spokesman did not completely rule out a meeting with the pope if time can be found.

Erdogan had been highly critical of the pope's Regensburg speech, and had said that when the pope arrived in Turkey President Ahmet Necdet Sezer would "say the necessary things" in response to the pope's comments on Islam.

Sezer and other top government officials are scheduled to meet with the pope shortly after his arrival in Ankara.

Pope asks young people to be messengers of peace

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI asked a group of young people from different religious traditions to be messengers and witnesses of peace, tolerance and dialogue.

Speaking Nov. 8 during his weekly general audience, the pope offered special greetings to 90 young people from 29 countries at the end of their five-day conference on dialogue and peacemaking.

The young people, representing 13 religions, had met in Assisi, Italy, at the invitation of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Pope Benedict told the young people that the world needs prayers for peace.

"Genuine prayer transforms hearts, opens us to dialogue, understanding and reconciliation," he said. "It breaks down the walls erected by violence, hatred and revenge."

The pope asked the young people to return to their own religious communities "as witnesses to the spirit of Assisi, messengers of the peace which is God's gracious gift and living signs of hope for our world."

Zeynep Ozbek, 24, a Muslim participant from Istanbul, said she thought it was important for the Vatican to convoke young people to discuss faith and peacemaking because "young people are more open to different ideas, to differences, and they have more hope for the future."

Ozbek and three other Muslim participants at the Assisi meeting are studying Christianity and dialogue at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. Their studies are supported by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

French Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the council, told the young people that a willingness to dialogue is a sign of spiritual maturity.

Ozbek told Catholic News Service she agreed with the cardinal: "I think being spiritually mature means being at peace with yourself, your faith and your God. If you do not have a good relationship with God, you cannot be at peace with others."

The fact that the conference left ample time for prayer was important, she said.

"The spiritual side of our religions gives us common ground," she added. "Peace and justice are the basic principles of all religions."

Ozbek said the fact that the conference was held is a positive and reassuring sign.

"It affirmed for me the good intentions of the Catholic Church in dialogue," she said. "After the death of Pope John Paul II, many Muslims thought the dialogue would be frozen, but this (conference) confirms Pope Benedict's intentions."

On the other side, she said, "our responsibility as young Muslims is to make practical efforts at dialogue from the Muslim side."

Jean Nicolas Nammour, a 25-year-old Maronite Catholic from Lebanon, said the key to peacemaking is simple.

"We do not have to change the world first," he said. We have to change ourselves. Others will see this and follow our example. This is how we build peace every day."

Jan Horyna, a 26-year-old board member of the European Union of Jewish Students, said, "The basic thing you need for dialogue is tolerance."

Horyna, who lives in Prague, Czech Republic, said that in Europe and other Western societies it probably is time to start dialoguing with atheists and secularists, because they have the least tolerance for religion.

He also said that while interreligious dialogue is important, peace is impossible without political action to defend human rights and prevent discrimination.

"Most problems and conflicts are not religious, but religion is used as an easy tool to promote political agendas," he said. "Peace is not just a religious thing; it's also political."

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING
A.V. ROOFING
BBB Member Southern Piedmont Charlotte
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

www.andersonfamilymed.com
Anderson Family Medicine
...*Healthcare with a heart.*
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte
HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 a 00 pm, (by appt.)
704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

Seminarian answers call to priesthood

SEMINARIAN, *from page 1*

During his youth, while living with his father's family in Stewart, Neb., Kaup saw firsthand the impact of heeding God's call to service.

"The family includes nuns, priests and archbishops. It seemed like I was always in the church or in the rectory," he said.

Currently he spends time at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, participating in a number of parish activities, such as teaching altar servers and collecting for the Knights of Columbus, who support him with a stipend during his time as a seminarian.

A memorable moment in Kaup's early faith journey was attending Mother Teresa's visit to the Charlotte Coliseum in June 1995. And it was an encounter at age 15 with then-Bishop William G. Curlin that also made an impression on Kaup.

"I thought he was a cool guy. Nothing fancy, just a really down-to-earth man despite being a priest and bishop," said Kaup.

A second meeting between the two resulted in even greater respect, as well as a message from the bishop that encouraged the budding thoughts of the priesthood.

"I was asked to be master of ceremonies for the dedication of the parish life center annex at Sacred Heart, and Bishop Curlin was going to be there," said Kaup. "I was supposed to tell the servers what to do and I was terrified."

At the end of the Mass, Bishop Curlin asked to see him, and Kaup was afraid he had done something wrong.

"He asked for my hand and I put both hands out palms up. He said to just give him my left hand and he took off the bishop's ring and placed it on my finger," recalled Kaup.

Then Bishop Curlin told him, "Another bishop did this with me when I was about your age, and look what happened."

While attending World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada, in 2002, Kaup was invited to join a contingency that would meet Pope John Paul II's plane.

"You could tell he was really sick, but when he met with the kids, he left all the disease, all the illness behind," said Kaup.

The way the pope interacted with the youths reminded Kaup of Mother Teresa, who moved away from her bodyguards at the Charlotte Coliseum to enter the crowds and be with the people who came to see her.

The experience of the events magnified a building desire in Kaup.

"At World Youth Day I realized I wanted to serve people more," he said.

Kaup worked for several years with theatre groups and found the example of Pope John Paul, who had combined his love for theatre with his ministry, to be an example of using all the talents God provides within the priesthood.

"You don't have to give up who you are to follow the vocation," said Kaup.

Kaup is currently studying at the Priests of the Sacred Heart's seminary in Chicago. He chose the congregation because it will allow him to serve at a Sioux school in Chamberlain, S.D., about 100 miles north of his "second home" in Stewart.

"I want to be a mentor, a spiritual director for the children. The people are more Catholic than any other religion there," said Kaup.

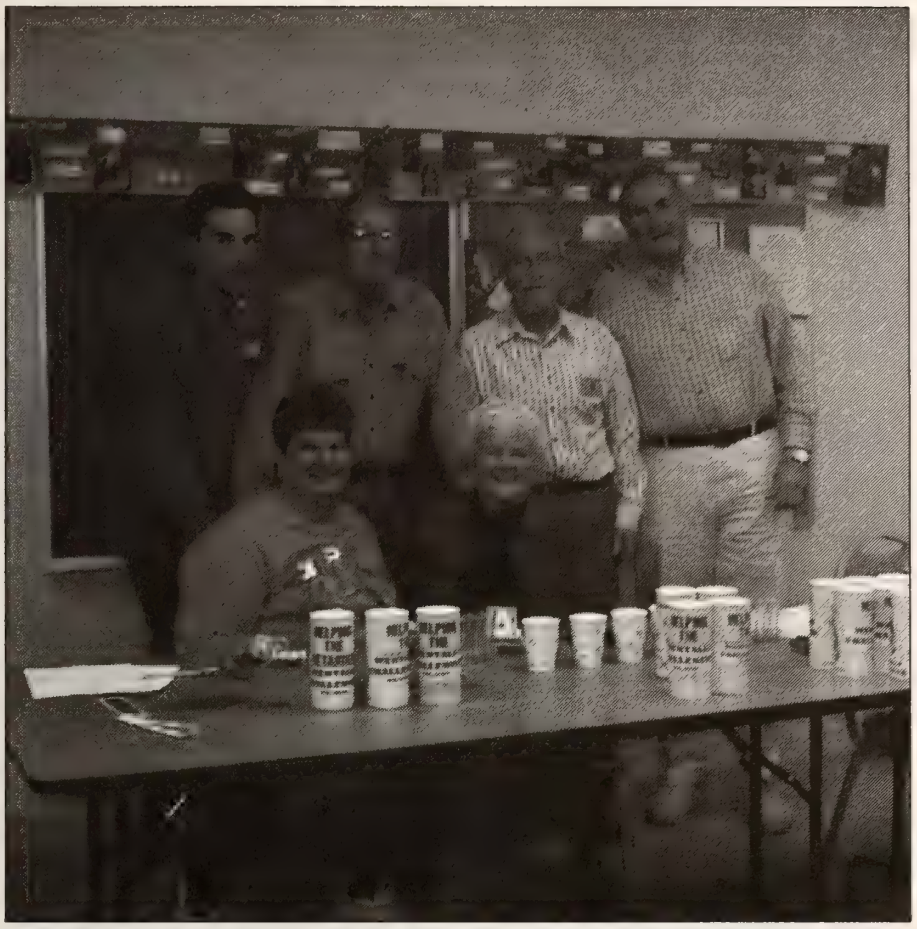


Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Seminarian Joe Kaup (back row, left) is pictured with Knights of Columbus and parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard during the Knights' Operation L.A.M.B. drive at the parish Oct. 21.

Concerned about the high suicide rate among the Sioux, Kaup said he hopes "to help prevent suicide, work with the children to deal with the cultural issues."

Answering the call to the priesthood requires courage and conviction, said Kaup.

"You always ask 'what if?,' but I need to help people in a way you can only when you are ordained," he said. "I don't want to serve 'behind the collar'; I want to be personal with people."

Kaup hopes to touch the lives of others and walk in the footsteps of Jesus, wherever they lead.

"Jesus is my brother, father, beyond-best friend. He is somebody to talk to about problems, about everything. He is a true, loving parent," said Kaup.

Contact Correspondent Kathleen Schmieder by calling (828) 699-0747 or e-mail kathleen@trinity-communications.com.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

SAVE $200 on Closing Costs
End of Year Special
Save when you mention this ad

Your Trusted Mortgage Advisor
Call Jayne McGonnell
Mortgage Loan Originator
(704) 516-9682
jmcgonnell@cimginc.com
Parishioner – St. Thomas Aquinas
Equal Housing Lender

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

maryimmaculata.com
IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

FULLY STOCKED AND READY FOR FALL!

We're brimming over with the latest in Catholic books, new Bible study materials, spiritual gifts for special occasions, Bibles, artwork, rosaries – a wide inventory awaits you at both locations!

704-655-9090
19905 W. Catawba Ave., #106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28
(Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off all purchases of $35 or more. Present coupon.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 11/30/06

Diocesan Support Appeal surpasses $4.1 million goal

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE—The 2006 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) has surpassed its goal and may reach nearly $4.5 million, according to Barbara Gaddy, associate director of diocesan development.

The goal for the 2006 DSA campaign was $4.1 million. Gaddy said $4,168,347 had been collected as of Nov. 6, with total pledges reaching $4,448,072.

"Being over our goal indicates that more people are embracing stewardship as a way of life looking beyond the needs of their own parishes," Gaddy said.

More than 19,000 people within the Diocese of Charlotte have contributed to the DSA — an increase of nearly 1,000 over last year.

"What pleases me most is that more people are realizing that the appeal is a way of being good stewards of their treasure within the diocesan church, not just within their own parishes," Gaddy said.

Sixty parishes and missions have surpassed their goals in pledges, and 46 of those have reached their goals in actual contributions.

All funds collected over and above assessed goals are returned to the parishes for their own use, Gaddy said.

"One of the reasons we have a strong DSA is due to a true team approach," Gaddy said. "Those ministries that benefit directly from the appeal work closely with the development office in promoting the many ways they help others throughout the diocese."

"The increased number of donors is affirmation of the great work that is being done by 30 educational, vocational, multicultural and Catholic Social Services ministries," said Gaddy.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more about the Diocesan Support Appeal, visit www.charlottediocese.org or call Barbara Gaddy at (704) 370-3302.

'Granny' shares Christian spirit with others

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — Granny's Attic is just one example of an ecumenical ministry in Clay County. It was among 16 recipients of "Standing Ovation" awards at an ecumenical service at Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission Oct. 26.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina jointly own the 32-apartment facility for low-income elderly.

Granny's Attic has never actually been an attic, but it is a place where those in need can find clothing.

Around 1971, "Grandma" Marie Hansbauer moved to Murphy, where she became a parishioner of St. William Church. Retired from nursing at age 74, Hansbauer had promised to become a missionary if Jesus would "find a wife for her son." The son married and Granny kept her word.

According to Glenmary Father Robert Bond's 1982 article in The Glenmary Challenge magazine, Glenmary Father Roland Hautz, then pastor of St. William Church, asked Hansbauer "to take charge of the rummage at his mission in Hayesville."

After changing "rummage locations seven times — twice because local people did not want Catholics in the building," she finally found a place.

Neighbors suggested she use her basement, and her landlady agreed.

In addition to the rummage sales, Granny held Christmas parties for poor children.

Father Bond noted in his article: "Less visible ministries, but by no means less valuable, include sheltering, in her own home, alcoholics, battered spouses and unwed mothers. Two of the alcoholics haven't had a drink for years.

"While pastor at Boone, I called on her in 1971 to take in a pregnant teenager. It was her first, but not her last, experience of caring for and counseling an unwed mother-to-be."

Granny's willingness to help the poor gained acceptance for her and for other Catholics, as Father Bond further noted:

"A ... preacher told her: 'Grandma, I have learned so much from you. You have been a beautiful witness for the Catholics about whom I knew nothing and whom I didn't like.'"

"The other observation came from a woman who told Grandma about her husband's testimony at a ... worship service: 'I met a woman who changed my whole life and way of thinking. Every one of you ought to meet her, and she's Catholic.'"

Father Bond wrote that Granny Hansbauer "never changed her lifestyle of caring for others."

Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission and its partners in ministry continue Granny's tradition of service.

Other organizations receiving "Standing Ovations" were Coalition for a Drug Free Clay County, Far West Families First, REACH, Hands of Hope/Communities in School, Meals on Wheels, Hayesville Civitan Club, United Way of Clay County, Clay County Food Pantry, Hinton Rural Life Center, Clay County Ministerial Association, Good Shepherd Hospice, Glay County Department of Social Services, Clay County Health Department, and Clay County Schools.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

At a reception in Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission's fellowship hall following an Oct. 26 ecumenical service, Bishop Peter J. Jugis chats with parishioners Anthony El-Khouri (left) and his father, Joseph.

✝ St. Vincent de Paul Women's Guild
HOLIDAY FASHION & GIFT SHOW
Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 PM
St. Vincent de Paul Church
6828 Old Reid Road Charlotte
Great Food
Door Prizes
$5.00
per person
Open to Ladies of the Diocese
Holiday fashion....Thanksgiving to New Years
Early Bird Shopping - Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Specialty Gifts Jewelry Christmas Collectibles
Fashions by
Dress Barn/Dress Barn Woman
Advance Tickets/ Information: Peggy Gibbons 704/588-5870

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!
St. Ann Catholic Elementary School's
50th Anniversary
November 18th - 4:30 pm Mass and Reception
St. Ann School
St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in Charlotte invites all former students and their families to join with us and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school, which opened in 1956.
Visit with former teachers, principals and special members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who will be returning to celebrate with us.
Mass will be at 4:30 pm at St. Ann Church, followed by a reception in the school.
Please register or for info: PTO co-presidents Lori (Kobsik) Thompson or Kimberlee (Crisp) Shukes at www.stannscatholicschool.com.
St. Ann Catholic School —
We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

Immaculate Heart of Mary celebrates 50 years

MISSION, *from page 1*

parish, Glenmary priests celebrated Mass in a tobacco barn in the late 1950s, then in a small house; after that in a motel that is now the Sister John Center.

In May and July 2006, parishioners visited those early sites to hear firsthand ccounts of Mass there.

The second part of the 50th-nniversary celebration took place in July, when former and current parishioners nd Glenmary Fathers Joe Dean (the first resident pastor) and Robert Bond gathered at the church (built in 1984) for homecoming Mass and reception.

On Oct. 26, parishioners and friends from the community celebrated together n an ecumenical service rather than a Mass.

"What a wonderful occasion and celebration of the hopes and the dreams hat we share in faith and fellowship n our ministries," said Methodist Rev. Rufus Stark, chairman of the board of Hinton Rural Life Center during the eception following the service.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission's ocus is involvement in the wider ommunity.

"We believe we limit ourselves if we try to do it ourselves; we limit our esources," Father Kloster said. "That's why we're so grateful for the other gencies with whom we collaborate."

During the service, Bishop Peter . Jugis presented "Standing Ovation" wards to 16 community organizations hat work with Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission. Parishioner Jim Magistro reated the wood-and-metal trophies: e word "ovation" standing on its side above the recipient's name.

After Bishop Jugis offered the service's opening prayer, Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin, of Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission, and Theresa Waldroup, of Hands of Home/Communities in School, did the readings; Rev. John Rice, rector of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Hayesville, read the Gospel passage.

Memory and identity

Dr. Fred Craddock, Bandy distinguished professor of preaching and New Testament emeritus at Candler School of Theology at Emory University, preached the homily.

"This is remarkable," he said of the ecumenical service. "A few years ago this would not have happened, here or anywhere else. Be persistent in caring for the community, and we have an evening like this."

He spoke of how communication overcomes barriers.

In the 1950s, as Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission was growing, Craddock was assigned to rural Tennessee.

A nurse with two young children arrived in his community. She had committed two "sins," Craddock said: she was from New York and she was a Roman Catholic.

One day when she was away from home, ruffians shot up her house — not to injure her but to make it clear that she was unwelcome in their community. The nurse asked to meet with the perpetrators. They talked, she forgave them and she was soon teaching their children.

Craddock also spoke on the importance of remembering where we come from and keeping those memories alive.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Judith Alvarado, executive director of REACH of Clay County, receives a "Standing Ovation" award from Bishop Peter J. Jugis during a service at Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission in Hayesville Oct. 26.

"It's by remembering that we keep our identity," he said. "Memory is so extremely vital to life. It is by memory that one is constituted a member of a community of faith."

Memory includes knowing the history of your faith and civic community, he said.

"If you can remember no further back than your parents, you are an orphan," said Craddock.

Jesus, Craddock said, knew the importance of memory: "'Do this in remembrance of me' is [literally or figuratively] on every altar in every church."

Witnesses to Jesus

The "ability to continue to give, to serve the poor ... comes from our union with Jesus," Bishop Jugis said in the service's closing remarks. "We live for Jesus. Our evidence of living for Jesus is in our schools and in our communities."

He thanked Father Kloster, the parishioners and Hayesville residents "for the marvelous witness to Jesus Christ that you give to this community."

"It's really a warm, caring, giving parish," said Lorraine Klug, who is on the board of the Clay County Food Pantry.

She and her husband, William, "have never felt as needed as we are here, and we give Father George a lot of credit for that," she said. "He encourages us to go out into the community, not just our own parish, and the community really responds to him."

"All people in the community have to do is ask and we're there," said Pasquale Danna, a member of the parish council. "It feels so good in helping someone and doing something."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

You could be singing too after more than 135,000 readers see YOUR company's ad here!

***LOW ad rates** - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!
or ckfoerick@charlottediocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings,

Prayer book published for those caring for Alzheimer's patients

BY DAVE JOLIVET
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NORTH EASTON, Mass. — Nearly 5 million U.S. families experience the pain and frustration of caring for and about an Alzheimer's patient in their families.

The condition is one of the least understood and most exasperating diseases faced by the elderly and those who love them.

For this reason, Holy Cross Family Ministries has published a prayerful guide to help patients and family members live with Alzheimer's disease. "Pray With Me Still" contains rosary meditations and spiritual support for patients, family members and caregivers.

"We've been working on this publication for some time," said Holy Cross Father John Phalen, president of Holy Cross Family Ministries.

"Oftentimes Alzheimer's patients and their families don't know where to look for help. These meditations and rosary mysteries help people to understand the disease better," he said.

Father Phalen knows firsthand what the affliction can do to a patient, his or her family and those who care for them. His father was diagnosed with the disease and he and his siblings experienced the changes and heartbreaks that go along with the condition.

"Many people become fearful when a loved one has Alzheimer's," Father Phalen said. "They're afraid they will be cut out of that person's life. Their mom or dad no longer recognizes them and the family members can feel disconnected.

"But it's very important for people to realize that they can still have a relationship with their loved one. They can still visit and sit with them and tell them what the relationship is," he said.

The book stresses that praying with an Alzheimer's patient has many benefits for everyone involved. The disease often takes the patient away from the present, but the past is still deeply imbedded in them.

"A prayer like the rosary is very helpful," said Father Phalen. "The Our Father and the Hail Mary are often two of the first prayers a person learns as a young child."

Reciting the rosary can take patients back to that time and provide them with comfort.

"The rosary is known to lower blood pressure in people and it can provide a calming effect with Alzheimer's patients," he said. "It helps people know that God is still with them."

Father Phalen shares some of his family's journey in the book. Also contributing was Beth Mahoney, mission director at Holy Cross Family Ministries.

Mahoney wrote the preface and offers insights into how Scripture can provide comfort and strength to the people involved. She also wrote rosary meditations for loved ones and patients to pray together.

"Prayer is a big aid for patients and family," Mahoney said. "It's one area that the patient can really relate to. There is a tremendous need for families to pray together.

"With the disease often comes a loss for words and awkwardness, and prayer and Scripture can provide comfort. The rosary is rhythmic and repetitive, often bringing calm and tender moments of shared prayer," she said.

Holy Cross Family Ministries also sought input from a psychologist, Father John Malecki from the Diocese of Albany, N.Y., who counsels and prays with Alzheimer's patients and families.

To help the reader understand what Alzheimer's patients experience, Father Malecki added poignant case studies of three individuals.

Mahoney wrote, "Many seemingly nonsensical words may tumble out" from Alzheimer's patients' speech.

"The challenge is for the family member, friend, or caregiver to 'listen to my soul,' as one frustrated patient instructed Father Malecki."

"I'm so pleased with how the book came out," said Father Phalen. "Many people who have bought it have told me what a great source of comfort it is to them and the patient."

Also in the book's 64 pages are an explanation of how to pray the rosary and references for other related publications and resources for more information on the disease.

"Our message is: Keep praying with those who suffer from Alzheimer's," wrote Father Phalen. "Even if they do not know your name or remember all the words of the prayers, they know God's name and they continue to experience an ever-growing need for God."

Retirement isn't what it used to be. PLAN accordingly.

Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church

100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397

http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

© 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 19, 2006

Nov. 19, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:

1) Daniel 12:1-3
Psalms 16:5, 8-11
2) Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
3) Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Using your gifts to serve to others

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A few years ago, America magazine published an article that raised the question of how many Catholics, Protestants, and men and women of good will made the heroic choice to shelter Jews from the Nazi Holocaust. The question was phrased something like "A half million Schindlers?" referring to the well-known story of German industrialist Oskar Schindler's acts and reflecting the estimate some scholars make of the numbers of rescuers.

The Scripture reading from Daniel for this week makes a promise for apocalyptic times: "At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book [of life]." This reading goes on to speak of those who "lead the many to justice" being "like the stars forever."

How do men and women prepare themselves for acting in such a heroic way, for putting the safety and survival of others above their own?

The authors of "Rescuers, Portraits of Moral Courage in the Holocaust," Gay Block and Malka Drucker, sought to answer some of those questions by profiling 49 of the 105 rescuers Block photographed and Drucker interviewed.

In her introduction, Drucker tries to answer why these people responded as they did: "It remains a mystery, perhaps a miracle. Many helped strangers, some saved friends and lovers. Some had humane upbringings, others did not. Some were educated, others were barely literate. They weren't all religious, they weren't all brave. What they did share, however, was compassion, empathy, an intolerance of injustice and an ability to endure risk beyond what one wants to imagine."

The vital questions for the rest of us to answer are asked by the author in her epilogue: "The rescuers not only raise the question, Could I have done what they did? They also force us to ask ourselves What am I doing now?"

Believers can gain the courage to answer with their lives from the las verse of the psalm for this week: "You will show me the path to life, fullness o joys in your presence, the delights at you right hand forever."

QUESTION:

How might God be asking you to us your gifts and talents, your presence, t offer compassionate service to others?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 12-18

Sunday (Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 17:10-16, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44; **Monday (St. Frances Cabrini),** Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday,** Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday (St. Albert the Great),** Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:1-19; **Thursday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude),** Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary),** 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne),** 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 19-25

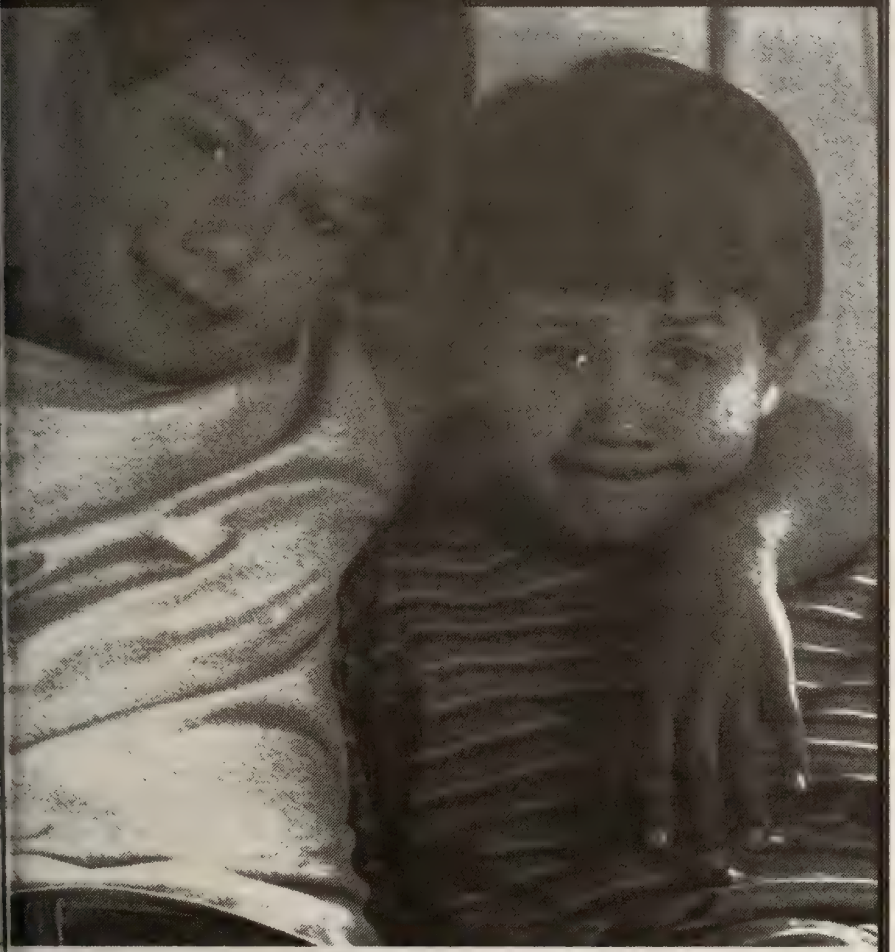
Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, 18, Mark 13:24-32; **Monday,** Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (St. Cecilia),** Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday,** Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (St. Andrew Dung Lac and Companions),** Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday (St. Catherine of Alexandria),** Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

THIS is GEORGE
and his 63 YEAR·OLD
KID BROTHER, JOE.



[Pictured 58 years ago.] Today, they're still young at heart. George likes to watch football, read and eat steak. Joe enjoys hiking, grilled fish and Sunday football with his brother. They plan to live happily [with their wives] here...

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God
(336) 886-4103 or toll free (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
NP/GNR/yng2

No 'Stranger' to good comedy

"Stranger Than Fiction" is a quirky dramatic comedy about a lonely and neurotic IRS auditor (Will Ferrell) who wakes to find his life being narrated by a seemingly omniscient voice only he can hear. It turns out to belong to a famous reclusive author (Emma Thompson) working on a new novel in which he is the protagonist and it also predicts what will happen to him, including his death. By turns sentimental, funny and, in the end, modestly profound, director Marc Forster's existential farce touches on issues of fate and free will, while imparting a wonderful message that the little moments — the smiles, hugs and small acts of kindness — we often relegate to footnote status in the narrative of our daily living are what give life its meaning.

An implied sexual encounter, brief locker-room rear nudity, a jarring traffic accident and use of profanity, as well as a couple of crude expressions. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!
*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***

- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels®

Asheville
828-665-3944

Charlotte
704-549-4010

Mooresville
704-663-1065

Catholic Schools Office to be evaluated

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Charlotte will undergo an evaluation in the coming months. The mission, structure and leadership of the office will be reviewed in an evaluation process that is expected to last at least three months.

The Catholic Schools Office oversees the operation of 18 schools in the diocese. Currently, 7,560 students attend the schools in pre-kindergarten through 12th grades. Diocesan schools are located in Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, High Point, Huntersville, Gastonia, Greensboro, Kernersville, Salisbury and Winston-Salem.

Jim Kelley, director of development for the diocese, and Carey D'Agostino of Winston-Salem, a Catholic school parent, will serve as co-chairs of the evaluation committee. The chairs were appointed by Monsignor Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

According to Msgr. West, the evaluation will look for strengths and weaknesses in all aspects of the schools office operation and will recommend changes designed to improve the schools office.

The committee will also review the responsiveness, accessibility and level of collaboration between the schools office and principals, teachers, students and parents. Finally, the committee will review the status of the schools office's vision for the future.

The committee will present an interim report to Msgr. West and Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education, in 90 days. At that time the committee is expected to make a set of recommendations, or ask for additional time to complete the review.

Nazi propaganda speech at soccer game receives international attention

Two suspended, team placed on probation in wake of controversy

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — Fans and players at a soccer game involving Charlotte Catholic High School were exposed to an excerpt of a speech by Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels Nov. 4.

The speech was played over the public address system prior to the game between Charlotte Catholic and Forestview High School in Gastonia. Charlotte Catholic lost the game 1-0 and was eliminated from the playoffs.

Apparently, students of Forestview High School decided to play a CD containing the speech excerpt without consulting any adults associated with the school. The speech contains the phrase, in German, "On to Victory," which the team had adopted as a slogan.

On Nov. 6, Robert Carpenter, principal of Forestview High School, faxed a letter of apology to Charlotte Catholic.

The letter stated: "I apologize for the CD playing. It should never have been played. We have conducted a full investigation and will continue to do so. We are not taking this lightly and already have in place some precautions for our next game."

The matter received local, national and even international news coverage in newspapers as far away as the Jerusalem Post in Israel.

Early news reports stated that the broadcast speech was by Adolph Hitler, but later reports confirmed it was Goebbels.

Charlotte Catholic principal Jerry Healy said, that as far as Charlotte Catholic High School is concerned, the matter is settled.

"As a Catholic institution we are called to accept an apology in a matter like this. We wish Forestview well in the remainder of the playoffs," said Healy Nov. 7.

Healy, Carpenter and an official of the North Carolina High Schools Athletic Association met on Nov. 7 to discuss the matter. CCHS asked that Forestview be allowed to continue to compete in the soccer playoffs.

Forestview's assistant coach Sam Braxton and starting goalkeeper Jeremy Webb were suspended for one playoff game.

Gaston County Schools Superintendent Reeves McGlohon said the team will undergo sensitivity training because of the incident, and that no player will be allowed to compete for other school teams without it.

The N.C. High School Athletic Association also placed the soccer team on a year's probation and will fine the school an undetermined amount. NCHSAA associate director Rick Strunk said fines levied by the association are usually less than $500.

Skyland T.C. Roberson High School defeated Forestview High School 5-1 on Wednesday in the third round of the 3A state soccer playoffs.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

To the Heights!
FALL 20
RETREAT

COURTESY PHO

Father Christopher Roux (center) joins students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School i Kernersville on a weekend retreat in Black Mountain Oct. 20-22.

Bishop McGuinness students enjoy weekend retreat

BLACK MOUNTAIN — Students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville recently took part in a weekend retreat.

Themed "To the Heights," the retreat was held at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, a conference center in Black Mountain, Oct. 20-22.

The theme was taken from what Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati wrote on a picture of himself climbing a mountain before he died in 1925.

Father Christopher Roux, priest secretary to Bishop Peter J. Jugis, joined the students for the Catholic high school's first weekend-long retreat.

Talks encouraged students to begin t quiet their hearts, unplug from the nois of daily life, and let go of the "baggage in their lives. The retreat also consiste of daily Mass, eucharistic adoratio and confession, as well as games an camaraderie.

According to informatio submitted by Bishop McGuinness youth ministry office, the retreat was "a time for the students to refocus the lives on God, and, as Pope John Paul said at Blessed Frassati's beatificatic Mass, to begin 'a revolution of charit in their hearts and in the heart of th culture."

MAINTENANCE POSITION

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. Responsibilities include: maintaining condition of facilities; minor repairs; and knowledge of methods, materials, and equipment related to the maintenance of a school facility. Applicants should be able to lift 50 pounds and pass a criminal background check. Resumes should be postmarked and sent to the following address no later than November 24, 2006: Maintenance Position c/o Kevin Parks, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Classifieds

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FRE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Persona Wellness Coach. 888-803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Welcome visit

COURTESY PHOTO

First Sgt. James Henson is pictured with his daughters Anna, a kindergarten student, and Natalie, a pre-kindergarten student, at St. Michael School in Gastonia Oct. 30. Having returned home from serving in Iraq, Sgt. Henson visited his daughters for lunch, and the teachers and staff were thrilled to see them together again.

Crafts for Christmas

COURTESY PHOTO

Students of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem are pictured during the school's recent annual craft sale. The garden club sold items made by its members, who are in grades 3- 5; the cheerleaders had a bake sale to raise money for their cheering workshops; parents set up booths to sell items such as jewelry, baskets, wreaths, homemade jams and jellies.

"The craft fair was for the community to share their talents and hopes of finding the perfect Christmas gifts," said Principal Georgette Schraeder.

Apply to the Abbey for fall 2007!
Scholarships, financial aid, and housing available.

Inquire and apply online at:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
For more information call 1.888.222.0110 or email: admissions@bac.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials

10 November 2006

"Within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life." (Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 20)

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Can a simple letter produce a bold response of solidarity?

I hope so, because the lives and futures of 37 million Americans who are living in poverty are at stake.

For 36 years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has stood with poor and low-income people, helping them create permanent solutions to poverty. One by one, people are joining local community groups to break the cycle of poverty — and Catholics across our country are part of that change.

The annual collection to support this domestic anti-poverty program of the Catholic Church will take place on Nov. 18 and 19, 2006. The donations are used by the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty projects across the country and, here in our diocese, to fund local community organizing and economic development initiatives to benefit those who are poor.

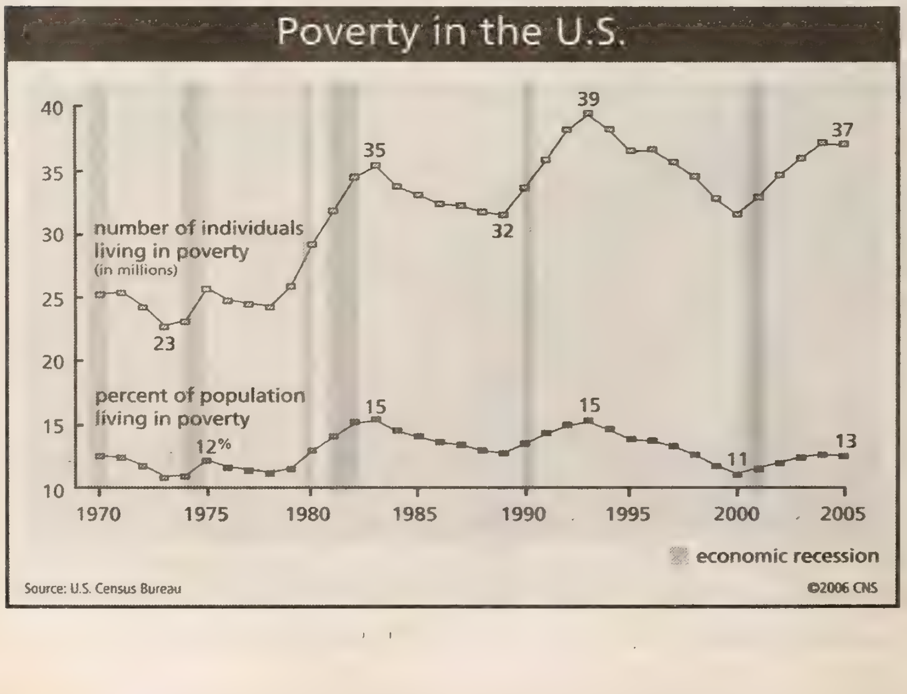
CCHD is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problem of poverty, but they cannot do it alone. Please join in solidarity with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to put an end to poverty in our nation.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ©2006 CNS

Not all consequences are bad

Consider all outcomes of actions

Coming of Age

KAREN
DIETLEIN
OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST

Consequences.

People have an interesting relationship with that word. Some brush it off. Some underestimate it. Even the most responsible people you can think of sometimes have moments when they forget it's there, waiting at the end of the road they travel.

They succumb to adrenaline and push the pedal to the floor, heedless of the cop on the corner. They'll smoke another cigarette, brushing away thoughts of cancer. They'll choose to cheat on a boyfriend or girlfriend, forgetting that such deceptions cannot last forever.

Teens are really familiar with the word. They hear it a lot from parents (often in conjunction with "you're grounded") or from other authority figures. The consequences of staying up late are that you're tired the next morning, they hear. The consequences of not finishing chores or homework are not getting to go to the mall or the game.

It seems pretty straightforward to me. "If you do this," says a parent, or a teacher, or life itself — "you're going to have to face the consequences."

In fifth grade my whole class went through a drug-awareness program that was part of our elementary curriculum. We learned all about illegal drugs, the terrible things they did to your mind and body, and the very rational reasons for saying no to them. Yet, five years later, not one person who went to my high school didn't know one or two people who smoked, snorted or otherwise consumed drugs. How did this happen?

Sharon Begley, a writer for the Wall Street Journal, recently explored an interesting thesis on this subject: that, while teens do understand the possible consequences of risky behavior, they often believe that the thrills those behaviors bring outweigh the "could-happen" possibilities.

It's an old riff on the thing I felt in my first car, gunning it at 80 miles an hour down the freeway: Yes, I understood that I possibly could crash, and, yes, I understood that a cop could be behind the next tree — but at that point, it didn't matter. I thought it couldn't happen to me. But it did. And there I was, stalled at the side of the road with a ticket in my hand, thinking hard on the word "consequences" and just as late as I would have been if I'd gone the requisite 65.

It takes a lot of effort to look beyond the highs of the here-and-now, especially when the world is telling you to take your pleasure now and to "live for the moment." It isn't always easy to break through peer pressure and give up the lure of immediate gratification for the future. It takes a lot of strength and courage to truly recognize the consequences and to factor them in while making the hard decisions teenagers often face.

The word "consequences" doesn't always have to be punishing. You can use it to your own advantage. For example, the consequences of studying for a math test are better grades; the consequences o not smoking are a chance not to contract lung cancer and emphysema — plus, i will save you hundreds of dollars by the time you turn 20.

Like they said in fifth grade, sayin no to drugs is saying no to somethin that will make a wreck of your body an mind, and if people disparage you fo making a decision that's good for you they're probably not very good friend anyhow.

In a "live for today" culture, w sometimes forget we also have to pla for tomorrow. This doesn't mean alway playing it like a "prude," but it does mea playing it smart.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The saint who fed the poor

St. Vincent de Paul model of Christ's love, charity

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Many thousands of people in our country will get baskets of food for Thanksgiving because of a man who ived over 300 years ago: St. Vincent de Paul. That's because the influence of this man, who spent his life feeding the poor, continues through his followers who carry out his work as members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I was moved to write about him because, coincidentally (if there really are "coincidences"), I was just at a library book sale and found a gem titled simply "St. Vincent de Paul."

I wouldn't have known how old it was except that the original purchaser wrote an inscription to his grandson preparing for confirmation, dating it Oct. 22, 1907.

I always have been in awe of what St. Vincent, a 17th-century French priest, accomplished in his lifetime. His work of helping St. Louise de Marillac ound the Daughters of Charity and his lifelong devotion to serve the poor — from the sick, the insane, orphans, beggars and old people to prisoners and galley slaves — always impressed me. Then, when I was a reporter for The Long Island Catholic in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and covered the great work for the poor done by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, I became a lifelong admirer of the great saint.

Now, with this old book in hand, written by Henry Bedford, I've learned much more about the saint. I hadn't known he was a slave in his early years as a priest for a period of nearly two years from July 1605 to June 1607.

He himself writes of this time as a slave in Tunis in a letter he sent to one of his early pupils, never wanting or expecting it to be saved. It tells how he was traveling by water when the vessel was attacked by "Turkish brigantines." Some on board were killed, he was wounded with an arrow in his shoulder, then taken in chains to the city of Tunis to be sold as a slave.

"I was sold to a fisherman," a good man, he wrote. The saint was with him for one year until the man died in August 1606, leaving Vincent to one of his nephews, who immediately sold him again, this time to a Turkish renegade with three wives. One of the wives got to know Vincent and was so moved by his praise of God that she got her husband to listen, too.

Eventually, the French ambassador to Turkey got the Grand Turk to liberate all the Christian slaves. Vincent, with his now "former" master and the man's wife, "escaped in a little skiff," the saint wrote. His captivity was over, his former "owners" were received into the church and he got back to his work of helping the poor.

Much of his work for of all his life was done to help those who, he would write, "lived in moral poison," specifically prisoners and galley slaves. "There was one class among the suffering poor which seemed to have an especial attraction for the heart of Vincent. ... The poor convicts won Vincent's early love and to the last he clung to them," Bedford wrote.

The worldwide St. Vincent de Paul Society to this day keeps up the work begun by this great saint, specifically to feed the poor, help the prisoners and never turn away someone truly in need.

The author ends the book simply with the words, "He served the Lord well."

Do not misunderstand Muslims

Terrorists not representative of true Islamic faith

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

A woman confided to me that she 'as terribly afraid for her grandchildren, rowing up in a world like ours. I onceded that the dangers are real, but ne must try to keep from becoming a yless worrywart. Overcome your fears s best you can with knowledge. For istance, it is important to understand that monumental split exists between the ast majority of peace-loving Muslims id the radical militant minority.

People like the late Abu Mus'ab Al-arqawi, the former head of al-Qaeda in aq, said, "Slaughtering infidels is our ligion, until they convert to Islam or ay us tribute." Muslims in general reject is kind of rhetoric.

Salaam Al-Mayrayti, executive rector of the Washington-based Muslim ublic Affairs Council, said that religious berty "is an Islamic principle." He lmitted that imbalances exist in many aces in the world, but that they have tle to do with Islamic theology. The oran (Sura 2, Verse 256) states, "There no compulsion in religion."

In the city of Paterson, N.J., for stance, and in many other American ties, Muslim children are attending atholic grammar schools. Their parents efer Catholic schools to the public hools.

In Saudi Arabia after the terrorist attacks in 2004, the government required 5,500 Muslim clergy to attend re-education programs to promote tolerance. They even removed passages from textbooks that promoted violence against non-Muslims.

Granted, there are still serious concerns about fairness toward Christians in Muslim countries, which Pope Benedict XVI recently alluded to when he said, "Violence in the name of religion is contrary to God's nature and to reason."

The truth is not multiple. No one has the right to represent God as one who demands the slaughter of innocent people. The pope called for dialogue, but insisted that "dialogue" does not mean we have to soft-pedal the truth to win favor.

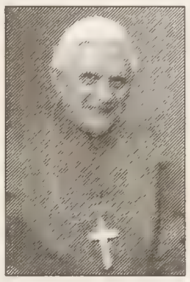
I am hopeful that our children one day will live in a peaceful world. The fact that a few radical Muslims have hijacked the religion of Islam to promote their own political agenda should not make us cower in fear. Muslims all over the world have demonstrated that they want to live in peace with their non-Muslim neighbors. For centuries in Europe, millions of them lived in peace and promoted tolerance.

Today's terrorists call good Muslims "dissenters and traitors," but it is they who have failed to obey Muhammad. He once wrote, "God has not sent me to work wonders, he has sent me to preach; I never said, that Allah's treasures are in my hands, or that I knew hidden things, or that I was an angel. ... I am only a preacher of God's words."

Muhammad never performed any miracles; he simply preached that "there is only One God, his name is Allah, and Muhammad is his greatest prophet." Muhammad described Allah as a God of peace.

We Christians find comfort in our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "In this world you will have many troubles, but take heart (do not be afraid), for I have overcome the world" (Jn 16:33).

Baptism and good works not enough for true Christian living, pope says



The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Genuine prayer key to transforming hearts, conquering hatred

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Nov. 8.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis today we continue our reflection on the apostle Paul and his dramatic conversion to Christ. As a result of this experience, Christ became Paul's very life and the inspiration of all his apostolic labors.

By his words and example, Paul teaches us that through faith we are made "righteous" before God; we encounter his merciful justice, enter into fellowship with him and are enabled to build a more authentic relationship with others.

Our justification is pure grace, an unmerited gift of God's radical love manifested in the cross and resurrection of Christ.

Like Abraham, whose faith in God was credited to him as righteousness (Rom 4:3), we are justified by grace and not by our own works; hence, our only boast must be in the Lord.

Through faith and baptism, we share in the Lord's death and rising to new life; we now live "in Christ" just as he lives "in us" in a mystical union which does not dissolve the distinction between him and us.

St. Paul's example shows us that faith must be expressed in a daily life marked by humble adoration and praise of God, constant gratitude for his mercy and a spirit of joyful trust in his gracious love revealed to the world in Christ Jesus his son.

Genuine prayer transforms hearts, opens us to dialogue, understanding and reconciliation, and breaks down the walls erected by violence, hatred and revenge.

Following the example of St. Paul, may your pilgrimage to Rome renew your faith and your love for Our Lord. May God bless you all.

Our Lady of Guadalupe unique church in N.C. mountains

CHEROKEE — The Catholic Church in Cherokee is the product of combining Roman Catholic tradition with Native American heritage — an amalgamation of cultures set in the western North Carolina mountains.

Catholics living in and around Cherokee gathered for liturgies in various places prior to the church's construction in the mid-1960s. Glenmary priests serving the westernmost sections of North Carolina ministered to Cherokee Catholics.

Lelia Queen, a convert to Catholicism, dedicated land on which to build a new church, and plans were set for construction. Because the donated land rested in Cherokee territory, a proposal had to be sent to the Cherokee tribal council before construction could proceed.

A resolution was signed in 1960 by the principal chief, thus allowing a Catholic chapel to be built.

Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated the newly built structure in August 1966, placing it under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The building was the first Catholic church to be constructed on the Cherokee Indian Reservation.

It was said that Bishop Waters decided that the church's design reflect Cherokee culture. Built in the pattern of the ancient and sacred Cherokee council house, the church has seven sides, representing the tribal clans.

Mosaic symbols were laid in the floor of the church, each representing a clan: the Paint, the Deer, the Panther, the Wolf, the Bird, the Potato and the Blue Holly.

Highlighting the north section of the church is a large stained glass window consisting of 5,000 glass pieces and representing Catholic and Native American traditions and history. In 1963, Bishop Waters commissioned Dutch artist Franz Van Bergen to design the window.

The project took two-and-a-half years to complete. The central motif of the window is the heavenly appearance in December 1531 of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Juan Diego, the Aztec peasant who witnessed visions of Mary on a hill known as Tepeyac.

However, in an example of artistic liberty, Sequoyah, the Cherokee who designed a new alphabet that led to his people's literacy, was placed within the window rather than St. Juan Diego. Also placed within the window are images of the traditional seven-sided council houses and the first Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

According to the present pastor, Father Shawn O'Neal, the name "of Guadalupe" is a sort of misnomer, as there was no place named Guadalupe. The "of Guadalupe" portion of the name developed from a mistranslation of the Aztec language into the Spanish language.

"St. Juan Diego's actual name was Quauhtlatoatzin, meaning 'the eagle speaks,' but being a difficult name to pronounce, the Spaniards who came to Mexico gave him an equivalent to 'John Doe,'" Father O'Neal said.

When Bishop Michael J. Begley of the newly established Diocese of Charlotte established St. Joseph Church in Bryson City in September 1972, Our Lady of Guadalupe became a mission of the new parish. The Glenmary priests assigned to serve as pastors at St. Joseph — Fathers Donald Levernier, Frank Gardner and Tom Field — served the mission for 25 years.

In 1997, Bishop William G. Curlin transferred ministerial care of the mission to St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley. Care for the mission church was restored to St. Joseph Church in July 2000 upon the arrival of Father Ray Williams as administrator.

Father Williams served at the mission until July 2002, when he was appointed administrator (and now pastor) of St. Mary, Mother of God Church in Sylva.

Father Frank Seabo served Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission between July 2002 and July 2003.

Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, arrived at the mission that year for a variety of missionary tasks benefiting Catholics, Cherokees and members of the local community alike. This work included teaching at the reservation's high school, giving music lessons, leading religious education classes and assisting in ecumenical and community efforts.

"Hundreds of visitors come to Cherokee each year, and the church is a welcome surprise for many of them," Father O'Neal said. "Not only are people surprised to find a church here, they are surprised to find a church that is very obviously a Catholic church when one sees the interior, a contemporary design that was a tremendous risk in its day, and a tribute to the Cherokee people."

"It is a beautiful example of how Catholic means 'universal' becau it incorporates this small part of tl universe within the Body of Christ wi beauty and distinction," he said.

The opening of the casino with the Qualla Boundary has prompt an increase in the number of visito throughout the year. During past winte the congregation celebrated Mass in wh is now the Blessed Kateri Tekakwit Center, a social hall adjacent to t church that was originally constructed serve as a residence.

Now that crowds have increas even during the winter months, the Kat Center might not be able to hold all t people who come to Mass, according Father O'Neal.

"We might need to move Mass ba into the church for the first time in m than 20 years," said Father O'Neal. that is the case, I hope people share th good luck at the casino with us as we v need to install a new heating system order to accommodate all the visitors.

Contributing to this story was S Writer Karen A. Evans.

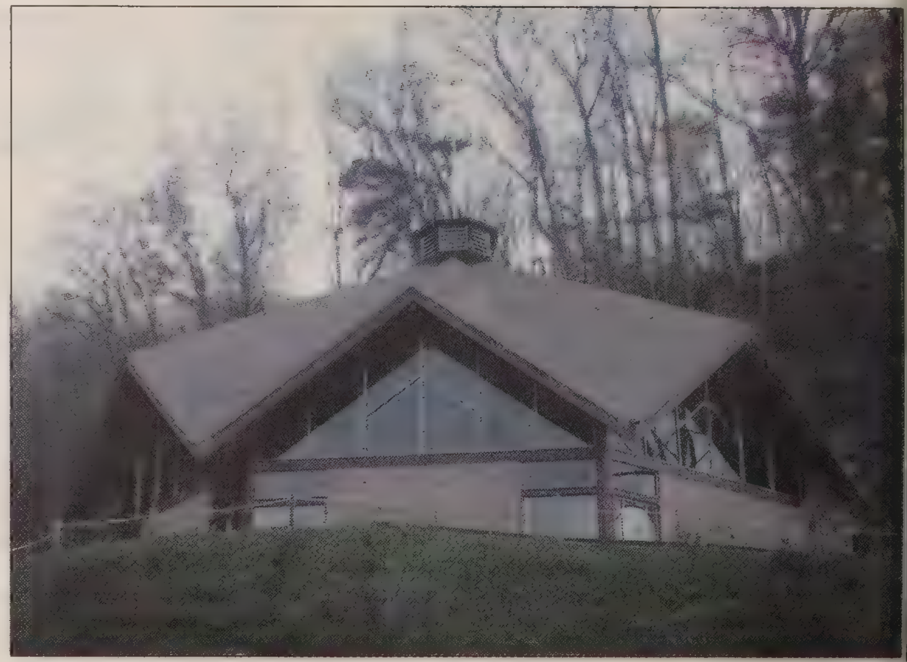


PHOTO BY GEORGE COBI

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee reflects both Cherokee heritage and Christian devotion ir its design.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MISSION

A Mission of St. Joseph, Bryson City
Lambert Branch Road
Cherokee, N.C. 28719
Phone: (828) 497-9755

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain
Pastor: Father Shawn O'Neal
Number of Households: 26

Father Shawn O'Neal

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General
breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

David Hains discusses accepting apologies; Caldarola examines the new, scary Internet

| PAGES 14-15

NOVEMBER 17, 2006 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 6

Stating the faith in Baltimore

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

U.S. bishops sing during morning prayer Nov. 14 in Baltimore on the second day of their annual fall meeting.

BISHOPS APPROVE SEVERAL STATEMENTS

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE — As the U.S. bishops concluded the public portion of their Nov. 13-16 fall general meeting in Baltimore Nov. 14, they approved several new statements and a restructuring and downsizing of their national conference.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte attended the meeting as well as a special Mass Nov. 12 celebrating the restoration of Baltimore's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It was the first time all of the country's bishops gathered in the basilica since 1989 when the archdiocese marked its bicentennial. The American prelates had often met in the nation's first diocese, the premier see, during the 19th century at seven provincial

See BISHOPS, page 8

Serving the underserved

Housing Corporation helps parishes establish home-repair ministries

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Nearly 19,000 homes in North Carolina lack complete plumbing facilities and 16,000 do not have functioning kitchens.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, five counties in the Diocese of Charlotte have poverty rates near 20 percent, with another eight counties in the 14-17 percent range.

Such statistics illustrate the need for home-repair ministries that respond to the substandard housing that continues to exist within every city of the state. That's where the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation comes in.

"Many parishioners are interested in a home-repair

See HOUSING, page 6

Building a hopeful future

Banquet benefits women, children in the Triad

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Pro-life supporters throughout the Triad area recently gathered to hear the moving testimony of an abortion survivor.

"Building Futures Full of Hope" was the theme of the 7th annual banquet benefiting Room at the Inn of the Carolinas, held at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro Nov. 9.

Room at the Inn of the Carolinas assists homeless, single pregnant women and their babies, both born and unborn. Services include shelter, food, clothing, case management, in-house day care, life skills education and counseling.

The guest speaker was Gianna Jessen, a survivor of an

See BANQUET, page 5

COURTESY PHOTO BY TOM STOCKER

Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara of Catherine's House reacts to a donation of $1,300 in contributions from Evan Stewart of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont. Also pictured are Christine O'Brien and Billy Stocker.

Treats for children, and their moms

TEENS COLLECT FOR TRANSITIONAL FACILITY IN BELMONT

BY TOM STOCKER
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BELMONT — Members of the high school youth group at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont spent Halloween

See TREATS, page 4

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Culture Watch

'Nativity' worth watching; Bible exhibition

| PAGES 10-11

Unique solution

Peruvian parish fights malnutrition

| PAGE 13

Pint of faith

Catholic brewer discusses faith, business

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

LIVING THE DREAM

CNS photo by David Myers, Southwest Kansas Register

Sheryl and Tom Giessel of Larned, Kan., were awarded the Isidore and Maria Award at the National Catholic Rural Life Conference's annual conference in Overland Park, Kan. The couple is seen standing on their combine on their Larned farm.

Kansas farming couple receives top rural life award

LARNED, Kan. (CNS) — Farmers Tom and Sheryl Giessel of Larned were awarded the Isidore and Maria Award Nov. 11 at the National Catholic Rural Life Conference's annual meeting in Overland Park.

The annual award honors rural couples who exemplify fidelity to a dream, to a vocation and a love which combines family, integrity, stewardship and religion.

"The award honors the couple," Tom Giessel added. "That's what means a lot to me. ... The term 'family farmer' is singular, but in reality it is plural.

"A family farmer draws freely on the energies and spirit of a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, son or daughter, and at times, friends, neighbors and a community," he said. "Just as freely, the farmer gives back without question."

For the Giessels and many like them, farming isn't just a matter of paying bills, it's a social justice issue that broadly affects the entire global community.

In their document "For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food," the U.S. bishops wrote: "A farm or agricultural system that ignores economic realities is in financial trouble. An agricultural system or enterprise that ignores or neglects moral principles is in ethical trouble."

Tom Giessel, a member of Sacred Heart Church in Larned, said the farm system in America is in both economic and ethical trouble.

"Farmers are not being fairly compensated for what they do," he said. "I don't believe farmers should be living under pressure to have a good crop every year to survive. If farmers are getting a fair price, then we can take some bad weather.

"I know that farming is a business, but we also do it from the heart," he added. "This is about land, people, food, social justice and natural resources. Everything we do in agriculture is fairly long-term. What I'm doing today — harvesting — culminates nearly two years of hard work, financial investment and commitment."

Food doesn't land on store shelves "by magic," Tom Giessel said.

"They are all gifts given to us by God, and we should respect that fact. It is through the gifts from God and the hands of the farmer that this happens."

Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore of Dodge City, who is president of the rural life conference, said: "In the eight years I have known them, Tom and Sheryl Giessel have reminded me of nothing so much as the original Adam and the original Eve in the original Garden (of Eden)."

"The Lord God settled them in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and care for it," the bishop said, adding that the couple has also "cultivated and cared for" their family, their church, their community and Kansas' farmers, ranchers and rural towns.

Evidence of alleged cure credited to Cardinal Newman sent to Vatican

BOSTON (CNS) — Evidence of an alleged miraculous cure in the Archdiocese of Boston attributed to the intercession of Cardinal John Henry Newman has been sent to the Congregation for Saints' Causes in Rome.

The Roman postulator of the cause, Andrea Ambrosi, was assigned by the archdiocesan tribunal in Boston to be the official carrier of the package of documents, which contained two copies of the evidence. He flew from Boston to Rome and handed over the package Nov. 14 to congregation officials at the Vatican.

The package, containing the sworn testimonies and the medical evidence of the healing of Deacon Jack Sullivan, 68, of Marshfield, was sealed during the closing session of the tribunal Nov. 9.

Deacon Sullivan had a severe spinal disorder, but was restored to full mobility in 2001 after praying for Cardinal Newman's intercession.

Cardinal Newman's canonization cause was opened in 1958 in Birmingham, England, his home diocese, and in 1987 was introduced in Rome. One reason for the long preparation was the amount of evidence to be collected and studied.

In 1991 the Vatican declared that the English philosopher, theologian and spiritual writer had lived a life of "heroic virtue" which was worthy of imitation, giving him the title "Venerable."

Cardinal Newman, who died Aug. 11, 1890, at the age of 89, was an Anglican priest and a leading intellectual in the Church of England before he converted to Catholicism in 1845. He was ordained two years later and was still a priest when he was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879.

Cardinal Newman is frequently referred to as the missing father of the Second Vatican Council because his teachings on the laity and doctrine had an influence on those proceedings, some 70 years after his death.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *St. Basil Ukrainian Catholic Church* will have an informational meeting on the Eastern Rite Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd. A liturgy will follow at 11 a.m. These are open to anyone who would like to attend or learn more about the Eastern Rite. For more information, e-mail Deacon Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

HUNTERSVILLE — St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., is sponsoring an *"Internet Safety"* program for parents Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. in the worship space. Experts from the FBI and Catholic Social Services will provide parents with insights into specific dangers associated with their child on the Internet and practical tips that each parent can use in assuring their child's safety. For information, contact (704) 948-1306, ext. 104.

CHARLOTTE — An *End-Of-Life Issues Roundtable* will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. in Biss Hall. A discussion featuring Ray Farris, attorney; Dr. Alex Sanchez; and Karen Walto, RN; plus representatives of health care providers will aid you and your family on end-of-life decisions, followed by an open discussion. Free parking is available in the parking garage next to The Green. For more information, call (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat,* 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for Dec. 1 will be "The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

CHARLOTTE — A *Support Group for Caregivers of a Family Member with Memory Loss* meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before of shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

HUNTERSVILLE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 17009-D Northstar Dr., Huntersville, N.C., 28078, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 609-9011.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

GASTONIA — St. Michael Church, 708 St. Michael's Ln., will host a *free Thanksgiving Celebration* Nov. 23, 12-3 p.m., in the parish center. Family and friends are all invited for food and fellowship. Transportation is available for those needing rides. Meals will be delivered to those who cannot attend. Call the church office at (704) 867-6212 for details.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of Seeing Everyone Again* (HOSEA), a program to invite Catholics who have distanced themselves from the Catholic Church to return. This small group meets Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., through Dec. 19 to discuss

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

NOV. 17, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 6

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Sales of so-called Pope John Paul II relics stop after media flurry

Shop near Vatican removes items from shelves

ROME (CNS) — By the time Romans read in their newspapers that there was a shop near the Vatican with relics of Pope John Paul II, the shop had removed its sign advertising their sale.

The Pope John Paul medals with tiny specks of cloth — the so-called relics — attached had been removed from the shelves. Gone also were the statues of the late pope with the hope-filled inscription, "Saint John Paul II."

The French Catholic news agency I.Media reported the sales Nov. 8; Italian news agencies and television ran the story Nov. 9; Italian newspapers carried the report in their Nov. 10 editions.

The shop workers were not speaking to the press after the newspapers hit the stands.

Before the sales stopped and the news blackout began, the shop owner told the Rome-based Il Messaggero newspaper that the specks of cloth were "third-class relics," pieces of cloth that had been touched to Pope John Paul's tomb.

The owner stretched the definition a bit; usually a piece of cloth is considered to be a third-class relic if it has touched a first-class relic — the person's body or part of the body — or if it has touched a second-class relic — something used by the saint or holy person during his or her lifetime.

The Vicariate of Rome and the promoter of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause denounced the sale of the so-called relics and informed the public that they could get a piece of a cassock actually worn by Pope John Paul for free.

various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will have a Christmas Tea at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Nov. 30, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *Lectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St., Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. This study prepares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings for the next week. For more information on this study, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or stalscoordinator@charter.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Maryann Tyrer will speak about "Catholic Moral Theology" Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Sandra McMonagle will speak on "Catholic Schools: Are they worth it?" Nov. 22. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 18 — 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Nov. 26
50th Anniversary Celebration Mass
Archdiocese of Atlanta

Nov. 29
Mass for the Dedication of the Cathedral
100th Anniversary Celebration
Richmond, Va.

Pope to Swiss bishops: No picking and choosing on morals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church must do more to show people how values such as peace, justice and nonviolence are intrinsically tied to the values of respect for human life and committed self-giving in married love, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Modern society is not simply without morals," but the morality many have chosen to follow is selective, he said during a Nov. 9 meeting with the bishops of Switzerland and heads of Vatican congregations.

The off-the-cuff speech was the pope's third address to the visiting Swiss bishops in a week. The bishops were concluding their "ad limina" visits to report on the status of their dioceses.

Pope Benedict said the Catholic Church must face the challenge of people being attracted to its spirituality, while rejecting many of its moral teachings and disciplines.

While the spirituality attracts them, "that which is very difficult for people is the morality the church proclaims," he said.

Modern men and women, he said, have rediscovered and reclaimed the values of "peace, nonviolence, justice for all, care for the poor and respect for creation," values which the church "perhaps did not propose enough."

But they are values that belong to the church's moral tradition, the pope said, and the values that are more difficult for people to accept are those regarding the dignity of human life and sexuality.

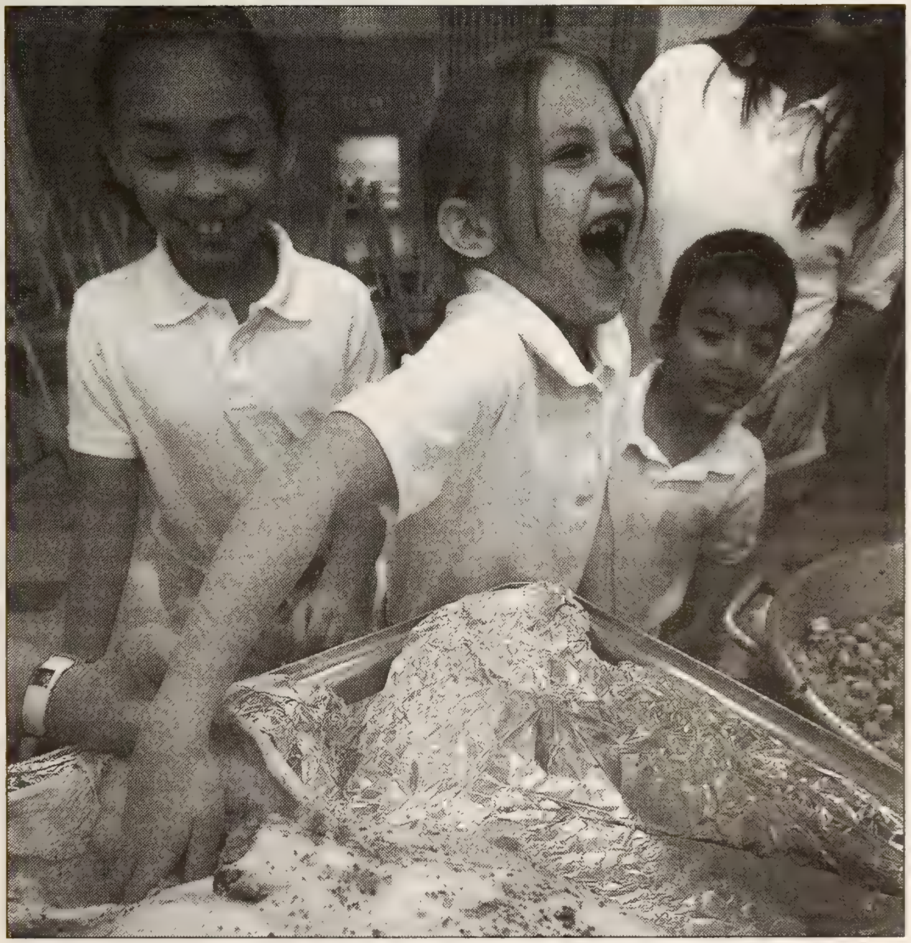
Almost proclaiming the values of nondiscrimination and freedom as absolutes, the pope said, many people cannot accept the church's condemnation of abortion, euthanasia, genetic manipulation and homosexual unions.

But an awareness of the value of each human life — no matter how inconvenient, weak or old — and an acknowledgment of the importance of strong traditional families have not completely disappeared, the pope said.

"We must commit ourselves to reconnecting these two parts of morality and making it more evident that they are inseparably united," Pope Benedict said.

"Only if one respects human life from conception to death is an ethic of peace possible and credible," he said. "Only then can nonviolence express itself in every direction; only then can we truly accept creation, and only then can we reach true justice."

Preparing the feast



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Jessica Markovich, a first-grade student at St. Stanislaus School in East Chicago, Ind., stuffs a turkey as classmates watch Nov. 15 in preparation for a Thanksgiving feast she and her classmates planned to celebrate with their eighth-grade buddies the following day. Thanksgiving is observed Nov. 23 this year.

Correction

A photo caption depicting Knights of Columbus Council 8509's Operation L.A.M.B. should have indicated the council was from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, not Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Courtesy Photo by Tom Stocker

Teenagers from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont are dressed up for Halloween, during which they collected donations for Catherine's House in Belmont.

No tricks, just treats this Halloween

TREATS, *from page 1*

collecting for women and children in need.

More than a dozen youths from the parish and their friends collected cash donations and supplies Oct. 31 for babies and toddlers who live with their mothers at Catherine's House in Belmont.

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, Catherine's House is a transitional facility providing shelter, opportunities and guidance for approximately 22 residents — women and women with children who are homeless.

Evan Stewart, a teenage parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Church, conceived the idea for the annual effort that netted more than $1,500 in donations as well as items for the children.

Donated items included disposable diapers, baby wipes, laundry detergents, lotions, shampoo, conditioner and toiletries.

Stewart made flyers explaining how the youth group would collect donations for Catherine's House, and about the facility, and put them in neighborhood mailboxes the week before Halloween.

Stewart and other teens presented the donations and supplies to Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, president and chief executive officer of Catherine's House.

"I was overwhelmed by the response," said Sister McNamara, adding Bank of America would match the monetary amount.

"The money and items will be used to meet the needs of the residents of Catherine's House," she said.

Since opening in 1992, Catherine's House has provided programs and guidance to hundreds of women and women with children. Assistance includes help with employment, educational opportunities, emotional stability and, ultimately, self-sufficiency and affordable, safe housing.

Stays at the facility are generally limited to a three-month duration. Children, including pre-schoolers, continue their education while at Catherine's House.

Currently 10 women and six children reside there.

Tom Stocker is a parishioner of Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit Catherine's House Web site at www.catherineshouseinc.org.

Helping Holy Angels

Courtesy Photo

Marjorie Rorie of Truliant Federal Credit Union presents a community mini-grant to Lynne Reyburn of Holy Angels in Belmont. Also pictured is Tammy Kane (right) of Truliant Member Financial Center in McAdenville.

Facility receives grant to assist residents

BELMONT — Holy Angels in Belmont was one of 17 organizations to receive a community mini-grant from Truliant Federal Credit Union.

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation that provides programs and services for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

Marjorie Rorie, Truliant's director of community services, designed the Truliant Community Mini-Grant Program to assist nonprofit agencies with overhead expenses.

The program "is designed to enhance financial support for nonprofit agencies that serve people in underserved communities where Truliant operates," said Rorie.

"We are pleased to present this funding to Holy Angels on behalf of our organization, which received 60 grant applicants from eight regions," she said.

The $500 grant was presented to Holy Angels during a ceremony at the Truliant Member Financial Center in McAdenville. The money will be used to assist with the purchase of adaptive communication and learning devices to meet the educational and social needs of Holy Angels residents.

"Holy Angels is grateful to Truliant Federal Credit Union for these grant dollars," said Regina Moody, Holy Angels' president and chief executive officer.

"The communication and learning devices will provide our residents with experiences that are rewarding, enriching and educational," she said.

The Truliant Member Financial Center in McAdenville has long been a partner with Holy Angels, supporting various fundraising events including the Angel Bowl, an annual bowl-a-thon that raises public awareness and much-needed funds for residents' services and programs.

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit Holy Angels' Web site at www.holyangelsnc.org, or call (704) 825-4161.

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING

A.V. ROOFING

Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com

BBB
Member
Southern Piedmont
Charlotte

704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Banquet serves up hope for mothers

BANQUET, *from page 1*

abortion performed during her mother's 29th week of pregnancy.

"Gianna is testimony to the power of God," said Charles Breeding, the banquet master of ceremonies.

Jessen, 29, of Nashville, Tenn., was born in the California abortion clinic after 18 hours in a saline solution. She was burned inside and out, weighed 2 pounds and was diagnosed with cerebral palsy as a result of the attempted abortion.

"It's good to be alive! I don't die easy. Burned alive for 18 hours, I should have died," said Jessen.

"I know from experience that those who reap in tears will sow in joy," she said. "The irony of the situation is that the abortionist had to sign my birth certificate."

Jessen was placed in an abusive foster home, but was later adopted by Penny Jessen.

Although the doctors had predicted the baby would be "no more than a vegetable," unable to speak, see or walk, Penny Jessen spent hours with her in intensive physical therapy that soon bore fruit.

In fact, none of the doctors' predictions came true. By age 4, Jessen was able to walk with a walker and leg braces. Today, she walks without the aid of braces, walker or cane. Lifting weights has strengthened her legs and prevents her from falling down as often as in the past.

Today, she doesn't let her limp hold her back. In May 2005, she ran a 26-mile marathon in Nashville.

"I would not be here without the love and commitment of Penny," said Jessen. "God kept me and God kept me free."

Jessen believes it is her duty to tell others the truth about abortion.

"Why do people speak about abortion in terms of politics instead of the baby inside? Why do people find weakness so uncomfortable?" she asked her audience.

"I see apathy in this country. We are not passionate about life. This is evidenced in how casually we take life," she said. "If abortion was just about women's rights, then what about mine?"

Jessen's strong views have frequently put her in the public eye. She has testified twice before the U.S. Congress — in 1996 against partial-birth abortions and in 2000 in support of the Born Alive Infant Act. The act says any infant who is fully born and shows signs of life is considered a human person entitled to the full protection of the law — even if the baby is born during a failed abortion.

In 2002, she was invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Born Alive Infant Act by President George W. Bush.

Jessen recalled being nervous about meeting the president, but he said to her, "You are so sweet. I am not going to let you down."

Jessen said it takes courage to take a stand against abortion, and she encouraged the audience to keep fighting.

"I know what it is to stand in a crooked and perverse generation," she said. "Make those extraordinary choices and make them now."

During the banquet, Bishop Peter J. Jugis presented a Faithful Servant Award to Father Conrad Kimbrough, who has long been an outspoken advocate for the unborn. He has regularly prayed outside abortion clinics — twice being incarcerated for doing so — and attends pro-life rallies such as the annual national March for Life in Washington, D.C.

During the presentation, Bishop Jugis commended the efforts of Father Kimbrough as well as those of Albert Hodges, president and CEO of Room at the Inn of the Carolinas.

The original Room at the Inn of the Triad was incorporated in 1999.

The nonprofit corporation made renovations to its original facility and opened the Mary Corinne Nussbaum Home for single mothers in 2001. The only licensed maternity home in Guilford County, the facility is licensed to accommodate six pregnant women and their children.

Other programs have been added to meet their clients' needs, including programs and support for pregnant women in the Lowcountry area of South Carolina in 2005.

In 2006, Room at the Inn of the Carolinas was established as the parent organization over Room at the Inn of the Triad and Room at the Inn of the Lowcountry.

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

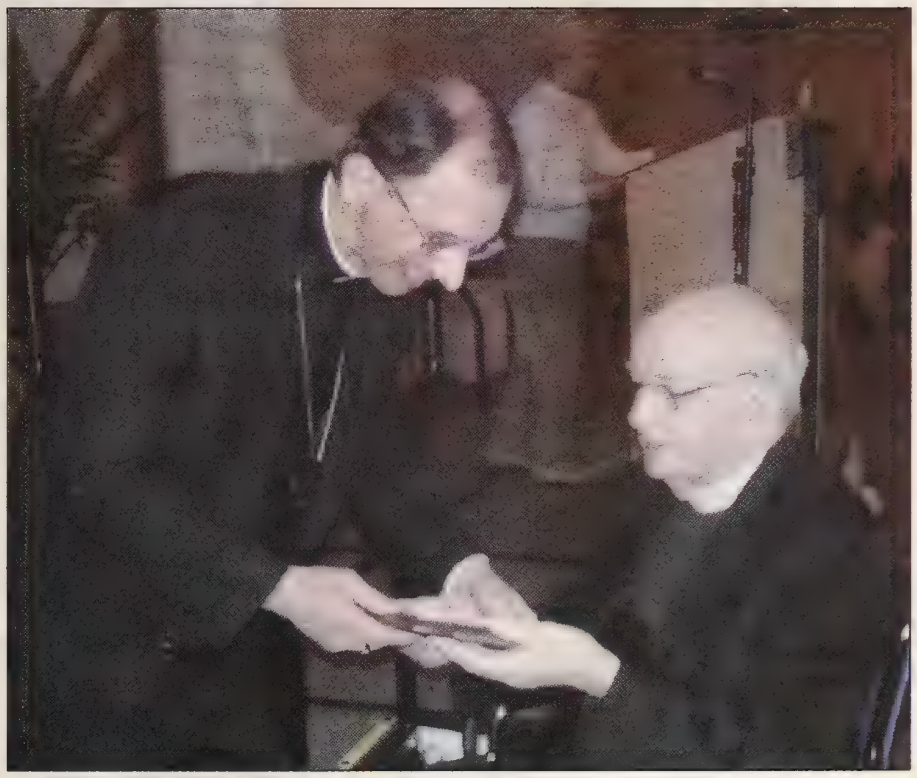
WANT MORE INFO?

Visit Room at the Inn of the Carolinas Web site at www.roomattheinnofthecarolinas.org.

Photos by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Above: Gianna Jessen addresses those attending a banquet benefiting Room at the Inn of the Carolinas in Greensboro Nov. 7.

Below: Bishop Peter J. Jugis presents a Faithful Servant Award to Father Conrad Kimbrough during the banquet.



CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Peace, Tranquility
A Place Apart...

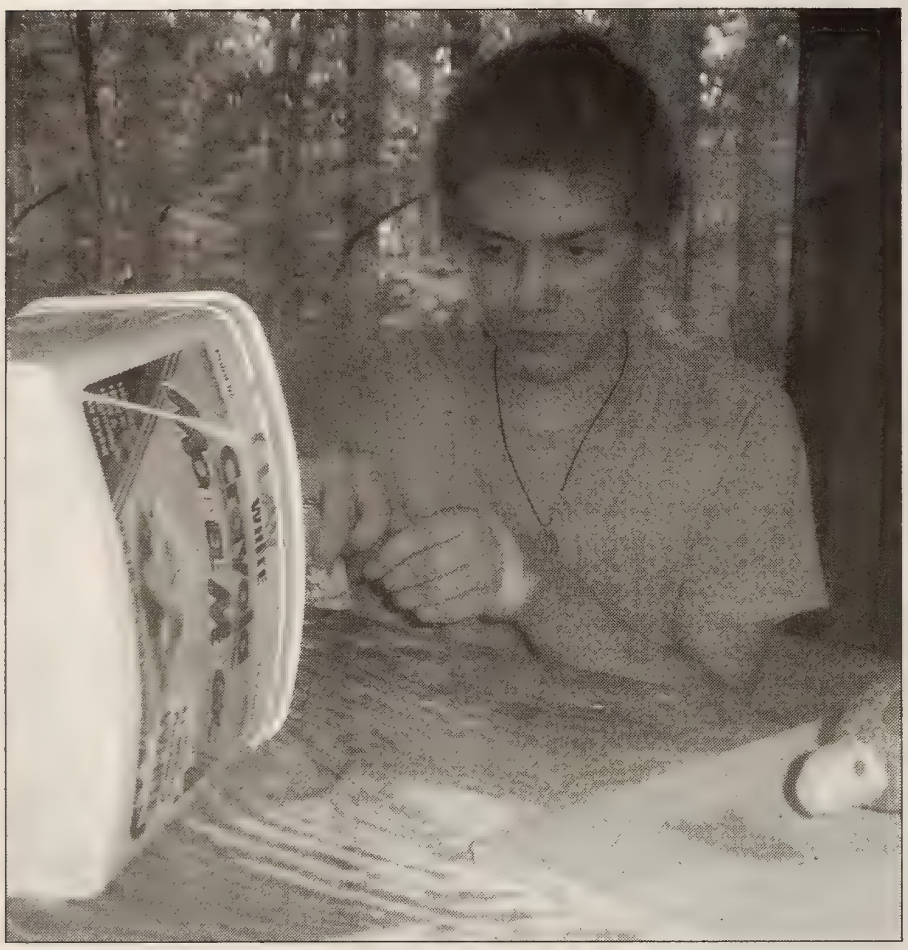
You've heard about our attributes, but have you experienced them?

Call the Catholic Conference Center today and get in on what you're missing!

Toll free 888-536-7441
(Hickory residents: 828-327-7441)

The Catholic Conference Center

Check out our website
www.catholicconference.org
info@catholicconference.org



Courtesy Photo by James Conrad

Jay Conrad, 16, is pictured at a Boy Scout camp near Marion, N.C., in July 2006. Jay's fifth-grade artwork was a winning submission in the Autism Society of North Carolina's 2006 Holiday Card Contest.

Drawing holiday cheer

Huntersville teen's artwork wins contest

HUNTERSVILLE — Jay Conrad, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville, was one of three winners in the Autism Society of North Carolina's 2006 Holiday Card Contest.

Jay, who is 16 with a form of autism, drew his winning artwork as a fifth-grader in Cary, N.C. The drawing is a night scene with an angel greeting shepherds and sheep.

"It's pretty common for an autistic child to have a unique view of things," said Stephanie Conrad, Jay's mother. "For example, the shepherds have their backs to us because they are turned and looking up at the angel."

The Autism Society of North Carolina has hosted the contest for 16 years.

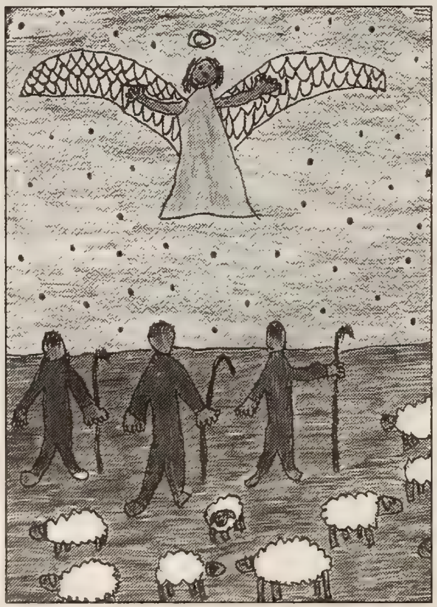
It began as an activity in the classroom, but has grown to reflect artistic talent across North Carolina. Submissions include a variety of holiday-themed artwork by artists of all ages on the autism spectrum.

The holiday cards are sure to spread holiday cheer as well as increase awareness of autism spectrum disorders and the work of the Autism Society of North Carolina. Thousands of people across the country will see the cards this holiday season.

The other winners were Matthew Sara, 17, of Greensboro and Vidal Tan, 17, of Fletcher.

Each will be presented with a framed copy of his card as well as a small cash prize at the Autism Society of North Carolina's Annual Conference in the spring of 2007.

Autism is a brain disorder that hinders one's ability to communicate, form relationships and respond appropriately to the environment. It typically appears during the first three years of life.



Courtesy Photo

Jay Conrad's winning artwork.

The Autism Society of North Carolina was founded in 1970 by a group of parents who were concerned about the lack of diagnostic and treatment services for their children.

WANT MORE INFO?

Visit the society's Web site www.autismsociety-nc.org, or call (800) 442-2762.

'PEOPLE SEEM TO BE REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THIS MINISTRY.'

Housing Corporation supports home-repair ministries

HOUSING, *from page 1*

ministry, but they don't know how to go about it," said Gerard Carter, director of the Housing Corporation.

The Housing Corporation offers training workshops and support to parishes wanting to start home-repair outreaches.

These volunteer ministries would offer minor home repairs free to people who otherwise couldn't afford to repair a leaking faucet, replace rotted wood siding or install a wheelchair ramp, for example.

Through their efforts, volunteers are able to improve the quality of life for each individual and family served by a home-repair ministry.

So far, three training workshops have been held, and at least 12 more are scheduled for next year.

"But we will come to any parish that wants to start a ministry," Carter said.

During the workshops, Carter said, parishioners are instructed to define the ministry's work — how many people they can serve, what types of repairs they will do, how applicants will be screened.

The Housing Corporation has written a manual detailing the process of setting up and operating a successful home-repair ministry. The manual includes advice on deciding what services the ministry will provide, recruiting and training volunteers and screening applicants.

The manual, which is available on the housing corporation's Web site, also includes sample forms.

Carter stressed that the Housing Corporation has not created a specific model for parishes to follow, but rather guidelines to help them establish a ministry that works best for them.

"People seem to be really excited about this ministry," Carter said.

Since July 2004, the Housing Corporation has been funded by contributions made through the annual Diocesan Support Appeal.

Working together with regional advisory committees, groups of dedicated parishioners and clergy, community agencies and consultants, the Housing Corporation is engaged in the beginning stages of responding to housing needs within the diocese's 46-county area of western North Carolina.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

To download a free copy of the Home Repair Ministry, visit www.cdchousing-corporation.com. To schedule a training workshop for your parish, call Gerard Carter at (704) 370-3250.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Serious sin a bar to receiving Communion, bishops say in document

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE — Emphasizing that they were addressing all Catholics, and not just politicians or any other group, the U.S. bishops Nov. 14 voted in favor of a document calling on those in a state of serious sin to refrain from receiving Communion. The vote was 201-24, with two abstentions.

An effort to amend the document to specifically name politicians as among those who need to examine their consciences before receiving the Eucharist failed on a voice vote.

Titled "'Happy Are Those Who Are Called to His Supper': On Preparing to Receive Christ Worthily in the Eucharist," the document says that a Catholic who "knowingly and obstinately" rejects "the defined doctrines of the church" or repudiates "definitive teaching on moral issues" would not be in communion with the church and therefore should not receive Communion.

"All kinds of people don't understand their responsibilities when going to the Eucharist," said Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine. His committee prepared the document following a request in November 2004 by Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, N.J., for a statement on how Catholics should prepare to receive the Eucharist.

Archbishop Myers' request came after a presidential campaign in which some bishops had criticized the Democratic candidate, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, and said he and other Catholic politicians who supported abortion should be refused Communion under canon law.

But a footnote to the document says that it is not intended "to provide specific guidelines" to the provision in canon law that says that Catholics "obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin" should not be allowed to receive Communion.

In comments to the bishops before the Nov. 14 debate and vote, Bishop Serratelli said the document was intended as a positive message of encouragement to U.S. Catholics.

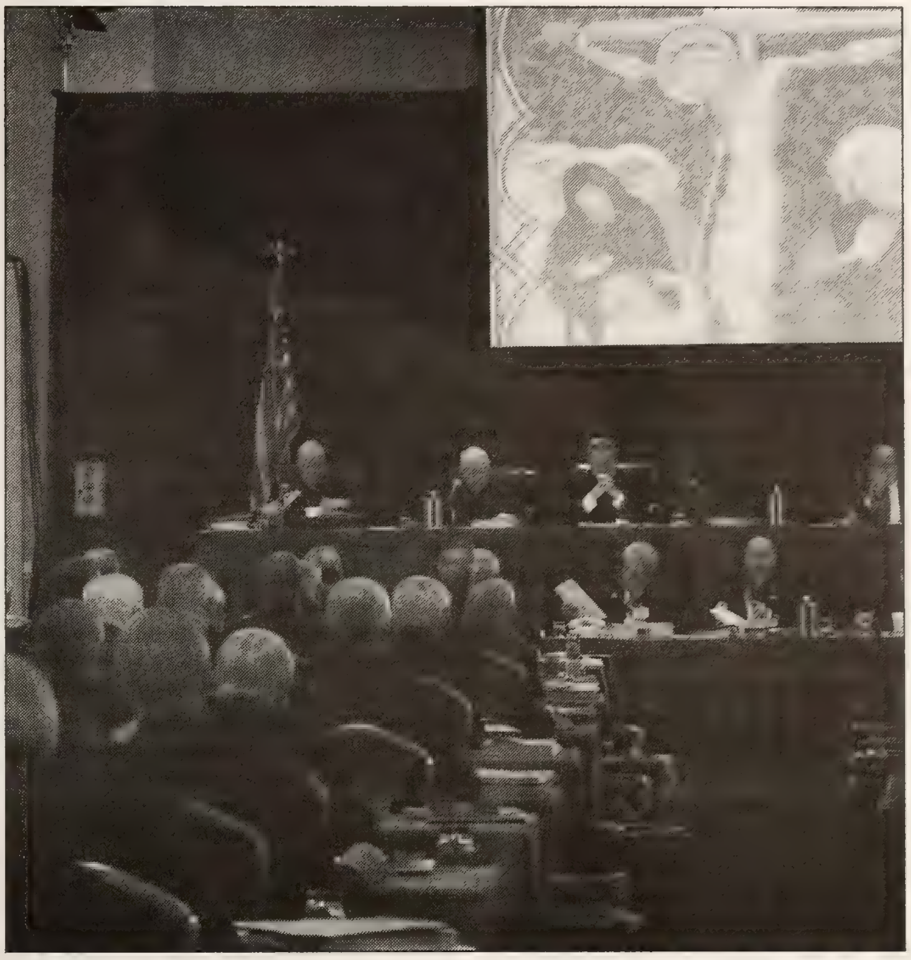
"To be a Catholic is a challenge and to be a Catholic is to adhere to the church's teachings as handed down by Christ," he said.

The document said all Catholics "should strive to receive holy Communion regularly, gratefully and worthily."

"We may find ourselves in situations, however, where an examination of conscience before God reveals to us that we should refrain from partaking of the body and blood of Christ," the bishops said.

But among the 79 amendments to the document was a warning that everyone "should be cautious when making judgments about whether or not someone else should receive holy Communion."

"In order to receive holy Communion we must be in communion with God and with the church," the document says. "If we are no longer in a state of grace because of mortal sin, we are seriously obliged to refrain from receiving holy Communion until we are reconciled with God and the church."



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

The U.S. bishops gather Nov. 13 in Baltimore for the start of their annual fall meeting.

Among examples of such sin, the document cites "committing murder, including abortion and euthanasia; harboring deliberate hatred of others; (and) sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult, or physical or verbal abuse of others that causes grave physical or psychological harm."

Other "serious violations of the law of love of God and of neighbor" listed in the document included swearing a false oath, missing Mass on Sundays or holy days without a serious reason, "acting in serious disobedience against proper authority," sexual activity "outside the bonds of a valid marriage," stealing, slander or involvement with pornography.

The document criticized those who "give selective assent to the teachings of the church."

But Catholics who have "honest doubt and confusion" about some church teachings "are welcome to partake of holy Communion, as long as they are prayerfully and honestly striving to understand the truth of what the church professes and are taking appropriate steps to resolve their confusion and doubt," the document says.

"If a Catholic in his or her personal or professional life were knowingly and obstinately either to reject or to doubt the defined doctrines of the church or her definitive teaching on moral issues, however, he or she would seriously diminish his or her communion with the church," it added. "Reception of holy Communion in such a situation would not accord with the nature of the eucharistic celebration, so he or she should refrain."

If a person who "is publicly known to have committed serious sin or to have rejected definitive church teaching and is not yet reconciled with the church" receives Communion, it "is likely to cause scandal for others," giving "further reason" for the person to refrain, the bishops said.

The document says Catholics should get ready to receive Communion through both "remote preparation" — prayer, Scripture reading, frequent confession and other steps — and "proximate preparation."

The bishops said elements of proximate preparation include maintaining "reverent silence" before Mass begins; refraining from food and drink for an hour before receiving Communion; dressing modestly at Mass; listening attentively to the Scripture readings and homily; and actively participating in the Mass "with our whole hearts and minds and bodies."

The bishops also urged Catholics to make "a reverent bow of the head" before receiving Communion.

"Putting these simple actions into practice will help us to enter more profoundly into the eucharistic celebration, receive holy Communion more worthily, and thus obtain more fully the grace of communion with the risen lord Jesus and with one another," the document says.

It also includes two appendices explaining church teaching on when non-Catholics can receive Communion in a Catholic church and when Catholics are permitted to take Communion at a non-Catholic service.

"When participating as guests in worship services in other Christian communities, Catholics are encouraged to join the community in the shared responses and in the singing of hymns," the document says. "It is not permitted, however, for Catholics to receive communion in other Christian ecclesial communities."

The document also reminds Catholics who join in non-Catholic services on a Sunday that "the obligation to participate in a Catholic Mass still remains."

Non-Catholics are permitted to receive Communion in a Catholic church only if they belong to churches in full communion with the Catholic Church or in cases of "grave necessity" when ministers of their own faith are not available and certain other conditions are met, the appendix says.

Save On This Unique 18-Day Repositioning Cruise!

Cruise Northern Europe + Germany Land Tour

Join Your YMT Chaplain Father Mel Bennett and Other Roman Catholics Departing April 29, 2007

DAILY MASS ABOARD SHIP!

MSC Cruise Lines has to reposition the new **MSC *Lirica*** from Ft. Lauderdale to Hamburg, Germany. Take advantage of this exclusive ***'Your Man'* Tours** 23-Day vacation package departing April 29, 2007. You'll spend 17 nights sailing to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Funchal, Madeira Island; Vigo, Spain; Le Havre, France; Dover (London), England; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Hamburg, Germany. Your five day tour of Germany includes Berlin; historic East Berlin; Brandenburg Gate; Reichstag; Checkpoint Charlie; Leipzig; Rothenburg O.T.; Frankfurt, Germany; then fly home. Prices (per person / based on double occupancy) start at $2347 including taxes & port charges. Round trip airfare from Charlotte $950. $500 deposits are now due. Father Bennett has led groups to Europe five times. He is Senior Associate Pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, Indiana.

For information, reservations, brochure, and letter from Father Bennett call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

U.S. bishops approve several statements at meeting

BISHOPS, *from page 1*

and three plenary councils of the U.S. Catholic Church.

"Knowing that this building has been standing for 200 years is a witness to the presence of the Catholic Church in the United States from the beginning of the colonies and the forming of our nation," said Bishop Jugis.

"It is a witness to the impact that the Catholic Church has played from the beginning of our country," he said.

On Nov. 13, the first day of their meeting, they allocated money for a further study of the context and causes of clergy sexual abuse.

Among the texts they approved were:

— A new statement outlining the preparation needed to receive Communion worthily, which says that serious sin is a bar to receiving the Eucharist.

— A document calling married couples to understand and live church teaching on artificial contraception.

— A statement on Iraq issued in the name of Bishop William Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The USCCB also approved a series of guidelines for the pastoral care of persons with a homosexual inclination, gave their OK to creating a "Directory for Music and the Liturgy" for use in U.S. dioceses, and authorized a revision of the Lectionary for Mass for selected days in Advent by a 205-13 vote with two abstentions.

Bishops' statements

The Communion statement, "'Happy Are Those Who Are called to His Supper': On Preparing to Receive Christ Worthily in the Eucharist," was approved 201-24 with two abstentions. The document calls on those in a state of serious sin to refrain from receiving Communion. The bishops emphasized they were addressing all Catholics, and not just politicians or any other group.

An effort to amend the document to specifically name politicians as among those who need to examine their consciences before receiving the Eucharist failed on a voice vote.

The contraception document, "Married Love and the Gift of Life," passed 220-11 with one abstention. It strongly supports natural family planning, saying it "enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it," adding that contraception introduces "a false note" that disturbs marital intimacy and contributes to a decline in society's respect for marriage and for life.

The document says that a Catholic who "knowingly and obstinately" rejects "the defined doctrines of the church" or repudiates "her definitive teaching on moral issues" would not be in communion with the church and therefore should not receive Communion.

The Iraq statement, which passed Nov. 13 on a unanimous voice vote, said: "We hope our nation has moved beyond the divisive rhetoric of the recent campaign and the shrill and shallow debate that distorts reality and reduces the options to 'cut and run' versus 'stay the course.'" The four-page document was prepared by the USCCB Committee on International Policy in collaboration with the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and the USCCB Administrative Committee.

"The (Bush) administration and the new Congress need to engage in a collaborative dialogue that honestly assesses the situation in Iraq, acknowledges past difficulties and miscalculations, recognizes and builds on positive advances (e.g., broad participation in elections), and reaches agreement on concrete steps to address the serious challenges that lie ahead," it said.

The statement on pastoral care of homosexually inclined persons reiterates church teaching that all homosexual acts are morally wrong but affirms the dignity of those with homosexual inclinations and says that experiencing such an inclination is not in itself sinful.

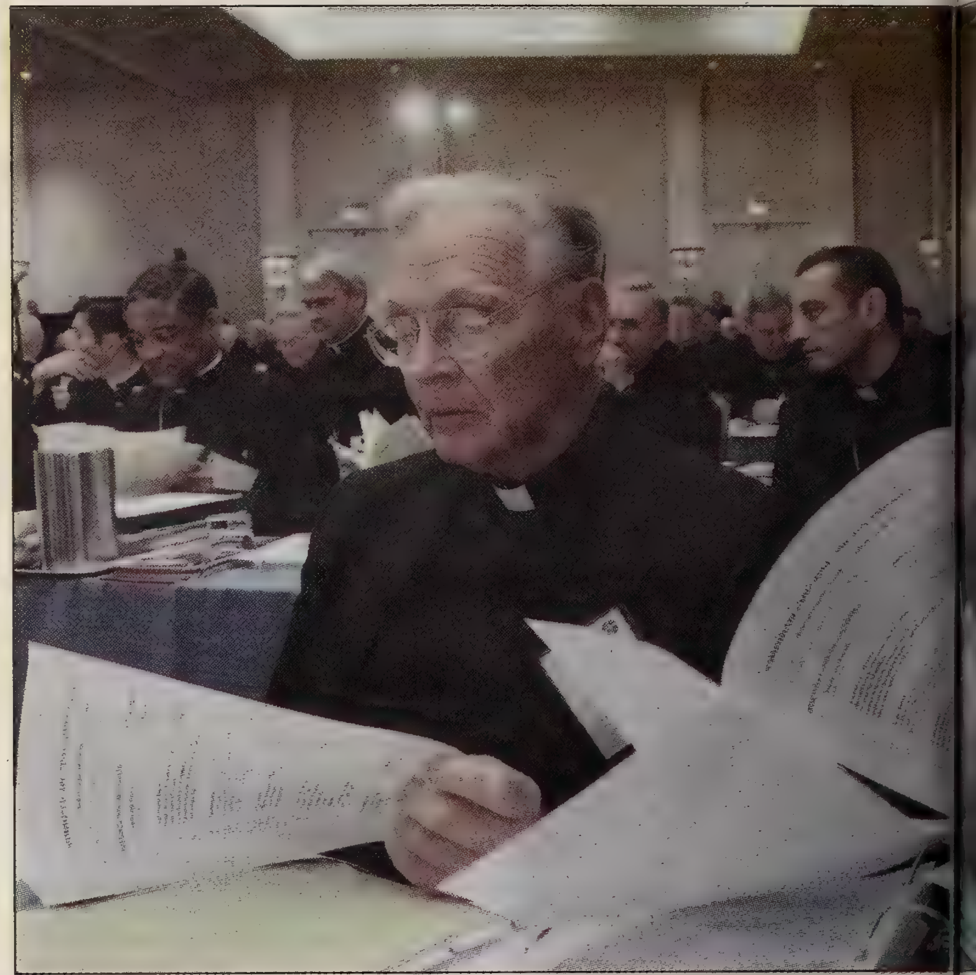
The bishops approved the statement 194-37 with one abstention, after turning back a motion to send it back to their Committee on Doctrine, which drafted the document, for more consultation and revision. The draft document the bishops received before the meeting was amended heavily before it came to a final vote.

Decisions and directions

The hymn directory, approved 195-21 with five abstentions, is intended to ensure that hymns used at Mass are doctrinally correct and based on Scripture and liturgical texts. The document also includes norms saying that each diocesan bishop is responsible for approving liturgical songs in his diocese.

The directory and norms now go to the Vatican for its assent.

The bishops voted 213-19 for a four-year strategic plan for 2008-2011 despite strenuous objections by some bishops over some of the planned staff cuts. More than 60 jobs will be eliminated in the restructuring.



Auxiliary Bishop Emil A. Wcela, left, of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba of
reorganization of the U.S. bishops' conference. The two were attending the U.S. bishops' annual fall meeti

Mortgage Place Lending

We love to say YES!
Purchase or Re-finance

100% Financing Programs

Low Interest & Interest-only Programs

Mortgage	Pay Select	Payment
$200,000	3%*	$500

Mortgage	30-yr Fixed	Payment
$200,000	5.875%*	$1,183.08

No Payment until February 2007

No Out-of -Pocket Closing Costs Options

First-time Homebuyer Programs

Perfect for debt consolidation!

Call Andrew Smith (704) 965-7486
Visit: www.MPL4loans.com
*Rate shown based on 80% or less LTV. Call for details.

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!

*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***

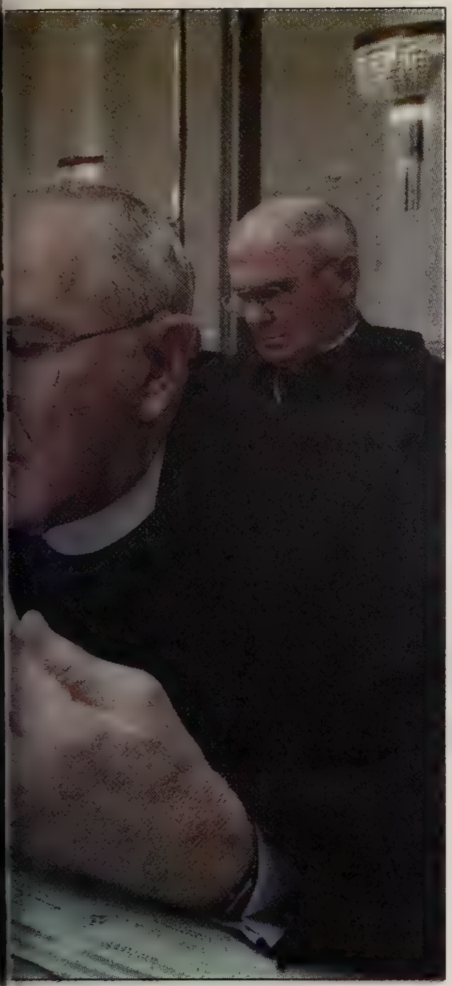
- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels

Asheville
828-665-3944

Charlotte
704-549-4010

Mooresville
704-663-1065



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

over papers Nov. 13 in Baltimore regarding the

Heads of dioceses then, in a 158-6 vote, adopted a proposal to cut diocesan funding of the USCCB in 2008 by 16 percent. Diocesan assessments - which will cover nearly $11.9 million of the USCCB's $139.5 million budget in 2007 approved by the bishops - will shrink in 2008 to just under $10 million.

Only bishops who head dioceses were allowed to vote on questions directly affecting the finances of their dioceses.

On the clergy sexual abuse study, Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, chairwoman of the National Review Board overseeing the bishops' compliance with their child protection charter, told the bishops Nov. 13, "I can't emphasize enough how important this study is for society as a whole" as well as for the church.

The first study, conducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, was considered a landmark in its field, and the new study is expected to be similarly groundbreaking.

The board commissioned the college to do the follow-up on causes and context, expected to cost around $3 million, in November 2005, after the bishops the previous June committed $1 million from their reserve funds to help pay for the study.

The $335,000 expenditure they approved by unanimous voice vote Nov. 13 comes out of that $1 million commitment. The college expects to obtain outside funding for the more expensive last three phases of the new study.

They also approved their priorities and plans for 2007 Nov. 14 by a 210-20 vote with three abstentions.

They also created a nongeographic episcopal region for Eastern-rite bishops, and extended through 2011 a resolution on diocesan financial reporting first adopted in 2000.

Other actions

In other actions, the U.S. bishops:

— Elected Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., as their new secretary, 118-116, over Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis. The bishops also chose 10 chairmen-elect for their committees.

— Approved by a unanimous voice vote the creation of a new nongeographical episcopal region for the Eastern-rite bishops. They approved creation of Region XV; the United States is divided into 14 regions for the nation's Latin-rite bishops.

— Listened to Bishop Skylstad in his presidential address Nov. 13 criticize the growing "coarseness" in U.S. society, which he said has had its impact on the Catholic Church. "Today vulgarity is common, hardly noticed," he said. "Even the name of God is disrespected in everyday speech." He added, "I would suggest to you that the phenomenon is symptomatic of a growing failure in our society: the lack of respect for one another, to see each other as being made in the image and likeness of God."

— Heard an appeal from Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia for bishops to send delegations to the International Eucharistic Congress slated for 2008 in Quebec City.

— Reauthorized a number of ad hoc committees Nov. 14 by a vote of 213-8 with five abstentions.

The bishops also heard a report from Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans and Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi, Miss., about the state of their dioceses one year after Hurricane Katrina.

"They were immensely grateful for all the help they received from Catholic dioceses and Catholic individuals from all over the country, many of whom personally came to lend efforts to help the clean up and return to normalcy," said Bishop Jugis.

"It was a moving conversation of deep gratitude.... about the tremendous charity of people still coming to the aide of the church and society in the Gulf Coast region," he said.

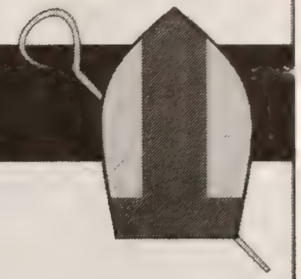
Bishop Jugis said Archbishop Hughes and Bishop Rodi reported it would take "many more years to dig out from the devastation of apocalyptic proportions."

"They said while the government will help, it will primarily be the church and other nonprofit organizations that will share their resources and help bring normalcy and hope back to the Gulf Coast," said Bishop Jugis.

Editor Kevin E. Murray contributed to this article.

"The (Bush) administration and the new Congress need to engage in a collaborative dialogue that honestly assesses the situation in Iraq ..."

Decisions AT A GLANCE



Among the actions taken at their November meeting, the U.S. bishops...

- ✔ Called for nonpartisan talks on a "responsible transition" in Iraq.
- ✔ Approved statement calling on those in a state of serious sin to refrain from Communion.
- ✔ Allocated funds for the next phases of national study on clergy sexual abuse of minors.
- ✔ Voted to restructure their national operations and cut the assessment dioceses pay.
- ✔ Approved document calling married couples to live church teaching on artificial contraception.
- ✔ Gave their OK to creating a "Directory for Music and the Liturgy" for use in U.S. dioceses.
- ✔ Passed a series of guidelines for the pastoral care of homosexual Catholics.
- ✔ Authorized a revision of the Lectionary for Mass for selected days in Advent.
- ✔ Elected Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., as their new secretary.
- ✔ Passed a $139.5 million budget and a series of priorities and plans for 2007.
- ✔ Created a nongeographic episcopal region for the nation's Eastern-rite bishops.
- ✔ Approved a four-year strategic plan beginning in 2008.

©2006 CNS

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

Keep Christ in Christmas!

Give a Catholic gift to help friends and family remember the true "reason for the season"! Our stores are brimming over with unique gift ideas — beautiful artwork, fabulous gift books, jewelry and spiritual gifts for everyone on your gift list — all at affordable prices.

Why Catholic? Special for December — Paperback Cathechism — now only $8

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off
off all purchases of $35 or more.
Present coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/23/06.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Bible exhibition in Washington a feast for bibliophiles, biblicists

BY NANCY HARTNAGEL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A Washington exhibition of early Bibles is a feast for bibliophiles and biblicists alike.

Titled "In the Beginning: Bibles Before the Year 1000," the exhibition runs through Jan. 7 in the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall.

It was organized by the Sackler; the Freer Gallery of Art, also part of the Smithsonian; and the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford in England.

The Word of God was preserved and transmitted in fragile vessels, copied by hand on papyrus and parchment, just text at first but later illuminated art. In the Sackler exhibit, about 70 examples from these ancient scrolls (bookrolls) and codices (books) are on display, many for the first time in the United States.

The remarkable exhibition also explains how the Jewish and Christian Scriptures came to be gathered into the best-selling book of all time.

Among the fragments — some just bits and pieces, many intact — are such mystical biblical names as the Codex Sinaiticus from the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai; the Second Isaiah Scroll, recovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls in the desert caves at Qumran; and the Stockholm Codex Aureus, an eighth-century text from southeast England whose pages literally glow in gold.

There also are unique Bible covers: one set, from the seventh-century Freer Gospels, showing the painted figures of the four Evangelists, each holding Scriptures with hands draped as a mark of respect; the Byzantine Sion Treasure Book covers, all silver and gold; and the Douce Ivory upper cover, featuring carved scenes from Christ's life beginning with the prophecy of Isaiah.

But the stars of the show are the textual fragments.

Many were written in Greek, Latin and Hebrew. But others were penned in more obscure languages — Coptic, Syriac, Arabic, Georgian, Armenian, Glagolitic, Old English and Ge'ez, the literary language of Ethiopia — demonstrating the great evangelizing mission of Christianity.

What this Babel of fragments has in common is the singular beauty of the copiers' precision.

The ancient fragments, shown in dimly lighted rooms in the underground Sackler, are organized according to the story line.

In the beginning, the sacred books of the Jews and Christians were written individually on bookrolls or in quires (booklets of folded, stitched pages) to preserve an oral tradition.

In the fourth century, as Christianity gained acceptance across the Roman Empire, the organization and formation of the biblical canon occurred as the Word of God spread, in the exhibit's words, "from the Eastern deserts to the Western isles," that is, from the Holy Land to monastic communities off Ireland's western coast.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTHUR M. SACKLER GALLERY

Pictured are pages from the Nag Hammadi Codex II: The Gospel of Thomas. The pages are part of an exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution on the National Mall in Washington.

Later in the first millennium of Christianity, large ornate editions of the Pentateuch, Gospels, epistles, psalters and single-volume Bibles — some so heavy they required three people to lift them — were made as icons of praise and liturgical symbols.

Among the exhibit's other treasures, gathered from museums, libraries and one monastery on four continents, are:

— Papyrus fragments in Greek, dating from about 150, of the Chester Beatty Codex of Numbers and Deuteronomy; before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, these pages were regarded as the oldest extant manuscript of any Bible.

— From the Rabbula Gospels, dating to 586 in Syria, two decorated pages: one painted miniatures of the Crucifixion, the two Marys at the tomb and the risen Christ appearing to them, the second a "canon table" listing passages unique to the Gospel of John.

— Facing pages from the Codex Brixianus, or Purple Gospels, the sixth-century book of the Gospels in Latin from northern Italy; the pages are dyed purple, possibly by plant or shellfish extracts, and the ink on the purple parchment has a silver hue.

— A small, seventh-century wooden prayer tablet, perhaps hung on a wall or from a ceiling, containing unrelated verses in Greek from the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of James and 2 Timothy.

— The upper cover of the Mondsee, its intricate 11th-century metal and ivory work surrounding a central rock crystal, under which is a painting on gold of the crucified Christ with a splinter of wood across his chest.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: NOV. 26, 2006

November 26, Christ the King

Cycle B Readings:

1) Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
2) Revelation 1:5-8
3) Gospel: John 18:33b-37

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

No matter where we human beings gather these days, from the loudest sports event to the solemn quiet of a prayer service, one or more cell phones clang or chirp a few musical notes. As an owner of one of these useful and sometimes irritating inventions, I try to practice the adage that "silence is golden" and set my phone to silent in a gathering.

But it would be different during this particular Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults meeting; my cell phone would wait in the deep recesses of my purse with its ringer ready to interrupt at any given moment. It is not an ordinary night.

As we prepared for the meeting, the RCIA team and I were remembering Linda and Darwyn, who became Catholic two years ago. When they walked into our meeting room for the first time, we knew they were a special couple. Theirs is a story of love, commitment and courage, rooted in the love of God and the joy of becoming Catholic. Now, two years later, we knew that our friend Linda soon would be leaving.

Yesterday when I held her hand, I knew that our lighthearted conversations in the midst of her suffering were over. "I love you" were the only words left to say. All that remained were her long final hours of pain and the ultimate comprehension of family and friends that Sister Death, as St. Francis described it, would soon arrive.

Minutes before I was going to direct our RCIA participants to break into small groups, the muffled tolling of my cell phone sent a signal that really did not require an answer. Knowing looks circulated among our team. When I checked the message, I learned what we all knew: Linda had passed into the glory of God.

The readings for Sunday echo an intrinsic longing for justice, peace and an end to human suffering. Although some in society would say that the cosmic figures described in the Book of Daniel, Revelation and the Gospel of John were written to scare us into submission, we know they are signs that God loves us. Jesus is the witness to the glory of God — the faithful witness who has overcome death itself.

Questions:

When was a time that you were acutely aware that God's kingdom reaches beyond our earthly existence? When, in the midst of someone's suffering, have you used "I love you" as the only appropriate words?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 19-25

Sunday (Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, 18, Mark 13:24-32; **Monday,** Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (St. Cecilia),** Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday,** Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (St. Andrew Dung Lac and Companions),** Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday (St. Catherine of Alexandria),** Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV. 26-DEC 2

Sunday (Christ the King), Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37; **Monday,** Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday,** Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday,** Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday (St. Andrew),** Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Friday,** Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday,** Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36.

POLAND
with Father John Starczewski
parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro
"The Footsteps of John Paul II"
May 8-16, 2007
Join us while we visit Krakow, Wadowice, Zakopane, Warsaw, the world-famous salt mines of Wieliczka, Shrine of Divine Mercy and Czestochowa.
Roundtrip from Charlotte: $2,898 plus taxes and fees (double occupancy) — includes breakfast and dinner daily
For further information, call Patti Dameron at (336) 413-8127.

YOUR CLOSET.
ONLY BETTER.

Custom storage solutions for every room in your house.

- Closets, offices, garages, entertainment centers etc.
- Handcrafted designs that fit your needs and style
- Professionally trained designers and installers

25% OFF With This Ad
FREE INSTALLATION
We Will Beat Any Competitor's Offer

Call for a FREE design consultation
704.676.5000

closetfactory

www.closetfactory.com

CNH-I

This 'Nativity' worth watching

Hollywood gets it right with new film

BY DAVID DiCERTO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — In an effort to reach as wide a market as possible, most Christmas-themed movies come gift-wrapped in a secular brand of sentimentality that completely misses the true meaning of the holiday.

But Hollywood finally gets it right with "The Nativity Story" (New Line).

From the opening strains of the soundtrack — hints of the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" — you know you're in good hands.

A composite of the birth narrative accounts in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, embroidered with apocryphal traditions as well as the imaginative inspiration of the filmmaker, the Bible story gets prestigious treatment in director Catherine Hardwicke's artful, reverent and deeply affecting retelling.

The film has an excellent international cast and impressive production design similar to that of "The Passion of the Christ," the financial success of which no doubt paved the way for this movie.

(Without the blood and controversy, however, "The Nativity Story" should appeal to an even wider audience.)

Filmed in Matera — the ancient Italian town where Mel Gibson shot "The Passion" — and Morocco, it opens with prophecy-paranoid King Herod (Ciaran Hinds) plotting to kill all the male babies in Bethlehem.

Flashing back a year, Zechariah (Stanley Townsend) is told by an angelic voice that his wife Elizabeth (Shohreh Aghdashloo), though advanced in age, will bear a son.

In Nazareth, her young cousin, Mary (Keisha Castle-Hughes), a peasant girl is informed by her parents that she is to marry Joseph (Oscar Isaac), an upright carpenter a few years her senior.

Troubled over her betrothal to "a man I hardly know, a man I do not love," Mary withdraws to a nearby grove where the Annunciation, nicely handled, takes place, with Alexander Siddig personifying the angel Gabriel who reveals she will give birth to Jesus.

Meanwhile in Persia, the three Magi set out to follow the star westward (explained here as a rare convergence of Venus, Jupiter and an astral body).

What is described with only a few lines in Luke's Gospel becomes the meat of the film, as Joseph and Mary undertake the arduous journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, battling sandstorms, treacherous terrain, hunger and, while passing through Jerusalem, thieves.

Along the way, Hardwicke, raised Presbyterian, weaves in references that foreshadow events in Christ's life: Mary washing Joseph's feet; Joseph expressing anger over merchants in the Temple courtyard; a roadside crucifixion. In a more symbolic allusion, during a river crossing, Mary is imperiled by a snake, echoing the serpent of Eden.

Though the New Testament is sparse on details about Mary and Joseph, the thoughtful screenplay of Mike Rich, a practicing Christian, manages to flesh them out while remaining faithful to Scripture, beautifully suggesting the humanity beneath the halos.

Castle-Hughes conveys maturity well, playing Mary with all the anxieties that anyone would have in her extraordinary situation while having to deal with the disparaging looks of neighbors, the threat of stoning and the incredulity of her own parents. Her mother even hints at rape.

Particularly touching is a scene in which Mary sits alone at night pondering why God has chosen her ("I am nothing," she sighs). Likewise, Isaac soulfully essays Joseph with an empathetic decency, as he quietly shoulders his appointed responsibility, while troubled by an abiding sense of inadequacy.

As to the birth of Jesus, it's all there: the shepherds, the Wise Men, etc. Despite some greeting-card gloss, cloying sentimentality is avoided.

Throughout the film, Hardwicke never waters down the religious elements to make the story more palatable for nonbelievers, most clearly demonstrated when she has one of the Magi proclaim the radical truth of the Incarnation by declaring that the infant is "God made into flesh."

In a poignant moment that inextricably links the manger to the cross, his fellow traveler — after his companions have presented their gifts of gold and frankincense — tearfully offers the Christ Child myrrh "for his sacrifice," portending Jesus' atoning death.

Though placed differently from Luke's Gospel, Mary's "Magnificat" is incorporated by Hardwicke in a way that's most effective.

Amid the Christmas pageant elements, there are a few brief images (the slaughter of the innocents, for example) that may upset very young children. Both Mary's and Elizabeth's painful labor are vividly depicted.

The film's hopeful message should resonate beyond Christian audiences to a world still groaning for peace and good will.

The film contains some violent images. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

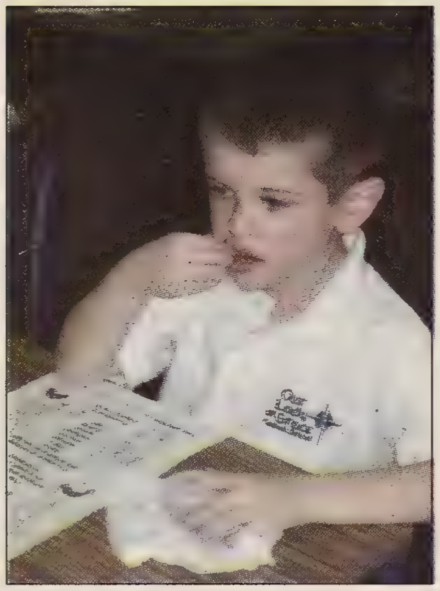
Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Hearts and pickles

COURTESY PHOTOS



Libby Jones (above), guidance counselor at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, is pictured holding a heart-shaped rug. Jones has placed a similar rug in each classroom to designate places where students can go to discuss conflicts with other students. Students are given different strategies they can use for conflict resolution in the classroom and on the playground.

First-grader Alec Merendino (left) samples a pickle. Jones often uses pickles with first-graders to make a point about life and resolving conflicts.

"Sometimes life is like a pickle. Sometimes it's sweet. Sometimes it's sour," said Jones. "A counselor is someone who listens when life is sweet, sour or in-between."

MAINTENANCE POSITION

Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. Responsibilities include: maintaining condition of facilities; minor repairs; and knowledge of methods, materials, and equipment related to the maintenance of a school facility. Applicants should be able to lift 50 pounds and pass a criminal background check. Resumes should be postmarked and sent to the following address no later than November 24, 2006: Maintenance Position c/o Kevin Parks, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, 3100 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Classifieds

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. 888-803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

The love of theatre

COURTESY PHOTO BY CELIA MCMULLE

Rachel Briley, director of the North Carolina Theatre for Young People an the Theatre for Youth at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, work with kindergarten students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro in earl November.

The school's faculty and staff have been working to incorporate drama into th curriculum. Briley and her theatre students have been visiting classrooms an working with students as well as teachers during in-service sessions.

The North Carolina Theatre for Young People strives to connect the universit with the community and to enrich the lives of young people through the art of liv theatre. It produces plays and facilitates outreach programs in schools.

Talented thespians

COURTESY P

Principal Gary Gelo of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro is pictured with aspiring actors and stude — fifth-grader Laura Peterson and fourth-grader Brenda Malone — after the opening performa of "The Headless Horseman: The Musical Legend of Sleepy Hollow" at the Weaver Academy Theatr Greensboro. The play was a production of the Greensboro Children's Theatre.

Our Lady of Grace School's faculty and staff have been working to incorporate drama into the scho curriculum.

Peruvian parish fights malnutrition with high-protein cookies

BY BARBARA J. FRASER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

YUNGUYO, Peru — As pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Church, which sits more than two miles high on a windswept Andean plain, Maryknoll Father Edmund Cookson has spent decades fighting malnutrition among impoverished farm families.

He has worked to improve herds of llamas, distributed hens and guinea pigs, and touted the nutritional advantages of native grains like quinoa and kaniwa. But he never expected to be baking 20 tons of high-protein cookies a month.

Earlier this year, the parish won the contract to provide nutritious cookies for the government's school breakfast program. Parishioners meet many of the strict requirements for vitamins, minerals and protein by using grains that have adapted to the harsh climate of the Andes over hundreds of years.

"Most of our work has been about children and nutrition," said Father Cookson. "This is a new slant on that."

Every month, for about a week, the parish mill and its new industrial kitchen burst into action. Ingredients are weighed and mixed in large vats, then the dough is pressed into rectangular cookies that are baked until crisp in a large electric oven. A wood-fired oven serves as a backup.

Four-cookie packs are then sealed and boxed for delivery to about 80 schools around Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake.

Every weekday, preschool and grade school students take a break for nutritious cookies and milk in a government program aimed at decreasing child malnutrition. The government contracts with local producers for the cookies and requires that they purchase their ingredients from Peruvian farmers in an effort to stimulate the local economy.

That approach appealed to Father Cookson, whose parish began operating a grain mill in 1992 in an effort to help small farmers get their products to market.

"The government was trying to do something on the local level with local resources. That attracted us," Father Cookson said.

The priest expanded the building that houses the parish's Bread and Life Mill and purchased industrial baking equipment with help from the Italian bishops' conference. About 15 people were trained in baking techniques and quality control, and the parish bid on the cookie contract, beating more than 20 other contenders.

The quinoa, kaniwa and fava beans ground into flour for the cookies come from farmers who live in thatch-roofed, adobe houses that dot the plain and the low hills that are part of Father Cookson's parish. About 80 percent of the people in the province of Yunguyo are small farmers.

CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA FRASER

A child eats a high-protein cookie baked by a parish in Yunguyo, Peru, in late October. Under a contract with the government, the parish supplies 20 tons of high-protein cookies per month for schools.

"The effect is that we're creating a market where there wasn't a market," he said.

Once the cookies are packaged, the parish is also responsible for distributing them. While most schools can be reached by truck, there are no roads to some remote communities. To get the cookies to those schools, "you have to put everything on mules," Father Cookson said.

As many as 40 percent of children suffer from malnutrition in the highlands of Peru, where more than half the people live below the poverty line. For youngsters whose parents may not be able to give them a healthy breakfast in the morning, "these cookies can be most important," Father Cookson said.

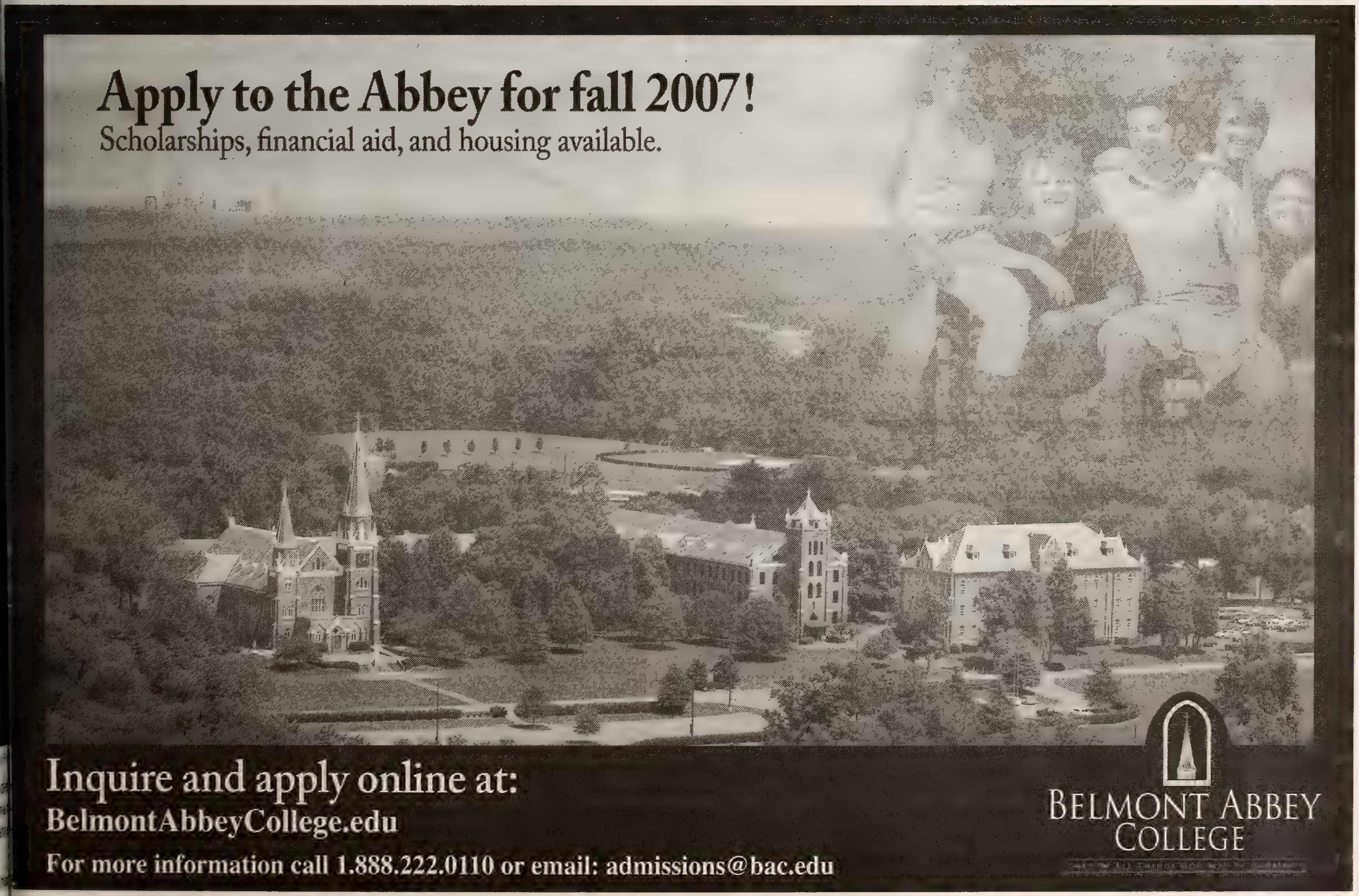
The managers of the government program keep close watch on the nutritional content of the cookies, kitchen hygiene and the number of cookies distributed.

About 40 percent of students who start first grade in the area around the city of Yunguyo never finish high school. Some drop out to help their parents work the fields, while many people leave to look for work in coastal cities.

Our Lady of the Assumption has hired a sociologist to work with the local Ministry of Education staff to study problems with education in the area and design solutions.

While Our Lady of the Assumption may not be able to reverse the exodus from the rural highlands, Father Cookson sees each batch of cookies as an aid to local families.

Ultimately, he said, the grains are bought from parents "and then passed on to their children in the form of cookies."



Apply to the Abbey for fall 2007!
Scholarships, financial aid, and housing available.

Inquire and apply online at:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu
For more information call 1.888.222.0110 or email: admissions@bac.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Making time for giving

Holidays is good time for funding the faith

Guest Column

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Time is precious and moving all too quickly for many of us. Too often, we are so busy in our day-to-day living that we find it difficult to slow down, take a break and spend time with our loved ones.

This is one of the reasons the holidays are so important to us.

Traditionally, during Thanksgiving and Christmas, we make a special effort to celebrate with family and close friends. The new year often finds us reflecting on the past year and making future resolutions and plans.

Many people in the Diocese of Charlotte also set aside time during the holidays to make special gifts to support their parishes, Catholic schools, Catholic agencies, the diocese or the diocesan foundation.

Those who give at the end of the year may also reap financial benefits as a result of their gifts. Gifts to the church may bring you tax savings next spring if you itemize on your federal income tax return.

Keep in mind that gifts need to be completed by Dec. 31, 2006.

Gifts of property, such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds and other appropriate assets that have increased in value since you have owned them, can result in extra tax savings. If you have held such assets for longer than a year, you can generally donate them and deduct their current value, including any "paper profits," from your taxable income.

Congress has provided that, in addition to regular tax savings, you do not have to pay capital gains tax on assets given to charity. This additional tax savings is one reason why some choose to make their gifts in this way.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows those who are 70½ years old and older to make tax-free charitable gifts through IRAs. For 2006 and 2007, Congress is allowing those individuals with traditional or Roth IRAs to make tax-free gifts directly to qualified charities.

Donors may choose to make charitable distributions in any amount up to $100,000 per year. A couple with separate IRAs may each give up to that amount.

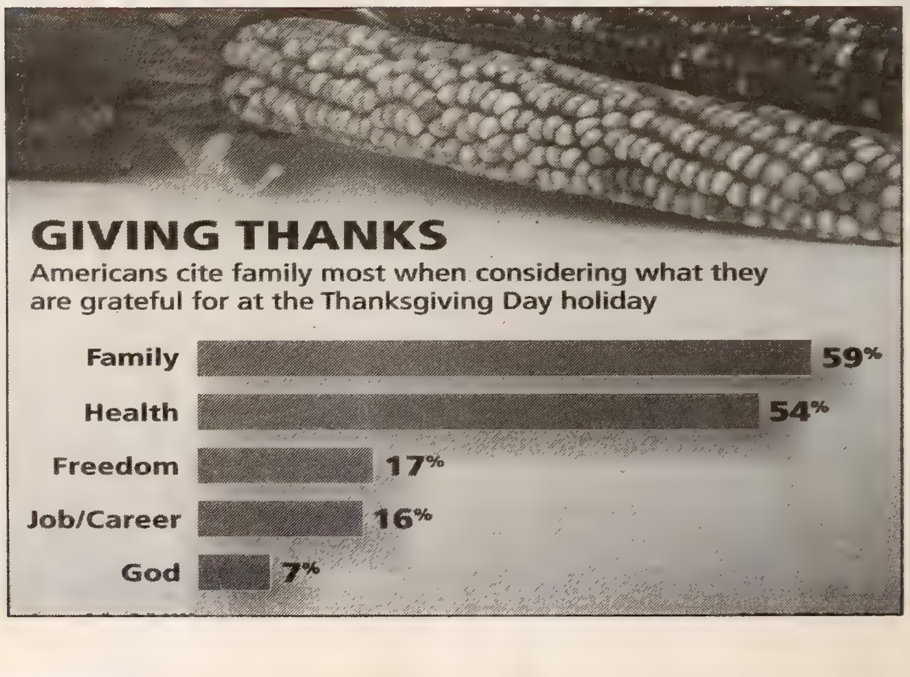
Specific guidelines apply to this new law, so be sure to talk with your financial advisor about the best way for you to take advantage of this new giving opportunity.

Gifts to your parish, Catholic school, an agency or the diocese help strengthen the community and provide the support needed for the ministry of the church in the Diocese of Charlotte. If you would like to make a meaningful gift this holiday season — one to help sustain the Catholic faith — make your plans today.

For additional information about making year-end gifts, please feel free to contact me. The Planned Giving Office is available to assist you throughout the year, in confidence and without obligation.

You can also find additional information on planned giving on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

Judy Smith is director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or e-mail jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.



Accepting an apology

Forgiveness is the correct response from Catholics

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

Forgiveness revealed its innocent face in the media last week, leaving some people perplexed and some a bit angry.

It all began at a soccer game involving Charlotte Catholic High School and Forestview High School in Gaston County. The incident received a lot of coverage both locally and nationally. Here is a brief recap.

Students at Forestview played an excerpt of a Nazi propaganda speech over the public address system before a playoff game with Charlotte Catholic Saturday, Nov. 4. They chose the speech because it used the phrase, in German, "on to victory," which is the team's slogan.

It goes without saying that Nazi speech is patently offensive and has no place at an athletic event or any other type of gathering.

The Charlotte Catholic players and coach were surprised and offended at what they heard. Catholic went on to lose the game 1-0.

By the following Monday, the principal of Forestview had faxed a letter of apology to Charlotte Catholic, explaining that the students had played the regrettable excerpt without involving any adults in their decision, and that they had apparently been unaware of the magnitude of their error.

At the same time, parents from Charlotte Catholic complained about the incident to a Charlotte Observer newspaper reporter, who put the story on page one of the Tuesday paper.

In the article, the initial response of Gary Hoilett, soccer coach at Charlotte Catholic, was to describe the apology from Forestview as unacceptable. Hoilett, who did not notify school officials about the brewing news story, was speaking for himself and not for the school or the Diocese of Charlotte.

Jerry Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic, and I recognized that the sincere apology from Forestview High School required a better response from a Catholic institution.

Forgiveness is a core belief of our faith. Jesus called the disciples to forgive others, not once, not seven times, but 77 times (Matt 18:22). Obviously, with one apology accepted, we had 76 to go before we needed to be angry with anyone at Forestview.

Nazism at a high school soccer game was a story with legs, and I fielded calls and did interviews all week. Secular newspapers and television stations in the diocese reported what was in the original account and sought new angles. NBC Nightly News and The London Daily Mail called seeking comment.

In all of the follow-up stories, Charlotte Catholic and the diocese maintained an attitude of accepting Forestview's apology and wishing the school well for the remainder of the playoffs.

Forestview lost the following week 5-1 and was eliminated.

I spoke with reporters who seemed t have a difficult time understanding tha the diocese wasn't seeking vengeance Most were eager to include this "unusual" angle in their stories.

Forgiveness is often a "NIMBY" — "Not In My Backyard" — concept. I is a good idea in the abstract but harder t understand, or offer, on a personal level The knee-jerk negative announcers of tal radio and its Neanderthal cousin, sport talk radio, responded to the apology wit calls for firings and forfeits.

Forgiveness sits in the middle of th great divide between the spiritual worl of our faith and the media world tha dominates our culture. It is in the bes interest of the media to seek conflict an once found — even if the transgressio is the action of high school students — t blow it up and drag it out for days.

On the other hand, forgivenes doesn't sell newspapers because onc it is granted, the story is over. But i the world of faith we are continuall called to forgiveness by Jesus, th great forgiver.

Over the weekend an acquaintanc of mine sarcastically described th diocesan response as "charitable of yc folks." My reply was to say, "We are religious institution. We're supposed be charitable. Thank you."

Write to David Hains at dwhains charlottediocese.org. A Podcast of th column can be found on the dioces website, www.charlottediocese.org.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The new, scary, Internet way to build community

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

Imagine, 20 years ago, a young girl suffering from anorexia, a ometimes fatal eating disorder. How does she find support?

Who else has experienced anorexia nd shares her feelings? Maybe there's omething at the library. Perhaps a ounselor can reach her.

Fast-forward 20 years. Now this ame girl has the Internet, where a few eystrokes bring her not just medical nformation but more: personal sharing, ontact with others, a chance to interact.

This is a good thing, right? In my aive younger days, say maybe the day took my first computer out of its box, would have said: "Yeah, that's a great hing. We can all connect."

But then I read about some anorexia Web sites — sites that actually glorify norexia. Online, one link led to another, nd pretty soon I had a sick feeling that old me I had encountered evil. There are Web sites out there that coax others into norexia's dance of death, that support eople not in their struggle to get better ut in their struggle to lose more and more weight and, finally, to simply lose.

Twenty years ago how would you ave found, from your own bedroom, a ommunity with a communal death wish like that?

It was then I began to understand we had encountered a new, scary way of building community — of "belonging" — like no other in history.

Today you can find a Web site or contribute to a blog built around just about any kind of "community" from a Bob Dylan fan club to a terrorist organization to those suffering from irritable leg syndrome.

Log on and belong. Have your say. Scream. Invent yourself. Feed on others' anger. And here's the clincher: Very often you can belong anonymously.

In this brave new world of human relations, this anonymity, this lack of accountability and the Internet's ability to spread venom instantaneously are changing the nature of civil discourse as we know it.

I seldom visit a blog unless I'm researching something, and then I'll click on quite a few in a short time. Lately I've been tripping over an amazing number of Catholic blogs.

Some of them are interesting and educational. These are almost always the ones whose editor — blogster? blogkeeper? — identifies himself or herself clearly and describes his credentials, in other words, takes responsibility and care.

The ones that get nasty are the anonymous ones. Many of them give me that creepy feeling I had when I went to the anorexia sites that something evil lurks here. It isn't necessarily what is being discussed. Catholics love a good debate on many issues. No, it's the name-calling and the anger. It's the divisiveness, the lack of respect for other Catholics whose views are not your own.

It's throwing around scurrilous labels like "heterodox" and "heresy" with little understanding of how those terms apply to the subject at hand. It's the rigidity, the idea that God is in my box and I can open it and give you all the answers if you just shut up and listen. Oh, but don't, please don't ask me to explain how I happen to know it all, because I'm not going to tell you who I am much less where I got my education.

The Internet is a marvelous thing. But for real community, give me personal contact and polite debate. Failing that, give me a good Catholic journal — progressive or traditional — that invites healthy dialogue, but always, always asks me to sign my name.

The truly liberated mom

Liberation means doing what is best for the whole family

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

I noticed two headline stories longside each other in the newspaper ecently — one about Oprah's interview with the singer Madonna regarding the Malawian boy she adopted and the other bout the death of Jane Wyatt, known as he 1950s version of the liberated mom n her role of Margaret Anderson on the how "Father Knows Best."

As I read both articles, I decided I ad more in common with the character f Margaret scripted more than a half-entury ago than I did with the pop star-iva of my generation. In junior high I ore plastic bracelets up to my elbows ke Madonna and would belt out the ords to "Like a Virgin" in the shower.

However, years later when searching or a role model in the media who might each me something about raising a child our world, I certainly wasn't going look to the "Papa Don't Preach" hick who kissed Britney Spears as the pening act of the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

Jane Wyatt was a feminist of her eneration. She pushed for a more ntelligent show, scripts that gave her more to do, scenes of her reading a book or pursuing some activity other than mending jeans and washing dishes. Her character was as smart and independent as a woman could be on television back then.

In a recent article in the Washington Post, reporter Tom Shales wrote: "For many little girls of the '50s, Jane Wyatt as Margaret Anderson was the mother they hoped they'd be when they grew up. By the time they did, the world had changed in so many ways that Margaret was largely an irrelevancy. But in her day, and with an assurance that goes beyond mere professionalism, Jane Wyatt beautifully and memorably made believers of us all."

I keep looking for the modern equivalent, the TV mom I respect and love. Madonna? I gave up on her long before the kiss with Britney. Angelina Jolie? Julia Roberts? Not happening! Elizabeth Vargas, the co-anchor of ABC News' "20/20" who stepped down as co-anchor of ABC's "World News Tonight" while pregnant with her second child? Possibly.

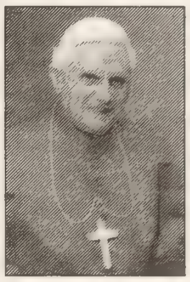
Vargas is real. She admits there is simply no way to do it all or have it all. In an interview with People magazine, she described her struggle working as an ABC co-anchor while raising Zachary, now a toddler. She fears he may have suffered because of it. She seems truly to understand the difficulty of balancing the needs of her children with her own desires to take advantage of professional opportunities and nurture her career.

Interestingly, Vargas looks back a generation to Sandra Day O'Connor, who left her legal practice in order to raise her children. After five years of full-time motherhood, she returned to work as an assistant state attorney general in Arizona, eventually becoming the first woman justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Moms have a lot to learn from the generation before us. It might do our celebrity moms some good too, especially as they stand on a mirrored cross wearing a crown of thorns. I'll take Wyatt's mom of the '50s over that any day.

Pope says Holy Spirit makes each person a child of God

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Holy Spirit, present in every Christian, makes each person a child of God and part of God's great family, Pope Benedict XVI said in his weekly general audience Nov. 15.

Having this special relationship with God and knowing they are part of God's great family should compel Christians to let this gift manifest itself in "our thoughts, our actions, our being" and lead people to better love one another, he said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks at his audience.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our reflections on the apostle Paul, we now turn to his teaching on the Holy Spirit.

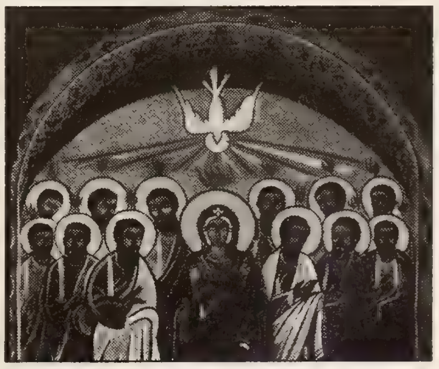
St. Paul not only presents the Holy Spirit as the driving force of the church's mission, he also speaks of the Spirit's presence and activity in the life of each individual Christian.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the risen Lord, the Spirit of adoption poured into our hearts (Gal 4:6), by which we become, in Christ, sons and daughters of the Father. True prayer is thus the fruit of the Spirit's presence within us.

As the Spirit of the Father and the Son, he helps us in our weakness and constantly intercedes for us before the Father.

The Spirit is also the Spirit of love (Rom 5:5): he gives us a share in God's own life, enables us to love others with Christ's own love and strengthens the bonds of communion within the church.

Finally, Paul teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the pledge and guarantee of the inheritance awaiting us in heaven (2 Cor 1:22; 5:5). May St. Paul's example and insight inspire us to treasure the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives and to follow his promptings with hope-filled joy and generous love.



More than a pint of faith

Brewer believes there's room for faith in beer business

BY CHERI PERKINS MANTZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MILWAUKEE — Brewing beer and Catholicism may not seem to go hand in hand. But in Dick Leinenkugel's life, he's always felt connected to the two.

Born as the fifth generation of Leinenkugel beer brewers in Chippewa Falls, Wis., Leinenkugel is now the brewery's vice president of sales and marketing. He started giving tours of the brewery when he was 17, and has worked in about every area of the brewery, including bottling, customer service, packing and delivery.

Leinenkugel, 48, attended Marquette University in Milwaukee and insisted on funding his higher education himself. The only way he felt he could do that was by joining Marquette's Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Upon graduation, Leinenkugel spent four years in the Marine Corps. While stationed in Hawaii, he met Jean, his future wife. Ironically, she was from Eau Claire.

"We grew up 13 miles apart and met 3,000 miles from home," he said.

During his stint with the Marines, Leinenkugel served as a lay minister while on board ship.

"Each ship had a lay minister who could give consecrated bread and hold a service while sailing," he said. "I volunteered and received training from the chaplain."

"I acted as the Catholic lead on board," he said. "If anyone needed to talk about their faith or had questions, you were the person. That was enriching."

The Leinenkugels belong to Good Shepherd Church in Menomonee Falls.

Leinenkugel said there is room for faith in the beer business.

"Catholic faith is very important to me," he said. "First of all, it's part of my DNA and guides what I do.

"Yet I'm realistic that as a businessperson, your primary goal is to increase shareholder value. We're not a not-for-profit," he said. "I don't think profit is a bad word. It's our profit that allows us to hire, train and promote our employees and provide them with a better quality of life.

Beer has been around for 6,000 years, said Leinenkugel.

"There are ancient recipes in Mesopotamia. It may not have been called beer, but it was around at the time of Christ," he said.

This fifth-generation brewer also feels his beer provides more than a good time.

"It's a great product shared responsibly by millions," he said. "It's a beverage of moderation, but there's also a social aspect. It's a beverage of family gatherings. There's nothing better, I think, than saying, 'Would you like to come over for a beer?'"

He said the product provides faith opportunities in that it's a social opportunity.

"As a Catholic and a businessman, my goal is to market the product responsibly. We don't market to those underage and we train servers not to overserve," he explained.

Leinenkugel feels he's carrying on a legacy when he goes to work.

"It makes retailers feel good to see someone with the name on the bottle who's out there and cares about the product," he said. "We're carrying out the legacy of my great-great-grandfather and representing the family and family name."

Leinenkugel credits his faith for also putting his job into perspective.

"It helps me to realize that my job is simply that — a job," he said. "I think it helps ground me in reality.

"While the decisions I make are important to our business, and I don't take them lightly, I realize there's something bigger out there," he said. "It's bigger than me and it's bigger than our business."

CNS PHOTO BY SAM LUCERO, CATHOLIC HERAL

Fifth-generation brewer Dick Leinenkugel says there is room for faith in the beer business. Leinenkuge is pictured at his Milwaukee brewery.

www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family Medicine

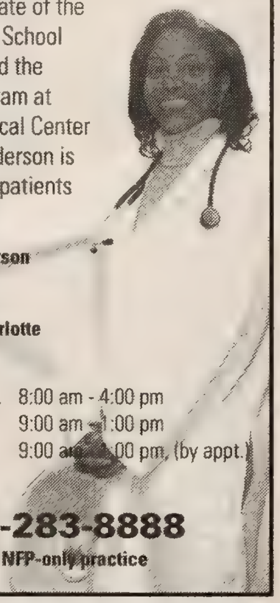
...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice



135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

***LOW ad rates** - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald

Give the gift of lifetime memories

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her peopl

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacula countryside of Ireland and learn of ou faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mas celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all o your needs, your days will be filled witl spiritual enrichment as well as Irisl folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,89 includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

FC 282
C363c

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

NOVEMBER 24, 2006
SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
VOLUME 16 Nº 7

Perspectives
Magliano says much work to do after elections; the Dodds discuss ways to fight domestic abuse
| PAGES 14-15

Revisiting the school of yesteryear

St. Ann School celebrates 50 years of Catholic education

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — On Aug. 29, 1956, three Sisters of St. Joseph arrived in Charlotte to set up a new Catholic school under the patronage of St. Ann.

St. Ann Church had been established just the year before and was comprised of nearly 850 parishioners. A combination school and church had already been constructed, as well as a rectory and a convent.

A half-century later, 300 current and former students and faculty, family members and guests celebrated the school's 50th anniversary with a Mass, reception

See SCHOOL, page 5

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Jodi Croat (front left) and Jessica Fielder (front right) use traditional slate boards as Caroline Bryson reads a vintage "Davy Crockett" book in a 1950s-style classroom set up for St. Ann School's 50th-anniversary celebration Nov. 18. Also pictured is Emma Bryson, who will be a kindergartner at the school in the 2007-08 school year.

Scavenging for stewardship

Youths, parishioners make helping others a way of life

GREENSBORO — Parishioners, young and old, are living out the meaning of stewardship at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

The weekend of Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 12, teenage members of the parish Life Teen youth group took part in a community-wide scavenger hunt.

Their mission was to collect items to fill 130 gift bags for the parish's upcoming Santa for Seniors Christmas party as well as non-perishable food items to fill 120 Christmas food baskets to be distributed to needy families via local agencies.

"Each year at this time, the

See STEWARDS, page 7

Analyzing an election

Deconstructing voter choices: Catholics differ little from others

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Much ado has been made of the supposed shift of "religious" voters to Democrats in the midterm election.

Exit polls showed that more Catholics and more frequent churchgoers in general voted for Democrats in the 2006 election than voted for Democrats in the 2004 election. News stories and press releases in the first few days after the election touted "Catholic voters abandon Republicans," and "God gap narrows."

But when compared to how voters as a whole cast their ballots this year, the much-vaunted statistics that supposedly show dramatic shifts by Catholics and regular worshippers of any faith lose their distinctiveness.

See ELECTION, page 12

CNS PHOTO BY THERESA LAURENCE, TENNESSEE REGISTER

Catholic parishioner Flora Jones (left) consults with her friend, Gladys Jackson, as she casts her vote at a polling place in Christ the King School in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 7.

The matter of married priests

Pope, curial officials reaffirm value of priestly celibacy

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials, meeting to review the status of married priests, reaffirmed the value of priestly celibacy and said its importance

See CELIBACY, page 8

XMPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
20036#
8 P-1
COLLECTION
LSON LIBRARY CB 3930
C
APEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Living a new life
CSS adoptions help build new families
| PAGE 6

Culture Watch
Gibes at pope spark debate; 'Nativity' composer
| PAGES 10-11

In the News
Indonesian youths write Bush; Zimbabwe pressures churches
| PAGE 13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY

CNS PHOTO BY CORI FUGERE URBAN, VERMONT CATHOLIC TRIBUNE

John Walthour, president of the Robotics Club at Norwich University (third from left), and professor Ronald Lessard of Norwich's electrical and computer engineering department (second from right) work with members of the Robotics Club at St. Monica School in early November in Barre, Vt. As part of a pilot program, the school received four robots and computer software at a reduced price in exchange for feedback about the product.

Catholic school students take part in robotics pilot program

BARRE, Vt. (CNS) — John McHugh, a fourth-grader at St. Monica School in Barre, would like to see robots used as police officers.

"They could have rockets on the bottom of their feet and fly around town looking for people who are being attacked by criminals and come down and arrest them," he said. "It'd be a big help."

Classmate Ricky Gariboldi would like to have a robot clean his room and do his homework.

Whatever use robots can be put to, St. Monica's science and computer teacher Pam Nadeau wants her students to learn about them — and about their design, structure, construction, programming, teamwork and problem-solving.

That's why she incorporates robotics into her sixth- through eighth-grade science classes and her fourth- through eighth-grade computer classes. She is also the adviser to the Catholic elementary school's Robotics Club.

This year four new robots were added to the school's previous collection of four, but the new ones are state-of-the-art and part of a Lego education pilot program involving only 55 schools in the continental United States.

Thanks to the Lego Mindstorms Education NXT pilot program, the school got the four robots, each with light, sound, ultrasonic, temperature and touch sensors. St. Monica also received the accompanying computer software and the site license that gives the school permission to use multiple copies of the same program on several computers simultaneously.

The children are using robots that look like a motorized Lego toy about the size of a cordless phone. They are not remote-controlled but autonomous robots the students program to work on their own.

Ronald Lessard, a professor who initiated the program, said the students who are studying robotics at St. Monica have the potential to go to college, become engineers and use robots to help people.

"Robots can do work that is hazardous or dirty or boring," he said. "They're very good at doing repetitive tasks people don't like to do."

"This is learning in a fun way," said Christie Galfetti, a fourth-grader at St. Monica. "We're learning how to set up systems and follow directions more."

"You get to see if you can master things," said Amanda Merrill, an eighth-grader. "It's interesting to watch and do."

Massachusetts bishops 'disturbed' by thwarted marriage vote

BOSTON — The Catholic bishops of Massachusetts said they are "deeply disturbed" by the state Legislature's recent move to squelch a proposed amendment that would limit future same-sex marriages.

"The effort to silence the people through inaction and delay has no place in democracy," they said in a Nov. 14 statement after the Legislature recessed the constitutional convention without voting.

"Citizens of the commonwealth have exercised their right to initiate the petition process afforded to them by our state constitution, and they have complied with the law at every step," they added.

"Our public servants have no less of an obligation to follow the law by bringing the marriage amendment to a legislative vote."

On Nov. 9 the joint session of the Legislature voted 109-87 to recess until the last day of the legislative session Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. They did not vote on the citizen's initiative petition aimed to allow voters to decide the definition of marriage.

The petition garnered 170,000 signatures, the largest number in state history, and needs to receive 25 percent of the vote in two consecutive joint sessions of the Legislature before it can appear on the ballot in 2008.

If successful, it would amend the constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman. It would not invalidate existing same-sex marriages or rule out the possibility of civil unions.

Ed Saunders, executive director of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, told The Pilot, Boston archdiocesan newspaper, that the conference is also working to find legal and political options.

"Every possible means to move this people's amendment is being looked at right now," he said.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat,* 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for Dec. 1 will be "The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

CHARLOTTE — Should you give a trusted family member Power of Attorney or have an Advanced Medical Directive? Are there medical treatments that may be forgone or withdrawn? An *End-Of-Life Issues Roundtable* will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. in Biss Hall. A discussion will feature Ray Farris, attorney; Dr. Alex Sanchez; and Karen Walto, RN. Free parking is available in the parking garage next to The Green. For more information, call (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — The *17th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life* will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Dec. 8 following the 7:30 p.m. Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available until 11 p.m. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — *Eucharistic Adoration* will be offered every Friday, Dec. 8-22, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St.

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Marcin Zahuta. Confession will be available from 1:30 p.m. For more information call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Ann Marie Wilson will speak at the *Advent Supper-Study Series,* guiding participants through "Praying with Catherine McAuley," a spiritual guidebook on the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. The series will meet Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 and 13, 6-7:30 p.m., in the Msgr. Kovacic Center at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. A simplicity meal will be served 6-6:45 p.m. No pre-registration needed. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., will host a free *Advent Morning of Reflection* in the Haid Ballroom Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Professor David Pitt will present "Cradle and Cross: A Paschal Celebration of the Incarnation" and Benedictine Father David Brown, will present "A Christmas Look at the Prologue of John's Gospel." Mass will follow in the Abbey Basilica at 11a.m. with mid-day prayer at 11:45 a.m. Reservations are requested by calling (704) 825-6777.

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will have a Christmas Tea

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

NOV. 24, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 7

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: U.N. rights council must address violations fairly

ROME (CNS) — By not addressing human rights violations fairly and consistently, especially the violence unfolding in the Holy Land, the U.N. Human Rights Council risks losing credibility, a Vatican official said.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi said "shortsighted political and economic interests" have prevented the U.N. council from addressing "with fairness and consistency" ongoing human rights violations in some parts of the world.

Archbishop Tomasi, the Vatican's representative to Geneva-based U.N. agencies, spoke Nov. 15 during the council's special session on Israeli military incursions in occupied Palestinian territories in Geneva.

"A human rights council that does not contribute to change the quality of people's lives on the ground, in their daily tasks and normal activities, seriously risks a loss of credibility," he said.

The council's special session voted Nov. 15 to send a fact-finding mission to investigate the Nov. 8 Israeli killings of Palestinian civilians in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert had said he was "very distressed" by the deaths and said the strike had been due to a "technical failure."

Archbishop Tomasi, meanwhile, called on the U.N. council to offer "real dialogue that enables placing on the table the real problems calling for (a) solution" in the Middle East.

The Vatican representative said both sides "must recognize each other's humanity and equality" as well as respect basic human rights and international law. Only in an atmosphere of justice and reconciliation can collaboration and mutual security come about, he said.

"Respect of human rights, above all the right to life, is not an abstract consideration," Archbishop Tomasi said.

Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd. For more information, call Carmen Wood telephone (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of Seeing Everyone Again* (HOSEA), a program to invite Catholics who have distanced themselves from the Catholic Church to return. This small group meets Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., through Dec. 19, to discuss various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and School, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The group will be facilitated by parishioner and life coach Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the group is to create a time and a space for women to better connect with their inner wisdom and move forward on their journey in life. For more information or to register, call Lucy (336) 632-1940 or e-mail coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828) 327-0487.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — An informal gathering for inactive Catholics, *"Homecoming"* will be presented at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., Dec. 3, 2-3 p.m. For more information, call Carole Hubbell at (828) 837-4830.

FRANKLIN — The *Respect for Life* group meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Maryann Tyrer will speak about "Catholic Moral Theology" Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Sister Geri Rogers will present "Mary: Model of Faith" Dec. 6. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a **free** event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Nov. 26
50th Anniversary Celebration Mass
Archdiocese of Atlanta

Nov. 29
Mass for the cathedral's dedication — 100th anniversary celebration
Richmond, Va.

Dec. 5 — 8:45 a.m.
Rosary with Latin class
Charlotte Catholic High School

Dec. 7 — 10 a.m.
Diocesan Foundation Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Meeting of pope, archbishop of Canterbury may highlight Anglican rifts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When the Anglican archbishop of Canterbury meets Pope Benedict XVI, divisions within the Anglican Communion are expected to grab more attention than the barriers to Anglican-Catholic unity posed by the ordination of women bishops and attitudes toward homosexuality.

Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, leader of the Church of England and spiritual head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, visited Rome Nov. 21-26.

He was scheduled to meet privately with Pope Benedict and with Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, as well as with other Vatican officials and with Catholic and Anglican groups in Rome.

The Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion continue to make public commitments to joint witness even as new issues appear to make their eventual unity more difficult.

The decision by several member churches of the Anglican Communion to ordain women priests and the decision of some to ordain women bishops, to ordain openly homosexual men and to bless gay unions have created a serious barrier to full union with the Catholic Church.

Meeting with a small group of journalists Nov. 17, Cardinal Kasper said: "We cannot have full communion with a church or ecclesial community which has women bishops. It's not possible for the Catholic Church and it's not possible for the Orthodox Church."

"We are sad about this," the cardinal said.

At the same time, he said, "we are determined to continue (our dialogue). We do not want to interrupt it," but exactly what form the dialogue will take will have to be discussed with the Anglicans and will depend on how the Anglican Communion deals with its internal tensions.

The tensions have led many people to wonder how Catholics and Anglicans can continue their dialogue and to ask whether full visible unity is still the goal.

"We are in agreement with the Anglicans that Christ wills his church to be one, so we are not authorized to say the goal of our dialogue is no longer full unity," said Canadian Father Donald Bolen, an official at the Christian unity council.

"Can we see a clear path to full communion in the near future? No. But that does not lessen our commitment to work together to seek progress where we can," he said.

Despite the difficulties, Pope Benedict and Archbishop Williams were expected to discuss concrete ways for the official Catholic-Anglican theological dialogue to move forward.

In addition, the Vatican and the Anglican Communion are preparing to release in early 2007 a document summarizing the points of faith and doctrine their communities hold in common and indicating concrete ways for Anglicans and Catholics to witness together to those beliefs.

The document was prepared by the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission.

No holiday for turkeys

CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Free-range turkeys gather in a yard at a poultry farm in Calverton, N.Y., Nov. 10. The turkey is one of the more popular symbols of Thanksgiving, which was observed Nov. 23 this year.

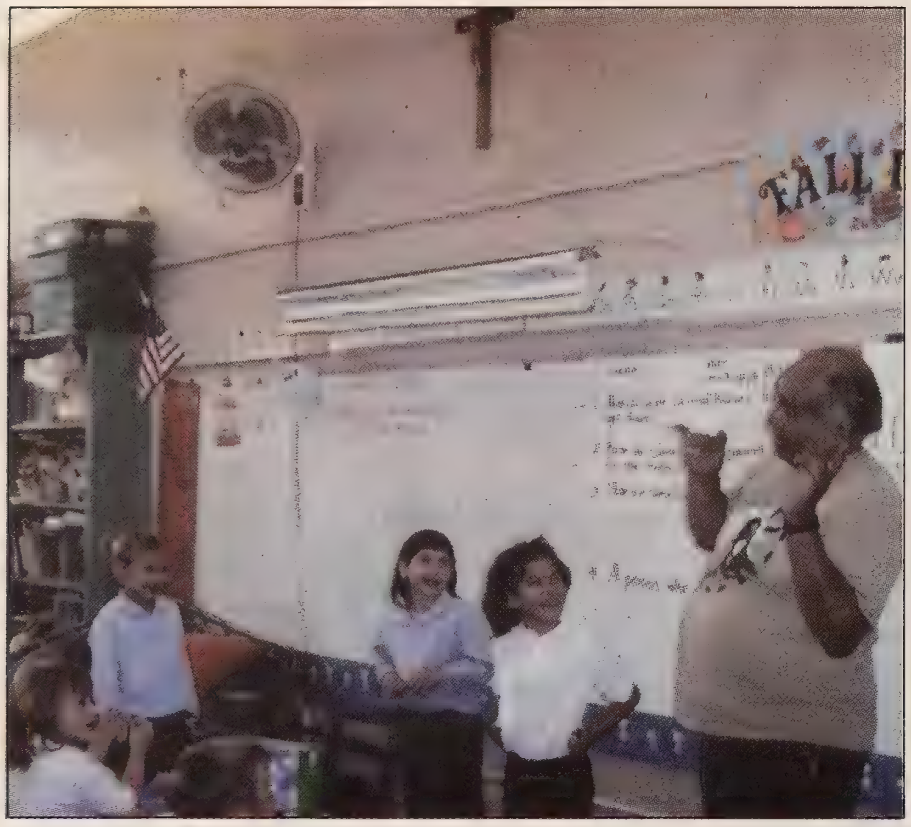


Photo by Carole McGrotty

Storyteller Lloyd Arneach shows second-graders how to make up a story at Asheville Catholic School in October.

Old way of learning new things

Storytelling residency brings history, ideas to school

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — When Cherokee storyteller Lloyd Arneach asked Gay Edwards' second-grade class if he should tell them a scary story, they shouted, "Yes! We love to be scared!"

Arneach had no trouble holding their attention.

Second-, third- and fourth-grade classes participated in a storytelling residency at the school Oct. 16, 17 and 19. Afterward, Arneach and several students performed a storytelling skit for the entire student body.

An enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Lloyd Arneach was born and raised on the Cherokee Reservation in Cherokee, N.C. He learned his first legends from two storytelling uncles on the reservation.

"One way of telling a story is to memorize it word by word," he told the second-graders. "Another way is to make up a story as you go along."

From 1970 to 1990, Arneach traveled throughout Georgia, lecturing on Cherokee history and culture, while working for AT&T's computer department in Atlanta.

In 1990, he added storytelling to his presentations on culture and history and, in 1993, he began a full-time career as both storyteller and historian. Arneach has performed at the National Storyteller Festival in Washington, D.C., at the Smithsonian Institution and appeared on the Discovery Channel.

He lectures on Cherokee history and culture in schools, universities, libraries, museums and historical societies, and brings along a number of Native American artifacts to show.

Third-grade teacher Donna Smith plans to use some of Arneach's methods in her classroom.

"It's a great way to reinforce reading and vocabulary words," she said. "Mr. Arneach used some of our science words when he acted out and told his stories."

K of C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of December:

Rev. Michael J. Hoban	1995
Rev. Thomas McAvoy	1978
Rev. Joseph McCarthy	2001
Rev. Francis Scheurich	1975
Rev. Msgr. Francis M. Smith	1983
Rev. Vincent M. Stokes	1979

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Surprise appreciation

Sister Helene. . . is the Greatest!!
Happy Principal Appreciation Day

Courtesy Photo

Learning support teacher Nina Smith (right) pins a rosebud corsage on Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal of St. Ann School in Charlotte, during Principal Appreciation Day Nov. 16. The faculty, staff and students surprised Sister Nagle with a banner signed by the students, the corsage and a lunch.

Principal recognition

Courtesy Photo

Joseph Puceta, principal of St. Michael School in Gastonia, is surrounded by students, faculty, staff and others during the school's Principal Appreciation Day Nov. 17. Students brought homemade megaphones through which to cheer Puceta as he was presented with a number of items, including an updated photo of the student body and faculty, and a basket of chocolate goodies. Kelly Fowler, PTO president, presented the gifts.

Attention: Homeowners…Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!…
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

St. Ann School celebrates 50 years of Catholic education

SCHOOL, *from page 1*

and open house Nov. 18.

Humble beginnings

When Sisters of St. Joseph Rose Philippine Smith and Marie Gervase Smith visited Charlotte in May 1956, they registered 160 children. By August, the enrollment had jumped to 268 students.

A fourth sister was requested from the motherhouse in Chestnut Hill, Pa. Sister Marie Albert Hetzel arrived Aug. 31, joining Sisters Mildred Peters, Joseph Elizabeth Bentivoglio and Marianne Halloran, who came to staff the school.

On Sept. 3, the four sisters and one lay teacher, Catherine George, opened their doors to welcome the kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

"That was the beginning of a wonderful time," said Sister Marie Albert, who traveled from Chestnut Hill for the 50th-anniversary celebration.

"It was exciting because everything was new," she said.

At that time, most teachers taught two grades in the same classroom. Usually there were 25-30 children in a class, but Sister Marie Albert once had 58 students in her charge.

In those early years, tuition was $60 a year and the average family's income was $4,137. Needless to say, both of those numbers have increased dramatically over the years.

Over the past 50 years, more than 11,000 students have passed through St. Ann School's doors, and 65 Sisters of St. Joseph have taught at the school.

Today, it is still thriving with an enrollment of 180 students under the leadership of Sister Helene Nagle, one of only five Sisters of St. Joseph still working in a Catholic school in the Diocese of Charlotte.

> "It's all about the values. The greatest gifts are the children."
>
> — Mary Lou Marston

A golden celebration

At the open house, former students and teachers reminisced about their days at St. Ann School and admired the changes that have been made at school in the past half-century.

Displays of photos from the school's early days adorned the hallways, and scrapbooks and photographs were laid out on the library tables.

One classroom had been retrofitted to represent a typical classroom of the 1950s. Current students took the opportunity to use slate boards and read books like "Davy Crockett."

"We wore our jumpers for P.E., and we knew everybody because the school was so small," said Lori Kobsik Thompson, who graduated from the eighth grade in 1983.

Former student Terry Brickner Alderman recalled how she would have to wear a tissue on her head if she forgot her veil for Mass.

Alderman and her husband, John, sent their two children to St. Ann School "to share the faith, and for the nurturing, family atmosphere," she said.

Students and faculty alike praised Sister Nagle, who has served as principal for the past 16 years.

"My first year at St. Ann, the theme for the year was 'Sailing Through Catholic Education,'" said Mary Lou Marston. "Sister Helene had the Boy Scouts construct a boat, complete with a mast, on the front lawn of the school. She is a real visionary."

Marston taught for 30 years and retired as vice principal of St. Ann School in May 2006.

"Teachers in Catholic schools never work there for the money," Marston said. "It's all about the values. The greatest gifts are the children."

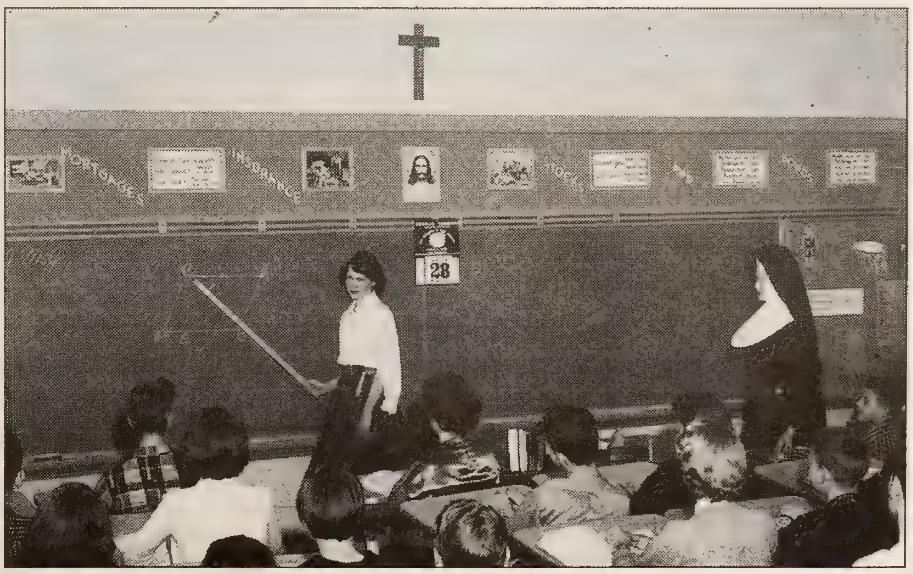
Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Chuck and Rosemary Heptig Locklear look through a scrapbook from the 1964-65 school year in St. Ann School's library Nov. 18.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

St. Ann School students join Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, and Deacon George Szalony, permanent deacon, at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist Nov. 18. The Mass commemorated the opening of St. Ann School in 1956.



Courtesy Photo

A Sister of St. Joseph and her geometry class are pictured in this photo from the 1957-58 school year at St. Ann School.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.
THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don't know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don't have time to research even a fraction of them.

Call to learn more about:

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITH BARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING
A.V. ROOFING
BBB Member Southern Piedmont Charlotte
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

Living a new life

CSS adoption services help bring families together

BY ANN KILKELLY
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

LEWISVILLE, N.C. — The only English words she once knew were "I love you."

Now she knows many more words. Water fountains fascinate her, an ice cube in water is a whole new concept, and the best snack in the world is plain soda crackers.

Her name is Maria and she was adopted from Russia by Ann Tallant through Catholic Social Services in May 2006.

Tallant threw a party to celebrate Maria's eighth birthday earlier this month — a perfect time, as November is also National Adoption Month.

Tallant, a professor in the Hypertension and Vascular Disease Center at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, has never married but has always wanted a child. Deciding to adopt an older child, she was happy to adopt Maria from an orphanage near Moscow.

"People generally want babies or are afraid of the language barrier, but I want to encourage people to consider adopting older children," said Tallant.

"They are ready for you to play with them and be part of their lives. Within a month you can communicate quite well with them. They are truly wonderful additions to your family," she said.

Developing a relationship with Maria has been fun, said Tallant, adding that her new daughter is very intelligent and has adapted well to life in America.

"She is a very caring little girl," said Tallant.

She recalled Maria giving away one of her bracelets to a stranger, who was looking to get a similar bracelet for his daughter.

Tallant said the adoption process went smoothly, thanks to Catholic Social Services.

CSS prepared her for each step of the way, including her trips to Russia. While there, they arranged for an English-speaking escort and tour guide who helped her communicate with Maria.

> "All the positive things I had heard about CSS' adoption services were true. Working with CSS was wonderful."
>
> — Ann Tallant

"All the positive things I had heard about CSS' adoption services were true," said Tallant. "Working with CSS was wonderful."

Maria is excited about her new life and family in America. Tallant says her daughter wants to be a "dog doctor" when she grows up.

Licensed as a child-placing agency since 1948, CSS provides professional domestic and international adoption services based on the highest child welfare standards. The CSS program emphasizes support, preparation and education.

CSS currently places children from several regions in Russia with couples married at least two years and with single women. Adoptions are usually completed 12-18 months following application.

CSS also assists in adopting children from China as well as within the United States.

Ann Kilkelly is development director for Catholic Social Services.

COURTESY PHOTO

Maria Tallant is pictured during an outdoor concert in Cary in June. Maria was recently adopted by Ann Tallant from an orphanage in Russia through Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT MORE INFO?
Visit Catholic Social Services' Web site at www.cssnc.org/adoption.html, or call (704) 370-6155.

SAVE $200 on Closing Costs
End of Year Special
Save when you mention this ad

Your Trusted Mortgage Advisor
Call Jayne McGonnell
Mortgage Loan Originator
(704) 516-9682
jmcgonnell@cimginc.com
Parishioner – St. Thomas Aquinas
Equal Housing Lender
corporate investors mortgage group

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

www.andersonfamilymed.com
Anderson Family Medicine
...Healthcare with a heart.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte
HOURS:
Mon. Tue. Th. Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 a[illegible]00 pm, (by appt.)
704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

Now Your Parents Can Live At Home!
*** Now with 3 locations to serve you***
- Up to 24-hour care
- Hygiene assistance
- Meals
- Light housekeeping
- Companionship
- Errands/shopping
- Respite

Visiting Angels.

Asheville 828-665-3944
Charlotte 704-549-4010
Mooresville 704-663-1065

"Christ gave his life for us. What are we giving him back in return?"

Youths, parishioners make stewardship a way of life

STEWARDS, *from page 1*

"Each year at this time, the youths hold a scavenger hunt to help with the needs of our parish's Christmas outreach activities," said Colleen Assal, parish outreach coordinator.

This year the teens collected 124 gift items, 1,242 non-perishable food items, six turkeys and $17 in cash.

The following weekend, the youths held a car wash to assist with the parish debt.

The Life Teen band and choir provides music for the 5 p.m. Mass each Sunday; many Life Teen members also serve as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion at the Mass.

A group dinner follows Mass each week, during which the Life Teen members discuss potential social and service activities. Over the summer, some youths helped build houses at St. Paul the Apostle Church's sister parish in Ecuador.

"Throughout the year, they witness to the parish through their participation in many other service opportunities," said Assal. "Jesus tells us that unless we become like children, we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. These children sure are raising the bar for us."

Stewardship is a way of life for many parishioners at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

During Stewardship Sunday weekend, they brought food to replenish the parish food pantry. Others helped to host homeless families who were at the parish through its participation in the Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network, a group of Guilford County-area congregations working together to provide temporary shelter, meals, hospitality and case management for families in need.

"Stewardship is being a follower of Christ. It is giving back to God in thanksgiving for all that we have been given," said Assal.

"It is taking care of the world God has given us, taking care of ourselves and taking care of others," she said.

Assal said there are many opportunities for stewardship, especially during the holidays: invite someone over who lives alone; visit someone in a hospital or nursing home; make amends with someone.

"Instead of giving a gift to someone who doesn't need it, we might consider giving a card with a message that we have made a donation to a worthy cause in his or her name," said Assal.

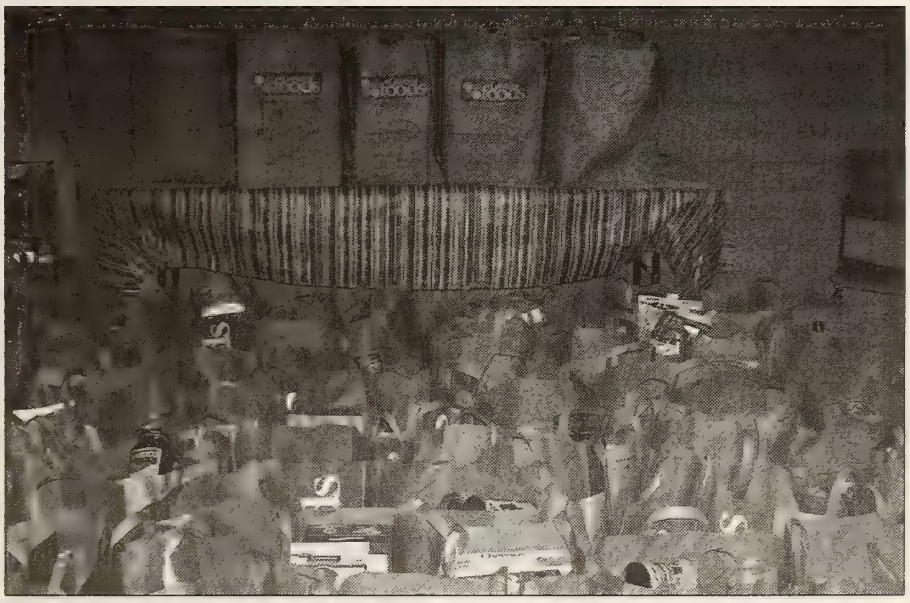
"Christ gave his life for us," she said. "What are we giving him back in return?"

WANT MORE INFO?

The Diocese of Charlotte's Development Office recently revised the "Guide for Individuals and Parishes Developing A Stewardship Way of Life." For more information, visit www.charlottediocese.org/stewardship.html.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Life Teen youth group members at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro sort through hundreds of items they collected during a scavenger hunt on Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 12.



"Very heartwarming & full of hope"
Catholic Universe Bulletin
-Dennis Sadowski

Christmas AT MAXWELL'S™

Through love and faith,
one family rediscovers
the beauty of life...

CARMIKE 14
2000 S.E.Catawba Valley Blvd.
Hickory, NC
SHOWTIMES/GROUP SALES: (828)304-0089
OPENING DEC 1, 2006
www.carmike.com

"Marvelous film!"
Bishop A. Edward Pevec
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland

LAUFER FILM PRESENTS...
©2006
PG WWW.CHRISTMASATMAXWELLS.COM

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

The Christmas season is upon us, and The Catholic News & Herald is looking for unique stories in which parishes, Catholic schools, organizations and individuals are remembering the reason for the season — Jesus Christ — and are helping to spread the holiday cheer to others.

Is there an event taking place at your parish? Is someone you know an example of how to live the Catholic faith, especially during the holidays?

If so, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S *name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!
or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS HERALD

"The value of the choice of priestly celibacy according to the Catholic tradition was reaffirmed..."

Pope, curia officials reaffirm values of priestly celibacy

CELIBACY, *from page 1*

should be highlighted among priests and seminarians.

At the same time, the participants examined the possibility of the return to active ministry of some priests who may have left the priesthood to marry but who now meet certain conditions, a Vatican statement said.

The pope presided over the three-hour meeting of more than 20 heads of Vatican congregations and councils Nov. 16.

"The value of the choice of priestly celibacy according to the Catholic tradition was reaffirmed, and the need for solid human and Christian formation was underlined, both for seminarians and for those already ordained," a brief Vatican statement said.

The Vatican encounter was triggered by the case of Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, who recently was excommunicated after he ordained four married men as bishops without papal permission.

The Vatican statement, issued a few hours after the meeting, made no mention of Archbishop Milingo.

It said the participants were given updated information on requests by priests for dispensation from the obligation of celibacy and on the possibility of readmission for priests who "meet the conditions foreseen by the church."

In recent years, the Vatican has approved the return to active ministry for some priests who left to marry in civil ceremonies, but who later divorced or were widowed and petitioned for readmission.

Such readmissions follow a long process and require an expression of repentance from the petitioner, according to Vatican officials.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told Catholic News Service it was his understanding that the meeting did not consider major changes in the priestly celibacy rule.

Instead, he said, the discussion appeared to focus on the pastoral situation of priests in those special circumstances seeking readmission to ministry.

When ordained, Latin-rite Catholic priests make a promise of celibacy. In the Eastern rites, married men may become priests, but are not allowed to marry after ordination.

The Vatican encounter came less than two weeks after Archbishop Milingo wrote an open letter to the pope, calling for immediate steps to accept married priests in the Catholic Church in order to end what he said was the church's "dire straits because of the shortage of priests."

In his letter, Archbishop Milingo said there were an estimated 150,000 married priests worldwide "who are ready and willing to serve."

Archbishop Milingo, 76, married a South Korean woman in 2001 but at the request of Pope John Paul II left her and was reconciled with the Vatican.

Last summer, however, the archbishop was reunited with his wife in the United States and founded a movement called Married Priests Now!

The issue of priestly celibacy and the potential role of married priests came up at the Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist in late 2005. Several bishops at the synod asked for discussion of the possibility of ordaining married men to respond to priest shortages around the world.

But the synod ended up strongly affirming the value of priestly celibacy and made no recommendations for any change. The pope is expected to publish a document on the synod sometime soon.

Priests who request and obtain Vatican dispensation from priestly celibacy in order to marry are returned to the lay state. They are not allowed to administer the sacraments, except for granting absolution when there is danger of death, and are forbidden to assume some other functions in church life.

CNS PHOTO BY CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials meet at the Vatican Nov. 16 to discuss the celibacy requirement for priests. The meeting, spurred by the case of Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo, affirmed the value of priestly celibacy.

got monks?

Our monks see God.
Our students seek Truth.
No wonder we end up at the same place:
BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

What are YOU seeking?

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see **YOUR COMPANY'S** *name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Save On This Unique 18-Day Repositioning Cruise!

Cruise Northern Europe + Germany Land Tour

Join Your YMT Chaplain Father Mel Bennett and Other Roman Catholics Departing April 29, 2007

DAILY MASS ABOARD SHIP!

MSC Cruise Lines has to reposition the new **MSC *Lirica*** from Ft. Lauderdale to Hamburg, Germany. Take advantage of this exclusive ***'Your Man'* Tours** 23-Day vacation package departing April 29, 2007. You'll spend 17 nights sailing to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Funchal, Madeira Island; Vigo, Spain; Le Havre, France; Dover (London), England; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Hamburg, Germany. Your five day tour of Germany includes Berlin; historic East Berlin; Brandenburg Gate; Reichstag; Checkpoint Charlie; Leipzig; Rothenburg O.T.; Frankfurt, Germany; then fly home. Prices (per person / based on double occupancy) start at $2347 including taxes & port charges. Round trip airfare from Charlotte $950. $500 deposits are now due. Father Bennett has led groups to Europe five times. He is Senior Associate Pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, Indiana.

For information, reservations, brochure, and letter from Father Bennett call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Celibacy, stillness, insight

Buddhist, Catholic monks gather for dialogue on celibacy

BY FATHER THOMAS RYAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. — A dozen Buddhist monks from around the country gathered with a similar number of Catholic monastics from various U.S. monasteries for dialogue on celibacy at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville.

As he opened the Oct. 26-29 meeting, Benedictine Father William Skudlarek, executive director of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, noted that Buddhists have had a tradition of celibacy for 500 to 700 years longer than Catholics.

"We have something to learn," he said.

This was the second "Monks in the West" interreligious dialogue; the first took place in 2004 at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas in northern California.

On the Catholic side, participants come from Benedictine, Cistercian and Camoldolese monasteries, and on the Buddhist side, from the Theravada, Mahayana and Tibetan traditions.

Why celibacy?

In Collegeville, the first session dealt with theory — the "why" of celibacy. Buddhist participants explained that their teachings focus on seeing how suffering is created and cured.

Attachments give rise to suffering, they said, so advancement in the spiritual life requires letting go of one's attachments. Attachment to desires, including sexual desires, is a hindrance to spiritual progress, they said.

"Raging desire takes away choice, freedom," said Kusala Bhikshu, a Buddhist chaplain at the University of California at Los Angeles, in his opening presentation. "The senses must be controlled in order to be free."

Benedictine Brother Gregory Perron from St. Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Ill., said monastic life demands a profound understanding and acceptance of solitude.

"Celibacy is a tool," said Brother Gregory, "a skillful means, like intentional simplicity of life, by which our heart is burrowed out and the core of our being laid bare.

"By embracing it, the monk accepts the aloneness that characterizes every human being," he said.

Three-step process

In the second session on practice, Jisho Perry from the Shasta Buddhist Abbey in Mount Shasta, Calif., said that "the whole thrust of training is not to give in to desire that arises."

He described the Buddhist method of accepting sexual feelings without either acting on them or repressing them, but just letting them pass through one's being.

Father Skudlarek expressed appreciation for the Buddhist approach to transforming sexual energy.

"I never got a sense in our training of accepting the feeling with awareness and letting it pass without acting on it," he said. "You had to fight it! And the more you resisted, the stronger it got!"

Heng Sure, a Buddhist monk who teaches at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., said celibacy is the first step in a three-step process that goes from celibacy to stillness to insight.

"It should not be seen just as a difficult adjunct to the spiritual path, but as essential to it," he said.

"Something happens to the energy in the stillness," he added. "The pressure goes away."

In married life, he explained, spiritual practice is "partial and piecemeal," making celibacy a more effective means to move toward insight, and the peace and happiness that flow from it.

Benedictine Father Mark Serna, president of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue, pointed out that "in Christianity married people can be holy, too; one doesn't have to be celibate to go to heaven."

Catholic monastics emphasized how, in Christian faith, motivation for celibacy is strongly relational.

"For me," said Benedictine Father Terrance Kardong of Assumption Abbey in Richardton, N.D., "it's the deep personal relationship with Jesus that enables me to do something this difficult."

Benedictine Father Michael Peterson from Blue Cloud Abbey near Marvin, S.D., drew laughter with his comment: "When college kids ask me: 'How can you live without sex?' my answer is, 'God's a better kisser.' In celibacy I transfer my desire for fulfillment to God."

Guiding celibacy

The third session focused on how the two traditions handle transgressions and failure.

Ajahn Punnadhammo, abbot of the Arrow River Forest Hermitage in Thunder Bay, Ontario, explained the "four defeats" in Buddhist monasticism: sexual intercourse, stealing above a trivial amount, killing a human being and falsely claiming superior spiritual achievements.

He explained that if a monk should do any of these four actions, he is no longer a monk and is not readmitted into the community.

The Buddhist participants listened with keen interest to Benedictine Abbot John Klassen of St. John's Abbey as he related how, in addressing the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic Church, the U.S. bishops ruled that transgressions against minors by clergy would result in removal from ministry and in some cases expulsion from the priesthood.

But, said Abbot Klassen, "leaders of religious communities took a fundamentally different stance. They had to agree to remove any offender from ministry, but they were not willing to throw them out of the community. They agreed to do risk assessment and develop supervision for offenders."

Abbot Klassen described how, in the 1970s, "our awareness of failures moved from the moral arena to the psychological arena, and now to the awareness that sexual abuse of minors is a crime.

"New guidelines provide a level of behavioral specificity that we've never seen before," he said.

CNS PHOTO BY KAMAL KISHORE, REUTERS

Buddhist monks take part in a parade in New Delhi, India, in January this year. Buddhists have had a tradition of celibacy for 500 to 700 years longer than Catholics. In Buddhism attachment to desires, including sexual desires, is seen as a hindrance to spiritual progress for monks.

LAST CHANCE!! Ticket deadline — Friday, Dec. 1 **

The Asheville Vicariate invites you to a Day of Reflection featuring

Dr. Scott Hahn
internationally known theologian, author, speaker and professor at Franciscan University

Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville
Saturday, Dec. 9 10am - 4pm
** NO TICKETS available at door. Call by DECEMBER 1.
A $10 donation includes lunch.
Call 828-697-7420 today!

docPod
It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
Subscribe today — it's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535
72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530
Assuring Absolute Integrity
Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535
Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Poking fun at the pope?

Satire sparks debate over limits of humor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italians have a long history of satirizing the papacy, but recent gibes at Pope Benedict XVI and his personal secretary have ignited a national debate over the limits of humor.

A running sketch on a popular Italian TV show portrays the pope as a capricious egotist who complains about always having to wear white and giggles as he types out excommunication edicts.

A radio comedian has the pope shooting pigeons above St. Peter's Square — because they "bother people who have to work" — and tossing burning candies down at children.

Meanwhile, another radio show impersonator makes fun of papal secretary, Msgr. Georg Ganswein, who comes off as a vain lightweight who dreams of being a circus acrobat, but worries that it might mess up his hair.

In mid-November, the Catholic newspaper Avvenire decided it had seen and heard enough. It said the parodies of the pontiff and his secretary were vulgar and grotesque and in some ways represented a cheap shot at the church.

Citing a sketch that showed Pope Benedict preparing to deliver an Angelus talk, Avvenire editorialist Umberto Folena said the pope "appears as a hysterical man flanked by two cardinal-altar boys, worried about having enough good lines to deliver, out of control, his fingers swollen with big rings."

"What does this have to do with the real pope? Nothing. If satire magnifies a defect in order to ridicule it, this operation has failed," he said.

In his TV impersonation, Maurizio Crozza's pope speaks in a thick German accent and worries about being overshadowed by his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. His skits involve the pope tap dancing and juggling oranges.

The radio spoof on Msgr. Ganswein plays on his popularity in the Italian media and his reputation as the most sportive and handsome member of the pope's household.

The real Msgr. Ganswein told an Italian reporter he'd never heard the radio show or seen the TV spoof of the pope, but thought such transmissions were offensive.

Satire is legitimate but should respect the people involved, he said.

"These things have no intellectual level and offend men of the church. They're unacceptable, and I really hope they end immediately," Msgr. Ganswein said.

The papal secretary's comments led some Italians to accuse the church of being oversensitive.

"One of the characteristics of satire is that it doesn't make the victim laugh," said Fausto Colombo, who teaches media theory at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan.

The limits of satire are fixed by the law, he said, not by the fact that it may offend some people. And in any case, poking fun at the pope or a papal secretary is not the same as ridiculing Jesus Christ, he added.

But German Cardinal Walter Kasper was more critical. He said this type of satire aims at attacking and damaging the image of the pope and encourages the creation of "a society of ridicule."

Several commentators said the gags aimed at the pope and the Catholic Church indicated a double standard, at a time when people are being asked to show greater sensitivity toward Islamic feelings and beliefs.

The freedom of satire should be in every direction, said an editorial in the Rome newspaper La Repubblica.

The newspaper Corriere della Sera concurred: "Between an Islamic religion that doesn't even tolerate a cartoon and a Catholic religion forced to feed the tired fantasies of humor, there must be a middle way."

The best remembered Italian satirist is Giuseppe Gioacchino Belli, a 19th-century Roman poet who once described the pope as "wined and dined and mellow," ready to bestow blessings or cannonballs on the populace.

Belli was a master of popular expression, and today's Italian comics are not considered at his level. Several critics, in fact, suggested that the greatest sin of the modern papal satirists is that they're not all that funny.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 3, 2006

Dec. 3, First Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:

1) Jeremiah 33:14-16
   Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
2) 1 Thessalonians 3:12 to 4:2
3) Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Holiness means happiness on judgment day

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was 4, I spent the better part of an afternoon standing out in the front yard fearfully listening for the signs of the end times.

"When you hear the trumpets playing, you'll know it's the end of the world," my friend Bertha had told me. Bertha didn't seem the least bit scared, but I immediately ran outside to listen and wait.

Looking back, I can imagine why Bertha, even though she was only in her 20s, seemed to hope she'd actually hear those trumpets harkening a glorious coming of God's heavenly kingdom.

I'd been to her house, a run-down wooden structure covered with brown tarpaper, in a rural area below New Orleans. I noticed her clothing was well-worn and saw that she sometimes took home bags of our hand-me-downs.

I watched her working hard at heavy household chores two days a week at my family's house, three elsewhere. No doubt her wages were low, because it was common in the 1950s for even middle-class white families to employ black women as domestic workers.

Bertha had every reason to be sullen and unhappy, but she sang as she worked. She had every reason to be resentful of the families she worked for, but offered them many kindnesses.

Bertha was good and loving to our family, as she was to her own, and my parents often trusted her to care for my siblings and me. I'd like to think that in the ensuing years the accomplishments of the civil rights movement changed her life so that she wasn't constantly wanting the trumpet call.

Luke's Gospel reading for this first Sunday of Advent describes the signs of the Lord's coming in judgment. Jesus warned his disciples not to get distracted from their mission of love for others or they would fear the day.

Bertha's eyes sparkled confidently when she spoke of the day of the trumpets because she was living a life of holiness and was not diverted from it by her anxieties.

She had nothing to fear in standing before the Lord.

Questions:

How is the life you are living today preparing you to stand before the Lord in judgment? What are the things that distract you from the Christian call to holiness?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF NOV 26.-DEC. 2

Sunday (Christ the King), Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37; **Monday**, Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday (St. Andrew)**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Friday**, Revelation 20:1-4,11 — 21:2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday**, Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 3-9

Sunday (First Sunday of Advent), Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36; **Monday (Saint John of Damascus)**, Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Nicholas)**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Ambrose)**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Immaculate Conception)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Saturday (St. Juan Diego)**, Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26, Matthew 9:35 —10:1, 6-8.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

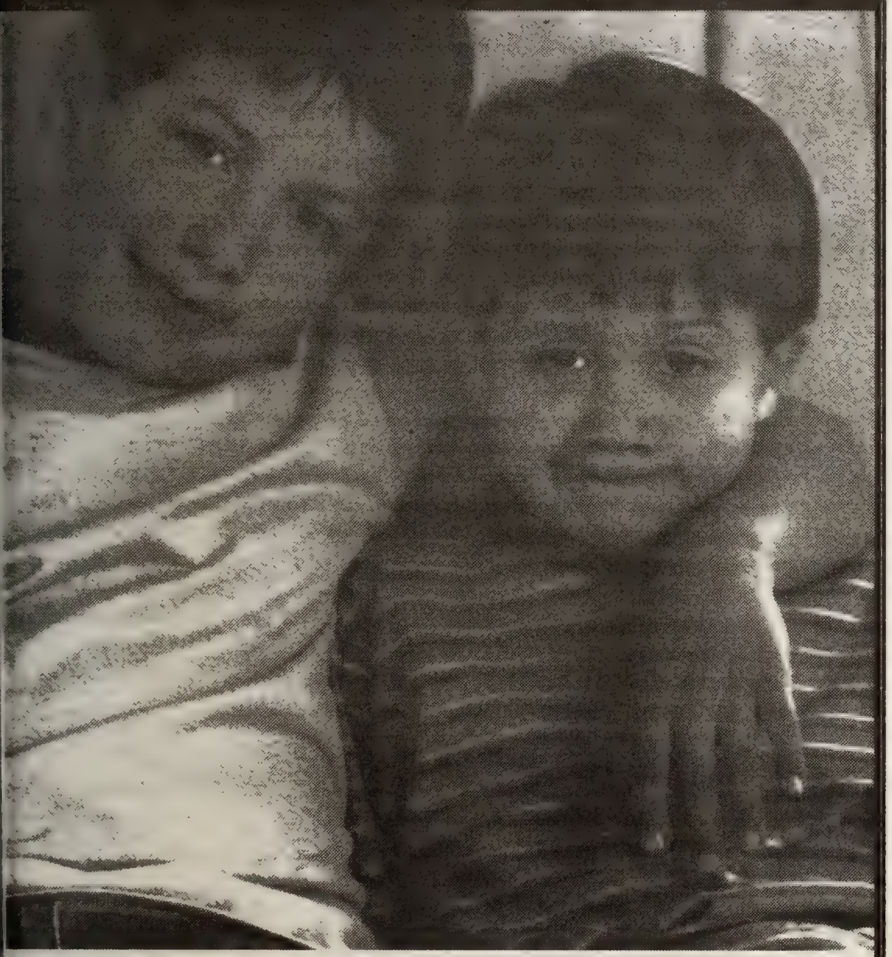
POLAND
with Father John Starczewski
parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro
"The Footsteps of John Paul II"
May 8-16, 2007

Join us while we visit Krakow, Wadowice, Zakopane, Warsaw, the world-famous salt mines of Wieliczka, Shrine of Divine Mercy and Czestochowa.

Roundtrip from Charlotte: $2,898 plus taxes and fees (double occupancy) — includes breakfast and dinner daily

For further information, call Patti Dameron at (336) 413-8127.

THIS is GEORGE
and his 63 YEAR·OLD
KID BROTHER, JOE.



[Pictured 58 years ago.] Today, they're still young at heart. George likes to watch football, read and eat steak. Joe enjoys hiking, grilled fish and Sunday football with his brother. They plan to live happily [with their wives] here...

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

(336) 886-4103 or toll free (866) 627-9343

www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

NP/GNR/yng2

Dull 'Night With the King'

CNS photo/Gener8Xion Entertainment

Omar Sharif co-stars in "One Night With the King," a biblical drama that tepidly recounts the Old Testament story of Esther, a devout Jewish maiden who becomes queen when she is chosen as the bride of the powerful Persian King Xerxes, and who uses her station to save her people from extermination. The film has impressive production value and cameos, but it's handicapped by an inferior screenplay and awkward, if earnest, direction. Still, the power of the tale's enduring theme of faithful witness in the face of persecution isn't completely diminished by the filmmaker's uninspired telling. Some discreet violence and sensuality and mature thematic elements. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Church music background paid off for 'The Nativity Story' composer

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Mychael Danna's background as a church music director put him in good stead when it came to scoring the new movie "The Nativity Story."

Danna, a Canadian by birth, worked as the choir director and organist at an Anglican church in Dundas, Ontario, outside Toronto.

"We sang Latin and did a lot of things that probably did disappear from the rituals in the Roman Catholic Church," he said, adding he was attracted to "the freedom to sing Gregorian chant in Latin and to sing Mass movements" as "something I certainly treasured.

"We did Maundy (Holy) Thursday, we did a Tenebrae service that was entirely Gregorian chant," he said.

In fact, Danna said, "I did apply quite a bit of that experience to this film."

"The Nativity Story," which premieres in theaters nationwide Dec. 1, is a cinematic retelling of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth.

Audiences will most likely hear some familiar melodies of the season, as "Silent Night," "Veni, Veni Emmanuel" ("O Come, O Come Emmanuel"), "Coventry Carol" and "Carol of the Bells" are worked into Danna's score.

Those paying more attention to the score than the on-screen action will hear other older and more obscure carols woven into the score — and that they are sung in Latin.

"We didn't want to go overboard and make it a Christmas carol fiesta," Danna said. "We didn't want it to get in that territory at all. We wanted the people to be right with us and not in the world of Christmas and their own Christmas in their own sentimental way."

Danna got his sister, a Greek and Latin scholar, to translate songs from their original languages into Latin.

Rather than employ instruments used at the time of Jesus' birth, Danna chose instruments common to "Europe, where it (the faith) blossomed into what we know as Christianity today. I wanted to indicate that and honor that with the use of early European musical instruments," he said.

"It was important that we have a sense of that world, the medieval world and the Renaissance world — the age of faith," Danna said.

He said he wanted the moviegoer to be "able to reflect back on and see this story that's old to us," as it was portrayed to people during the Renaissance.

Danna has built up an impressive resume of film scores including this year's "Little Miss Sunshine," last year's "Capote," plus "Antwone Fisher," "Monsoon Wedding," "Being Julia," "Vanity Fair," "Girl, Interrupted," "The Ice Storm," and all of Atom Egoyan's films starting with "The Sweet Hereafter."

His current assignment is "Surf's Up," an animated feature about a surfing penguin.

"'The Nativity Story' wasn't your average experience for me," he said. "It had a great deal of meaning to me to work on it. I really enjoyed every sleep-deprived minute of it."

"The Nativity Story" was classified A-I — general patronage by the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting.

"Hollywood finally gets it right," said a review by David DiCerto, a staff critic in the office.

Though New Testament references to Mary and Joseph are sparse, he added, the film "manages to flesh them out while remaining faithful to Scripture, beautifully suggesting the humanity beneath the halos."

Catholics differ little from others during recent election

ELECTION, *from page 1*

> "We exploded the myth that only illegal immigrants care about immigration."
>
> — Cecilia Munoz

Catholics and regular churchgoers pretty much voted like the overall majority of the country in supporting more Democratic candidates, said John Green, senior fellow in religion and American politics at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Enough voters shifted their support to Democrats this year to swing majority power to the party in both the House and the Senate for the first time in 12 years.

Comparing exit-poll results of how people voted in House races, the only races common to all states, Green told Catholic News Service that the country as a whole was 4 percent to 5 percent more likely to vote for Democrats this November.

Fifty percent of white Catholics, the common breakout used by pollsters, voted for Democrats, compared to 48 percent who voted for Republicans. In 2004 congressional races, 45 percent of white Catholics and of voters overall voted for Democrats in House races, Green said.

Tom Perriello, a co-founder of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, told CNS that efforts by the Democratic Party to reach out to Catholics, especially in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia, states with close, key Senate races, seem to have succeeded.

The "life does not end at birth" campaign, organized by a coalition of Catholic groups led by Pax Christi USA, was successful at persuading evangelicals as well as Catholics to consider voting on a broader basis than just abortion, Perriello said.

Perriello is optimistic about that success meaning the end of the sense that Democratic candidates must support abortion "rights" to get anywhere within the party.

In Pennsylvania, the Democratic Party supported Bob Casey Jr. from the start of his campaign, even to the point of discouraging other Democrats from running in the primary. Like the Republican incumbent he defeated, Sen. Rick Santorum, Casey is a Catholic who opposes abortion, which didn't sit well with some segments of the Democratic Party's base.

The Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners and author of "God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It," said at a Nov. 15 teleconference hosted by the Catholic Alliance and the organization Faith In Public Life that the Pennsylvania election helps neutralize abortion as a litmus test issue for Democrats.

"With two Catholic, pro-life candidates it took both abortion and religion off the table and let economic justice and poverty get back on the table," Wallis said.

Green said Casey's success shows what was considered an experiment by the Democratic Party can work, but it remains to be seen whether the approach is viable for the long term.

Hispanic voters

Among Hispanic voters, support for Democratic candidates is the norm, but even that was stronger this election. Seventy-three percent of Hispanics voted for Democrats for House seats, according to the National Election Pool, an exit poll for a consortium of news outlets.

In the 2004 presidential race, 53 percent of Hispanics voted for the Democratic candidate and 29 percent voted for the Republican candidate, The Wall Street Journal reported. In the last midterm election in 2002, 38 percent of Hispanic voters chose the Republican candidate.

At a Nov. 14 discussion about the election hosted by the New Democratic Network, Cecilia Munoz of the National Council of La Raza said the November races brought out a record percentage of Latino voters, 8 percent.

Hispanics account for 8.6 percent of registered voters and 14.5 percent of the U.S. population, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Munoz said that as in every election the issues of greatest concern to Latino voters were education, the economy and, this time, the war in Iraq. But immigration was a driving force for many Hispanic voters.

Munoz said 30 percent of Hispanic voters said they either participated in the immigration rallies and marches of the spring or are close to someone else who did so. Almost half of the youngest voters said they had joined the rallies or marches, she said.

"We exploded the myth that only illegal immigrants care about immigration," Munoz said.

That notion "insulted people," she said, and led to what she said was the backfiring of attempts by some Republicans to draw out their core voters by emphasizing a tough approach on illegal immigration.

In many states incumbent Republicans who emphasized their opposition to comprehensive immigration reform lost to Democrats who advocated a broader approach.

At the same briefing, pollster Sergio Bendixen said the election explode three myths about Hispanic voters:

— That they don't vote.

— That they are a swing vote tha might readily go for either Republican or Democrats.

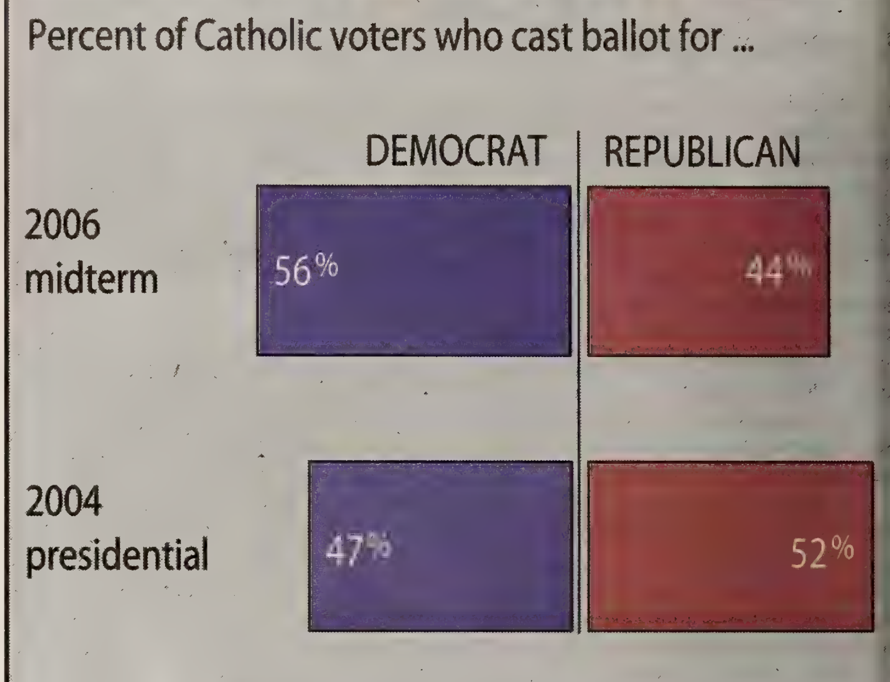
— That Hispanic voters are nearl all U.S.-born and therefore less likel to care about problems affecting ne immigrants.

Bendixen said 19 percent of voter in California this year were Hispanic an half of those were born in Latin Americ The national debate about immigratio over the last year and the inconclusiv efforts in Congress to tackle illeg immigration were a key to drawing o Hispanic voters.

He agreed with Munoz that the w and economic issues were more importa to Hispanic voters, but immigration was strong factor in getting people to the polls

"It wasn't about policy but abo what being a Hispanic in Americ means," Bendixen said. "It was ve personal."

Catholic Votes by Party



Based on nationwide exit polling.
Source: 2006 number from the NewYorkTimes, 2004 from CNN ©2006 CNS

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

CAREGIVER: Mooresville family seeks part-time, as needed, caregiver for their 18-month-old daughter and 5-year-old son. Some evenings, weekends and occasional overnights. Experience and references required. Please call 704-799-1990.

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. 888-803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR
for Catholic Social Services (CSS) ; office is located in Winston-Salem, NC.

CSS is seeking energetic individual to provide strong administrative and cooperative, team-building leadership of a regional office. Demonstrated fundraising skill and Spanish language ability are pluses. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cssnc.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by December 20, 2006 to: Gerard A. Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Indonesian youths ask Bush to change 'hegemonic foreign policies'

Organizations like America, dislike policies

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — Just days before U.S. President George W. Bush's visit to Indonesia, seven religious youth organizations asked him to desist from policies that cause suffering in developing countries.

"We are writing you ... to show our strong disagreement with your hegemonic foreign policies which worsen (the) global world order," the groups said in a Nov. 17 letter to Bush.

The chairmen of the groups signed the letter and delivered it to U.S. Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe.

Natalis Situmorang, chairman of he Central Board of Catholic Youth and one of the signers of the letter, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that Pascoe promised o deliver the letter to Bush.

Bush spent less than seven hours in ndonesia, the last stop on an eight-day Asian trip that including several days in Vietnam, where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and a stop in Singapore.

In Indonesia, Bush met with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and other ndonesian leaders at the presidential retreat in Bogor, about 30 miles south of akarta.

In their letter, the youth leaders strongly condemned the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed thousands of innocent Americans. However, they said Bush's "war on terror that justifies wars in Afghanistan and Iraq is unacceptable."

The groups also strongly urged the U.S. government to stop applying double standards in its foreign policy at the cost of developing countries, to promote dialogue and mediation to resolve international disputes and to work with other countries to reform the United Nations so it could more effectively pursue international peace, security and development.

The letter made it a point to welcome Bush and said, "We never hate our American friends; we just disagree with your unjust foreign policies."

Indonesia, the world's most populous Islamic nation, has been an ally in the U.S.-led war on terror in the region, but the government and much of the public oppose U.S. policies in the Middle East, especially Iraq.

During Bush's visit, about 4,000 people protested near the presidential retreat.

The previous day, Bush and his wife, Laura, visited Cua Bac Catholic Church in Hanoi, Vietnam, but said nothing during the Vietnamese-language service, the parish priest told reporters.

"We all had a silent dialogue with God," said Father Nguyen Quoc Khanh.

Outside the church, Bush said the most basic right was "the freedom to worship as you see fit."

"A whole society is a society which welcomes basic freedoms," he said.

Earlier in November, the U.S. government removed Vietnam from its list of worst violators of religious freedom. However, some religious leaders in Vietnam report continued restrictions on their activities.

CNS photo by Sespres-Abror Rizky/Handout, Reuters

U.S. President George W. Bush talks to schoolchildren at the presidential palace in Bogor, Indonesia, Nov. 20.

The Catholic Shoppe
AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Searching for that perfect Christmas gift?
Find it here!

We have books for all ages, religious and inspirational artwork, statues, rosaries, jewelry, medals, crosses, crucifixes, prayer and greeting cards, music, audio books on CD's, DVD's, sacramental and general gift items and so much more!

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri
10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday
10:am - 1:00pm
closed 12-25-06 to 1-1-07

Bring this ad in for 10% off your purchase of $20 or more in our store.
Offer expires Dec. 23, 2006

Conveniently located 10 minutes from Charlotte on the Belmont Abbey College campus
I-85 Exit 26

704.461.5100 ◆ CATHOLICSHOPPE@BAC.EDU
WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Catholic leaders say government pressure changed churches' statement

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — At least two Catholic leaders in Zimbabwe are frustrated that the government seems to have sabotaged a statement by Christian churches calling for a national vision to rescue the ailing country.

Although the statement was issued electronically in mid-September, about 2,500 copies printed for the official launch by the churches in late October were changed, said Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

"It's not the document that I signed," the archbishop said in a Nov. 16 telephone interview from Bulawayo. "Whole pages have been cut out, and it's been watered down so much that it's lost all its power and energy.

"The government has been interfering in the churches' process; they want to force their agenda instead of having genuine dialogue," Archbishop Ncube said.

The statement, "The Zimbabwe We Want: Toward a National Vision for Zimbabwe," was issued by the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference, Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe.

In the past, Archbishop Ncube has accused Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe of bribing some Christian leaders, including former Zimbabwe Council of Churches President Peter Nemapare, with farms and money so they would work with his government.

The decision of whether or not to support the 82-year-old president, who has led the country since its independence from Britain in 1980, also has caused some tensions among Catholic Church leaders, sources say.

Mugabe spoke at the churches' Oct. 27 launch of the printed document. He has rejected the churches' call in the original document for a new constitution.

Alouis Chaumba, who heads Zimbabwe's Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, said while Zimbabwe's churches have sufficient structures to distribute their 42-page statement throughout the country, there are "no more copies to be found anywhere, and at some meetings people are discussing it using only hearsay."

"Also, it is a problem that it is in English only, because to reach everyone it should be translated" into the widely spoken languages, he said.

Development indicators show Zimbabwe, with a population of 12 million, in an "unrelenting economic meltdown" characterized by a drain of professionals, the world's highest inflation rate at more than 1,000 percent and escalating corruption. The country has a 70 percent unemployment rate and is chronically short of food and foreign currency to import essential commodities, including drugs and fuel.

Chaumba said people with jobs usually walk about 15 miles to get to work in the mornings "rather than spend 90 percent of their wages on transport costs," and in remote areas of the country, oxen and donkeys are becoming common forms of transport.

The Nov. 6 newsletter of Zimbabwe's Jesuits said "the prime evil of Zimbabwe is the concentration of too much power in the hands of very few."

Noting that almost all media is government-controlled, the newsletter said that "without a free media we will not be able to have the national debate" for which the churches called in their document.

"We need a free debate on a constitution that cuts power down to size; we need to prepare for our second liberation and lay the foundation for a new Zimbabwe," it said.

Perspectives

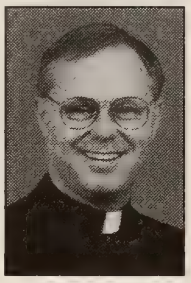
A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Trail of the saints

Seeing holiness of others may help find it in ourselves

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER J. DALY
CNS COLUMNIST



My parish is pursuing holiness, by bus.

We have started a program called "Trail of the Saints." Every month or so, we take a one- or two-day bus trip to learn about those who have gone before us in faith.

Since our parish is located in southern Maryland, where the Catholic Church first took root in the English-speaking U.S., we have a lot to see nearby.

We have been to St. Mary's County, where the English Catholics first landed. We saw the partially reconstructed "brick chapel," the first Catholic church in this part of the world.

We also have visited two churches that both claim the title of oldest English-speaking Catholic church in the U.S.

Our "Trail of the Saints" isn't just about learning history; it is about learning holiness.

On the way we pray and celebrate Mass. We also learn a little about what motivated our ancestors in the faith. We try to understand their moral, social and religious problems, and see how their faith formed them.

We figure we have at least a year's worth of short trips around us. Beyond southern Maryland we have the newly restored Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore, the religious houses in Washington, D.C., and the home of Mother Seton in Emmitsburg, Md.

We also have all the Catholic sites in Annapolis, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. We keep discovering more places we want to go!

The idea for this ministry came from our parish's stained-glass windows. A few years ago we built a new church. In the windows we included a history of American saints.

This fall it occurred to me that it would be great fun to learn about each of these people and see where they lived.

We probably won't get everywhere shown in our windows. I doubt we can get a parish trip to Hawaii to see the home of Blessed Damien of Molokai. But I would love to try.

This idea of learning "on the go" has proved hugely popular. We have no trouble filling the bus. I think nearly every parish could do a trail of the saints.

First you need a good leader and organizer.

Then you need places to go.

Pilgrimage sites exist everywhere, because holy people have lived everywhere.

In California there are all the wonderful missions and great cities with diverse religious communities.

In the Southwest you have more Spanish missions and beautiful monastic communities.

In New England there are the great Catholic centers and the Canadian shrines.

In the Midwest you have the trail of the pioneers of faith, the explorers of the West and founders of religious orders.

In Florida there are the Spanish missions and the Cuban and Haitian communities.

On the Gulf Coast there is New Orleans with its great Catholic history of every race and culture.

There are a lot of resources for this sort of holy travel. The U.S. bishops' conference publishes a book about pilgrimage sites. There are numerous books about monasteries and retreat houses.

No matter whose shrine you visit or what history you pursue, the message is the same: Holiness exists in every age and in every place. It can be found everywhere if we look for it.

Once we learn to recognize it in others, we may even find holiness in ourselves.

Happy trails!

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

After the voting, hard work awaits us

Catholics called to make changes for common good

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Tens of millions of eligible voters decided not to participate in the recent mid-term elections.

That should come as no big surprise. Low voter turnout in the world's leading democracy has been around for some time now.

Probably the most significant factor in this trend is the sense among many that no matter who gets elected, little good will be accomplished in the halls of government. And there's a lot of truth to that sentiment.

In recent decades, both Democratic and Republican congresses and administrations have failed to adequately address the most pressing problems facing our nation and world.

Continuing to plague humanity are abortion, embryonic stem cell research, cloning, poverty, hunger, homelessness, a low minimum wage, lack of universal education and health care, sweatshops, corporate greed, pollution, global warming, crime, drugs, pornography, child labor, child soldiers, the root-causes of terrorism, the arms trade, outrageous military budgets, nuclear weapons and war.

The Catholic Church strongly teaches that beyond the efforts of individuals, governments have a grave responsibility to correct social injustice and strive for peace.

In his encyclical "The Development of Peoples," Pope Paul VI wrote, "The duty of solidarity that rests on individuals exists also for nations: 'Advanced nations have a very heavy obligation to help the developing peoples.' ...

"When so many are hungry, when so many families suffer from destitution ..., when so many schools, hospitals and homes worthy of the name remain to be built, all public and private squandering of wealth ..., every exhausting armaments race, becomes an intolerable scandal.

"We are conscious of our duty to denounce it. Would that those in authority listen to our words before it is too late!"

Nearly 40 years have passed since Pope Paul wrote those prophetic words, but sadly they are truer today than ever.

Yes, if only those in power would listen to the late pope's words. If only those in authority also would listen to the present pope's words.

In his June address to seven new ambassadors to the Holy See, Pope Benedict XVI said:

"Our hearts cannot be at peace as long as we see our brothers and sisters suffering from lack of food, work, shelter or other fundamental goods. The earth indeed has the capacity to nurture all its inhabitants, provided that rich countries do not keep for themselves that which belongs to all."

Yet that is largely what the richest country on earth is doing. Our wealthy nation gives only a tiny fraction of its income — 0.2 percent — toward helping the world's poor. And our government continues to fall far short when it comes to addressing the needs of 37 million poor Americans.

Laws in the United States allow abortion on demand and the killing of human embryos for research. And as the world's leading arms merchant, we sell and give away more weapons than any other nation.

We have by far the largest military budget and possess the most fearsome weapons of mass destruction: 10,500 nuclear warheads.

Far too many of our elected officials fail to address people's needs adequately — especially those of poor, unborn and war-torn people. And this dire situation will go largely unchanged until "we the people" stand up and demand justice and peace for all!

Good citizenship calls us to this task.

We need to insist that government leaders enact legislation and public policy designed to promote the common good, build global solidarity and advance genuine peace. Faithful disciples of Christ should do no less!

POLLING PLACE
POLLING PLACE

CNS PHOTO BY DON BLAKE, THE D

When I want your advice ...

Most people don't know what they're talking about, or why

Coming of Age

M. REGINA CRAM
CNS COLUMNIST

Not long ago I added a new fashion statement to my life: a walking cane. My world was invaded by a funky type of arthritis that strikes younger adults, and in my case it came on like gangbusters.

I don't like the limitations or the pain, but my family and friends have been awesome.

Besides, it's pretty cool to watch he traffic screech to a halt when I cross he street.

What drives me crazy, however, is he advice. It is always well-meaning. Nevertheless, when I need advice, I ask for it. If I don't ask, it's reasonable to assume that I'm not in the mood.

But that doesn't stop people. As soon as they see my cane, they launch into impassioned recommendations for a solution to my problem. That's before hey have any idea what my problem is.

The ridiculous thing is that so much of the advice is contradictory.

Sleep on a hard mattress. Sleep on water bed. Try drug XYZ, it worked for me. Stay away from drug XYZ, it made my sister's neighbor terribly dizzy. Try acupuncture. Megavitamins. Antioxidants. Exorcism (yes, I'm erious). Special pillows. Share my positive energy.

And my personal favorite: Try the drug I'm taking even though my condition is entirely different from yours.

And by the way, not a single one of my advisers ever heard of psoriatic arthritis. I guess it's human nature to think we have the answers, even if we don't.

And we don't.

Just pick up any teen magazine. "Ten Easy Steps to a Perfect BODY!" the headline blares. "Six Weeks to Six-Pack Abs!" "Use My Product for Longer Life, Longer Lashes and a Firmer Handshake!" "How to Catch a Guy in 10 Days." "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days." "The Perfect Prom Night."

What I want to know is, if everything is so easy then why are there still disaster prom dates?

Why doesn't everyone have a perfect body, perfect life and no relationship problems?

Teen advice columns usually make solutions to our problems sound easy. And they usually do not work. Why? Because we're unique individuals.

We were created by a God who won't make two snowflakes alike, so why do we expect that two people would function the same way?

Let me fill you in on a secret: The magazine writers often know next to nothing about what they're writing.

The guy who writes about how to have a perfect dating relationship may be totally clueless about women.

What about the writer of the advice column about the perfect body or the latest fashion? How do you know she's not a plump grandmother in a baggy dress?

Even friends sometimes give advice that's not helpful. How can your friend tell you how to handle a problem with a basketball teammate or a pushy coach if he doesn't know anything about the team?

Most advice just isn't worth listening to.

So here's my advice: Ignore all those advice columns. If you really need help, ask someone who knows something about the subject and whose life you respect.

Oops. Did I just give you advice that you didn't ask for?

Domestic violence in Catholic homes

You can help people escape abuse

Your Family

BILL AND
MONICA DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS

A "dirty, little secret." That's the term one pastor used to describe domestic violence in Catholic homes.

He made his comment last month at conference for clergy on that topic. Ann iasecki of the Joliet Diocese's Catholic xplorer newspaper reported on the event that focused on how parish staff an help victims.

How can the rest of us help? What an you do if you suspect that a friend or loved one is being hurt?

We wrote about this five years ago nd, sadly, the need for basic information asn't decreased. A good resource is the ational Domestic Violence Hotline (1-00-799-SAFE or www.ndvh.org).

While professionals — teachers, arish workers and volunteers, health re workers, social workers and so on — ve a legal obligation to report suspected buse to Adult Protective Services or hildren's Protective Services (those hone numbers are listed in the phone ook), what are you supposed to do if u think someone you know is being bused?

Professionals suggest:

1. Talk about it. If you suspect meone is being abused, emphasize ur concern for her safety. (Ninety-five rcent of domestic violence victims e female.) You might tell her you're orried.

2. Listen. You might be the first person she has spoken to about what's happening.

3. Believe the person. Victims of abuse come from every race, class, age, income, sexual preference, occupation, marital status and religion.

4. Don't blame. You may not agree with a person's choices, but it's that person's life, and no matter what else is going on, no one deserves to be abused.

5. Offer resources. (The National Domestic Violence Hotline is a good start.)

6. Respect the person's decisions. Give her time to make choices. Only she knows the danger she's in, so making decisions for her could do more harm than good.

And they offer these two reminders:

— You're not responsible for the person's actions. You are only showing that you care. It's OK for you to call and talk to someone for support and ideas.

— Leaving the abuser often takes a long time. Don't tire yourself out trying to do too much or trying to solve that person's problems. You'll be too exhausted when she really needs your support.

We would add one item: Include her and the family in your prayers.

What can a parish do?

— Include resource information in the bulletin, in the back of the church, in information sent home by the school and on the parish's Web site.

— Talk about domestic violence — a sin! — in homilies.

— In the Prayers of the Faithful, pray for those who are being hurt.

— Believe a parishioner who tells you she (or he) is a victim, and provide that person with resources.

On the Web: "When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women."

First issued by the U.S. bishops in 1992, this letter begins:

"As pastors of the Catholic Church in the United States, we state as clearly and strongly as we can that violence against women, inside or outside the home, is never justified. ... We acknowledge that violence has many forms, many causes, and many victims — men as well as women."

Read more at: www.usccb.org/laity/help.shtml. To find out about ordering copies, call 1-800-235-8722. It's available in both English and Spanish.

Catching the spirit of the past

The Human Side

FATHER
EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Recently, I was given a copy of "Apostle of the Alleghenies: Reverend Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin," by Margaret and Matthew Bunson. I have seen Father Gallitzin's church and its beautiful surroundings. It was there that he devoted his life to his parishioners.

Father Gallitzin championed religious liberty in America and was one of the country's great defenders of the Catholic faith in a turbulent era often filled with bitter anti-Catholicism.

As a young man, Father Gallitzin was a prince of Russia and one of the most educated intellectuals of his age. He relinquished his privileged position to become a Catholic.

I have read many stories of early missionaries to the U.S. and visited where they lived. Each time I do this, I wonder about what drove them.

As a young child growing up in Chicago, my mother often took me back to the old Italian neighborhood. While there we would visit Mother Cabrini Hospital.

Francis Xavier Cabrini was born in Italy, but after becoming a nun she traveled to the United States and founded orphanages, schools and hospitals.

Another nun, Mother Joseph, traveled to South America to work, and then sailed to the state of Washington where she personally built the first schools, hospitals and orphanages of that state.

When I say "personally," I mean she took hammer in hand and actually built these buildings. Her background as a daughter of a carriage maker was responsible for her carpentry skills.

Stories of men and women leaving their countries and performing awesome feats abound in the U.S. and often leave us shaking our heads and asking, "How did they do it?"

The philosopher Peter Viereck once said that an intellectual person is a "full-time servant of the Word, or of the word, that is, a kind of priest either of a lofty ideal, or of literary, artistic, philosophical pursuits."

How did these missionaries do it? It was because they were filled with an extraordinary, lofty ideal that prompted awesome feats. God's Word was the propelling inspiration behind their decisions to go to the ends of the world in order to spread the good news of Christ. A special lesson they teach us is that one inspiring, divine ideal can conquer mountains.

One of the greatest challenges for our church today is to inspire youth with lofty ideals. Wonders never will cease if those who are inspired become full-time servants of the Word.

Sharing the light

Well-traveled astronomer reveals God's heavenly wonders

BY GARY MORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — For the last 35 billion miles of his life, James Mullaney has pointed to the skies as proof that God not only exists but that he designed the intricate universe of heaven-knows-how-many galaxies.

"The universe sure didn't happen by accident," said Mullaney, an astronomer and self-proclaimed "celestial evangelist."

Mullaney is former curator of the Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science in Pittsburgh and director of the DuPont Observatory at the University of South Carolina in Aiken.

Now 38.5 billion miles into his life's journey (his age of "66 years by this planet's dating" multiplied by Earth's annual 583-million-mile orbit of the sun), Mullaney estimates that he has preached his message of a personal God whose creation seems infinite to more than a million people.

An uncle started Mullaney on his mission 58 years (or about 35 billion miles) ago, in the backyard of then-8-year-old Jim Mullaney's home in Carnegie, Pa. The uncle set up a telescope and showed Mullaney the moon and Jupiter.

"That's when I started evangelizing," Mullaney said. "My first impulse, in my head, I think I said 'Praise God!' or 'Oh my God!'

"It was like a miracle. I had to share it with somebody, so I started running up and down the street from our house, pounding on all the doors and asking them to come out and look," he said.

Mullaney believes the big-bang theory, which says the universe formed through a series of explosions that started with a single atom, supports the biblical account of creation.

"Scientists can explain how the big bang happened as far back to 1/30-billionth of a second after it happened," he said, "but when it comes down to the actual event, it came out of nowhere."

His answer: "God said, 'Let there be light.' That's why Pope Pius XII endorsed the big-bang theory as soon as he heard of it."

Besides his planetarium and observatory work, he has written five books and published more than 700 articles about astronomy for a number of publications. He also contributed to Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" television series.

He presents his program 45 times a year during retreats at St. Joseph's in the Hills in Malvern, Pa.

Mullaney believes in a personal God even though Earth is a seemingly miniscule part of a vast and expanding universe.

At St. Edmond's, he used sand, stars and the Bible to make his case. Holding up a 35mm film canister, Mullaney said it contained about a quarter million grains of sand.

"If you take all the grains of sand on all the beaches and all the deserts on the entire planet Earth, you would be nowhere near the amount of stars we can now see with our largest telescopes," he said. "And remember, stars are suns; our sun is a star. And they all have orbiting planets."

According to the Old Testament books of Genesis and Isaiah, "God has a name for every star," Mullaney said, "so you shouldn't doubt that God knows your name."

His slideshow features pictures taken through the Vatican Observatory's Advanced Technology Telescope in Arizona — Mullaney calls it the "pope scope" — and by the Hubble Space Telescope.

CNS PHOTO BY KRISTIN ROBERTS, THE DIALOG

Astronomer James Mullaney stands with a recent photograph of Saturn from the Hubble Telescope featured on a slideshow presentation titled "Set Your Minds on the Things Above" at St. Edmond's Church in Rehoboth Beach, Del., in late September.

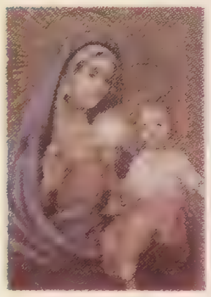
One shows Earth from outer space, which led Mullaney to recall how Sagan thought humanity "desperately needed a cosmic perspective" of the Earth.

"It looks very peaceful, looking down on it; during the day there is no trace of human life," Mullaney said. "This is the way God gave us the world, a beautiful jewel floating in the sea of space.

"And we've really messed it up, unfortunately," he said. "There's been tribal warfare since day one, and we haven't learned, have we? We are still fighting."

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

Keep Christ in Christmas!



Give a Catholic gift to help friends and family remember the true "reason for the season"! Our stores are brimming over with unique gift ideas — beautiful artwork, fabulous gift books, jewelry and spiritual gifts for everyone on your gift list — all at affordable prices.

Why Catholic? Special for December — Paperback Cathechism — now only $8

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off
off all purchases of $35 or more.
Present coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/23/06.

Give the gift of lifetime memories

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

[illegible]

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping -- PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

oman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

DECEMBER 1, 2006 | SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE | VOLUME 16 Nº 8

Perspectives
Fighting the AIDS pandemic; discovering the potential for greatness
| PAGES 14-15

Making a spiritual, symbolic journey

CNS by Damir Sagolj, Reuters

Pope Benedict XVI holds a Turkish flag while greeting guests outside the House of the Virgin Mary in Ephesus, Turkey, Nov. 29. The pope celebrated Mass outside the house.

ope Benedict ncourages Turkey's atholics

PE, PATRIARCH AFFIRM MMITMENT TO UNITY

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ISTANBUL, Turkey — As e pope continued his four-day p in Turkey, he had admitted would be largely symbolic, nsisting of outreach to the untry's Muslim majority.

On the plane from Rome v. 28, Pope Benedict told porters, "We must not aggerate; one cannot expect eat results in just three days. e value (of the trip) I would y is symbolic, the fruit of e encounters themselves, of counters in friendship and spect."

The pope's first formal eech in Turkey came in an dress at the government's ligious affairs directorate,

See TURKEY, page 7

Calling for reform

Bishop Jugis, other bishops send letter to Congress on immigration

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis joined bishops of the Province of Atlanta in a letter to Congress urging the passage of "comprehensive and fair" immigration reform at a national level.

Bishop Jugis, along with Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta, Ga.; Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C.; Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga.; and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh signed the letter to the senators and representatives for their respective states.

The bishops expressed strong belief that "immigration is a moral concern, impacting the human dignity and human rights of every person."

Believing their collective

See BORDER, page 8

Courtesy Photo

funeral procession is held outside Fort Benning Nov. 19 to commemorate the tims who died at the hands of SOA graduates.

Demonstration of faith in action

Parishioners take part in annual Fort Benning protest

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — The four came home wearing small white wooden crosses, each with the name of a victim.

Pat and Joan Mahon, Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin and Mary Darlene Horton, members of the Berrigan Peace and Justice Community, Pax Christi at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, were among the thousands who spent Nov. 17-19 in Columbus, Ga.

They were at the 17th annual protest demanding the U.S. government close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, housed at Fort Benning. Local police estimated that there were between 15,000 and 16,000 people at this year's demonstrations; organizers put the number at 18,000 to 22,000.

"I came to witness to the nonviolent gospel of Jesus

See SOA, page 5

'With great promise'

Pope, Anglican leader pledge friendship while recognizing differences

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The "journey of friendship" between Roman Catholics and Anglicans will continue even though the path toward full

See PLEDGE, page 6

#BXHPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-B P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Night of prayer for life; Scripture and song
| PAGE 4

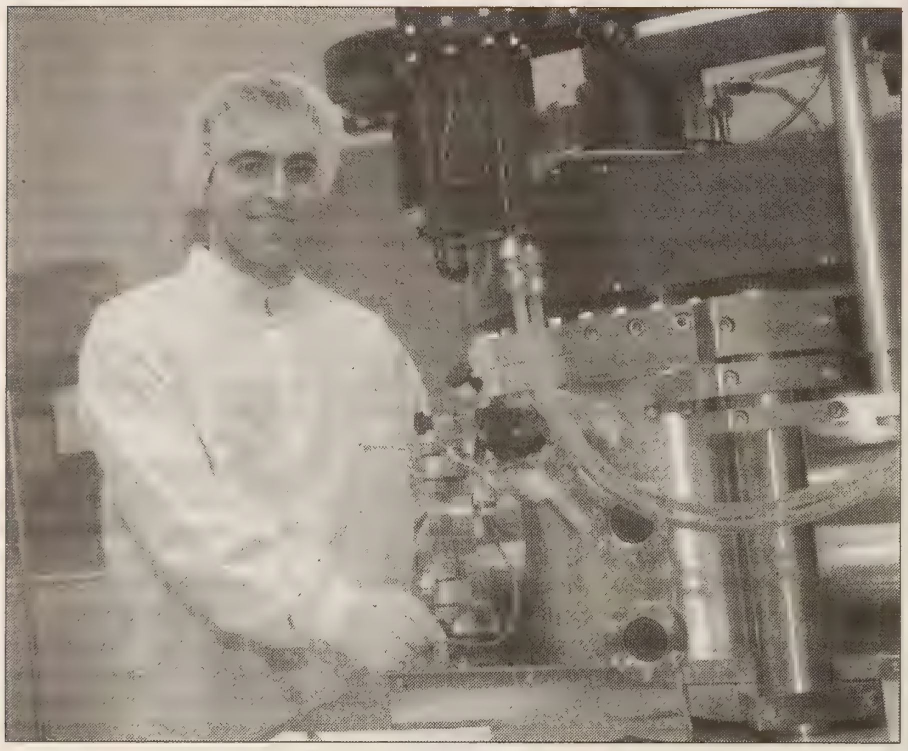
Culture Watch
Pope's book on Jesus; Catholic builder on TV
| PAGES 10-11

Transcending traditions
Catholic, Muslim students share on campus
| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SNIFFING OUT CANCER



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Hossam Haick is seen in a lab at the Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel, Nov. 14. The Catholic scientist was awarded a $2.26 million European Union grant to develop nanometric devices that would smell cancer in people's breath and determine its stage and location.

Israeli Catholic scientist wins grant for devices to find cancer

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Four months after completing his postdoctoral research in chemistry and chemical engineering at the California Institute of Technology, Hossam Haick had just gotten used to the idea of heading his own little lab when he became the recipient of the largest European Union grant given to an Israeli scientist.

Haick, a 31-year-old Catholic resident of Haifa who grew up in Nazareth, was given the grant of $2.26 million to develop nanometric devices to sniff out cancer like an "electric nose."

The devices will be about 100,000 times smaller than the diameter of a hair, he said.

Haick is a researcher and senior lecturer in the chemical engineering department and the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute, both at the Israel Institute of Technology, or Technion, in Haifa.

With the EU grant, Haick hopes to create nanometric devices sensitive enough to sniff out people with cancer as well as detect the stages and location of about 90 percent of cancerous diseases by smelling people's breath.

"It is the first time in Israeli academia that one has gotten such a large grant. It is considered very prestigious, and it is a good starting point for my new academic career," said Haick.

"On the other hand, I now feel a big responsibility on my shoulders," he said.

Haick said his "vision is to develop a portable ... inexpensive ... device that can be used by every interested physician and clinic."

Haick hopes his team will be able to create a working model to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy patients within five years; the ability to distinguish location and stages of the cancer will take longer to develop.

He is currently doubling his lab staff to include 10 chemists as well as chemical, electrical and material engineers from Israel, Europe and Asia who will work in the three new labs he is establishing and directing. The labs should be in working order by January, he said.

Haick also said he hopes that through his scientific work and relationships he and his mostly Jewish colleagues can be role models on how relations between the two communities can be built through mutual respect, understanding, cooperation and, above all, science.

"I believe that science has a kind of unifying power that can bring people from different religions and nationalities together in one place, working with each other and understanding each other," he said.

His current team includes Muslim and Christian Israeli Arabs, Russian immigrants and Israeli Jews.

Panelists say '98 religious freedom law having an affect on diplomacy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Though it has plenty of weaknesses and flaws, the system put in place by a 1998 law to monitor and protect religious freedom internationally has begun to change how the United States and other countries approach religious rights, said panelists at a Washington forum Nov. 20.

Among the problems of trying to protect religious rights abroad, according to forum speakers, are too little emphasis on advocacy as opposed to sanctions in the current diplomacy system, and a risk of other countries misunderstanding the U.S. policy's goals.

The law that created the independent U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom also set a formal approach for evaluating how countries treat religious rights and established a State Department office to oversee how diplomats deal with the issue.

The State Department now prepares an annual report on religious freedom in each country, while the commissi issues reports on select countries ab which its members are concerned.

The law provided for economic a diplomatic sanctions that can be us against countries found to be allowi or causing "systematic, ongoing a egregious" violations of religious libert

As currently established, the U agencies that can act to protect religi rights have "neither the resources, bureaucratic clout nor the willpower" stand against abusers, said Thomas F former director of the State Departmen religious freedom office.

But Farr cited "significant priso releases" and improvements in h some countries treat religious minorit as signs of the law's success. The St Department announced Nov. 13 t Vietnam had been dropped from administration's list of "countries particular concern" because of revisi of official policy on religious freedom

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — An *End-Of-Life Issues Roundtable* will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m. in Biss Hall. A discussion featuring Ray Farris, attorney; Dr. Alex Sanchez; and Karen Walto, RN; plus representatives of health care providers will aid you and your family on end-of-life decisions, followed by an open discussion. Free parking is available in the parking garage next to The Green. For more information, call (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — The *17th Annual National Night of Prayer for Life* will take place at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Road East, Dec. 8 following the 7:30 p.m. Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available until 11 p.m. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — *Eucharistic Adoration* will be offered every Friday, Dec. 8-22, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will present a bilingual Christmas program, *Las Posadas*, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. This traditional Hispanic family festivital is a re-enactment of the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Marcin Zahuta. Confession will be available from 1:30 p.m. For more information call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Ann Marie Wil will speak at the *Advent Supper-Study Ser* guiding participants through "Praying w Catherine McAuley," a spiritual guidebook on founder of the Sisters of Mercy. The series meet Dec. 6 and 13, 6-7:30 p.m., in the Kov Center at Queen of the Apostles Church, N. Main St. A simplicity meal will be ser 6-6:45 p.m. No pre-registration needed. more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mail teallflemin yahoo.com.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College, Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., will host a free *Adv Morning of Reflection* in the Haid Ballroom D 9, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Professor David Pitt present "Cradle and Cross: A Paschal Celebrat of the Incarnation" and Benedictine Father Da Brown, will present "A Christmas Look at Prologue of John's Gospel." Mass will foll in the basilica at 11a.m. with mid-day praye 11:45 a.m. Reservations are requested by call (704) 825-6777.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of M Church, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of See Everyone Again* (HOSEA), a program to in Catholics who have distanced themselves from Catholic Church to return. This small group me Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., through Dec. 19, to disc various issues and concerns and to receive past referrals and guidance. For more informati contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro Cour of Catholic Women* will have a Christmas Dec. 6, 2-4 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus H 2780 Horse Pen Creek Rd. For more informati call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church

—THE—
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

DEC. 1, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 8

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is publishe the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Ch St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly excep Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks du June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in paris of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald rese the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason dee appropriate. We do not recommend or guara any product, service or benefit claime our advertisers. Second-class postage pai Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMAST Send address corrections to The Cath News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charl NC 28237.

OM THE VATICAN

atican laments failure to restrict luster bombs

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican iented the failure of parties to a U.N. ity to agree on restricting the use of ster bombs.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican resentative to U.N. agencies in ieva, said the failure to achieve an eement has "left a real disappointment he expectations of many people who that it could have provided a good and quate response to the humanitarian icerns posed by these weapons."

The archbishop spoke Nov. 17 ing at the end of a 10-day meeting in ieva on the Convention on Certain nventional Weapons.

The Vatican has long supported gotiations that would lead to a ban on ster munitions and, in the meantime, called for a moratorium on their use.

Typically, cluster bombs open in lair and scatter dozens or hundreds submunitions over a wide area. Some ls do not explode and can remain a threat for many years.

The majority of people killed or maimed by cluster munitions are civilians, according to a recent report by the Britain-based Handicap International.

Children are especially vulnerable because they are easily attracted to the bomblets' bright, colorful casings, mistaking the volatile explosives for toys.

In some parts of Iraq, the report said, 75-80 percent of all casualties are caused by unexploded cluster submunitions.

Archbishop Tomasi said the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions "is so serious" that the issue demands "an urgent response." He said it was regrettable that the nations at the meeting could not formulate a mandate on the issue.

The head of Handicap International's Policy Unit, Stan Brabant, who attended the U.N. meeting, said the conference failed because any agreement needs the consensus of all 99 member nations that signed the convention.

ool, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of kshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. ions will be held on the first Thursday of month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The ip will be facilitated by parishioner and life h Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the group create a time and a space for women to better iect with their inner wisdom and move forward heir journey in life. For more information or egister call Lucy (336) 632-1940 or e-mail hw@lucywellmaker.com.

ENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support up* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet . 14, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are ently out of work or looking to make a career nge, join us for encouragement, support and rmative topics to help you in your job search. more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) -4696, ext. 226.

KORY VICARIATE

KORY — *The Crib at Greccio*, a re-enactment t. Francis of Assisi's first live nativity event Mass, will be held at the Catholic Conference ter, 1551 Trinity Ln., Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. nciscan Father Linus DeSantis will celebrate an uctional Mass. Children may bring a shepherd ume or use one provided by the secular nciscans. For more information, call John tin, SFO, at (828) 323-7820 or Frank Cogger, , at (828) 320-0921.

ISBURY VICARIATE

ISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of red Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are ing cord rosaries for the missions and the tary. The group meets the first Tuesday of month in the church office conference room, 1 a.m. For more information, call Cathy him at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at) 797-8405.

ORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 p.m. Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A *Christmas Crèche*, a Franciscan tradition, will be enacted by the Our Lady of Mercy Church confirmation candidates Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. in the lower parking level behind the church, 1730 Link Rd. Refreshments will be served following the enactment. For more information, call Betti Longinotti at (336) 725-3751 or e-mail bssf_sfo@yahoo.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Sister Geri Rogers will present "Mary: Model of Faith" Dec. 6. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

piscopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

. 5 — 8:45 a.m.
ary with Latin class
rlotte Catholic High School

. 7 — 10 a.m.
esan Foundation meeting
nolic Conference Center, Hickory

Dec. 12 — 11:30 a.m.
Sisters of Mercy 175th anniversary
Belmont

Dec. 25 — 12 a.m.
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Pope urges international community to increase efforts to cure AIDS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called on the international community to increase efforts to find a cure for HIV/AIDS and to protect people infected by the virus from discrimination.

The pope made the appeal at the end of his Nov. 26 Angelus in St. Peter's Square to mark World AIDS Day Dec. 1.

Nearly 40 million adults and children are living with HIV, and new infections are on the rise in many countries, according to a recent report by the Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS and the World Health Organization.

This year 4.3 million people have contracted the virus and 2.9 million people died of AIDS-related illnesses, the report said.

Pope Benedict said he hoped World AIDS Day would promote a greater sense of "responsibility in curing the disease as well as in the commitment to avoid all discrimination against those who have been hit" by the virus that causes the disease.

In a separate address, the pope called for all people struggling with infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, to be treated with love and respect.

Illnesses such as "leprosy, the plague, tuberculosis, AIDS and Ebola evoke tragic scenes of pain and fear," he said Nov. 24 in an address to participants of a Nov. 23-25 Vatican conference on the pastoral approach to the treatment of infectious diseases.

People affected by such "repugnant pathologies" are often marginalized or humiliated, and their "deplorable situation" is made worse by "the inequality of social and economic conditions," the pope said.

The indifference, exclusion and rejection victims of infectious diseases sometimes face can also stem from people's obsession with "the image given in the media of men and women who are mostly concerned about their own physical beauty, health" and vitality, he said.

He called on Catholics "to respond with concrete efforts" that promote dignity and help make policies more equitable and at the service of those in need.

Resources dedicated to medical research must be distributed more fairly, he said, and basic living conditions must improve to "stop the emergence and spread of infectious diseases."

In his Nov. 23 address at the Vatican conference, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, head of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said Catholic health care workers have the model of Jesus to emulate in reaching out to the sick with sincere love and mercy. Authentic solidarity, in fact, demands giving of oneself totally to the other despite the risks, he said.

A giving tree of stars

CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Jim Cafarelli, chairman of the "Pick-A-Star" program at SS. Philip and James Church in St. James, N.Y., attaches paper ornaments to a Christmas tree in the church vestibule Nov. 26. The program, coordinated by the parish's social ministry office, gives parishioners an opportunity to serve individuals and families in need through the purchase of gifts listed on the ornaments. "Pick-A-Star" and similar activities that encourage generosity to the less fortunate have become popular in many parishes during Advent.

Vatican liturgist stresses precision of language at Mass

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Catholics should pray at Mass in words that precisely convey the meaning and reverence the church fathers intended when they wrote those prayers, Cardinal Francis Arinze, a Vatican liturgist, said Nov. 11.

"Language is not everything. But it is one of the most important elements that need attention for good and faith-filled liturgical celebrations," said Cardinal Arinze, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

He said his purpose was not to call for the universal reinstitution of the Latin Mass. Rather, he wanted to instill an appreciation of the language of the Latin Mass, warn of translations that might be harmful and extol the unifying aspect Latin still offers the church, he said.

Praying for life

Night of prayer for life to be held in parishes around dicoese

CHARLOTTE — The National Night of Prayer for Life will be held in nine parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Dec. 8-9 event is a pro-life prayer service consisting of exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the rosary, silent meditation and benediction.

"On this evening, we assemble to ask God's help and forgiveness for sins against our most vulnerable brothers and sisters — the unborn," said Maggi Nadol, director of the Catholic Social Services' Respect Life Office in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Parishes begin the service at 9 p.m. on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, and continue until 1 a.m. on Dec. 9, when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico. An "hour of unity" is designated for each time zone, so parishes in the four U.S. time zones can be linked in prayer at the same time. For the Eastern Time zone, the hour is 12-1 a.m.

However, due to unique schedules and conditions, some parishes may adjust the schedule of the service.

"For many years, this event has brought believers into the presence of our Eucharist and our Blessed Mother to pray for an end to the tragedy of abortion," said Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life.

"Such activity on the part of God's people is a fulfillment of our Holy Father's call in 'The Gospel of Life,' as well as the call of our U.S. bishops, to have more fervent, regular prayer on behalf of life," he said.

WANT TO GO?

The National Night of Prayer for Life runs 9 p.m., Dec. 8, until 1 a.m., Dec. 9. However, times may vary for participating churches. Please call the church for the schedule.

Participating parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte area:

Holy Family Church, Clemmons — (336) 778-0600; Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe — (704) 289-2773

St. James Church, Concord — (704) 720-0600

St. Luke Church, Mint Hill — (704) 545-1224

St. Matthew Church, Charlotte — (704) 543-7677; Dec. 8, 9 p.m.-12 a.m.

St. Mark Church, Huntersville — (704) 948-0231; Dec. 8 at 8 a.m. until Dec. 9 at 8 a.m.

St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville — (704) 872-2579

St. Pius X Church, Greensboro — (336) 272-4681

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Charlotte — (704) 549-1607

Those who make a difference

Holy Angels holds annual employee awards banquet

BELMONT — Holy Angels honored and thanked its employees during the 18th annual Employee Appreciation and Awards Banquet in Belmont Nov. 17.

Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation providing residential services and programs for children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

In celebration of Holy Angels' 50th anniversary year, Regina Moody, president and CEO, announced the establishment of two new awards, the Presidential Award for Excellence and the Beth Withers "Make a Difference" Award.

The Presidential Award for Excellence was presented to Lynne Reyburn, Holy Angels Foundation vice president, for extraordinary efforts and servant leadership within Holy Angels.

In 2005, Reyburn raised more than $3 million to finance the building of Holy Angels' newest group home, Moody Place, and the expansion of the Belhaven Group Home.

"Lynne Reyburn has unselfishly given of her time and talents in so many efforts," said Moody during the award presentation.

"Her hard work has ensured that our residents can live out their lives here at Holy Angels," she said.

The Beth Withers "Make a Difference" Award honored the family of Withers, who worked at Holy Angels as a nurse supervisor for 16 years. She died in an automobile accident in May 2006.

In the future, the award will be given to those who embody Withers' compassionate care for others.

Holy Angels also remembered Dr. Kevin Weiss, who voluntarily served as the residents' ear, nose and throat physician for 14 years. Weiss, who passed away in June 2006, was named, posthumously, recipient of the Dr. C. Ellis Fisher "Caring Hands, Caring Heart" Award, given to those who share their time, talent and treasure with the ministry of Holy Angels.

The award was established in 2002 in honor of Fisher, who served as Holy Angels' medical director for 29 years.

The Maria T. Morrow Spirit Award, established in 2005, was presented to Adell Taylor, a Holy Angels health care technician. The award was named in honor of Holy Angels' first resident.

Also presented were five Achievement of Excellence Awards, which recognize outstanding job performances displayed by employees. Recipients were nominated by fellow staff members.

The winners were: Nicole Borchardt, relief staff; Monty Robinson, support employment; Jan Bilas, related service professional; Jill Ross, program professional; and Madeline Foxx and Lisa Martin, direct service professionals.

WANT MORE INFO?

Go online to Holy Angels' Web site at www.holyangelsnc.org, or call (704) 825-4161.

Scripture and song

Concert combines sacred music, community

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Despite the cold weather, many people gathered recently for a lively concert in the warmth of the Basilica of St. Lawrence.

Singers from the basilica and St. Barnabas Church in Arden comprised the enthusiastic choir that performed the St. Cecilia Sing concert of sacred music Nov. 19.

The singers joined with choirs and musicians who took part in the third annual St. Cecilia Sing, a concert, choral festival or prayer event held in churches or other venues all across the United States between Nov. 18 and Nov. 26.

Parishes who present a St. Cecilia Sing event offer their communities "a chance to experience the wonder of music and celebrate in another form as a parish family," according to the Web site of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, which sponsors the national event.

"Many parishes or dioceses alre celebrate St. Cecilia's memorial (Nov. we hope to encourage this current prac and expand it," says the Web site.

St. Cecilia is the patron sa of music.

St. Cecilia Sing is often cal "'Scripture and Song' or 'Hymn Fes said Andrew Davis, director of m ministries at the basilica and organist the concert.

The concert at the basilica featu names for Jesus — Author of Salvati Resurrected Lord, Our Eucharist, Comforter and Consolation, Christ King — being remembered in s and Scripture.

Fifth-grader Emma Tax read story of Christ's birth from the Gos of Luke. The choir then sang "Go it on the Mountain," emphasizing " Incarnate" as one of Christ's names.

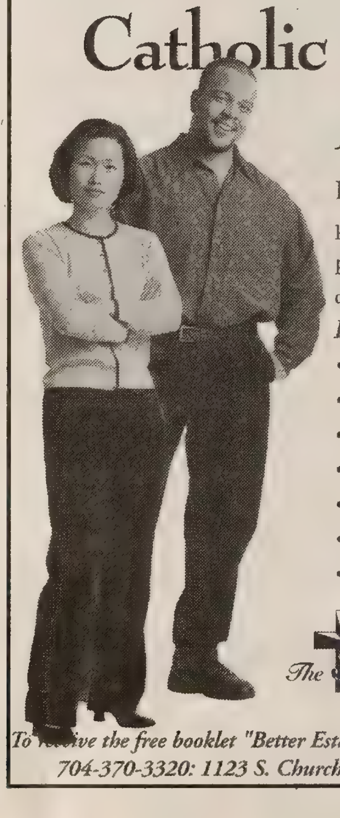
135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!
or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD



Catholic Heritage Society

Please join us

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:

- *a gift from a retirement plan*
- *a gift of life insurance*
- *a bequest in your will*
- *a gift of real estate*
- *a gift of a trust*
- *a gift of life estate*
- *a gift of an annuity*

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To ive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giv
704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

arishioners take part in nnual Fort Benning protest

SOA, from page 1

rist," said Pat Mahon.

The institute — whose military ronym is WHINSEC — was formed 2001 to replace the School of the nericas (SOA) as a training ground r military, law enforcement and vilian officials from Latin America and e Caribbean.

More than a dozen other protests were ld across Latin America in conjunction th the one at Fort Benning.

The yearly demonstrations, sponsored SOA Watch, are held on a weekend in id-November to commemorate the ov. 16, 1989, murder of six Jesuits, eir housekeeper and her daughter by lvadoran soldiers.

In 1990 a congressional task force und that five of the nine soldiers rested for the killings had received ining at SOA.

Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, ex-U.S. Marine and Vietnam veteran, unded SOA Watch in 1990 and serves director. He ministered in Bolivia uring the dictatorship of SOA graduate ugo Banzer in the 1970s," according to A Watch's Web site.

SOA Watch says many SOA alumni roughout Latin America — chiefly ose trained since the 1960s — have en implicated in torture and other man rights violations over the years nce the school was first established in nama in the 1940s.

The Fort Benning protest included nviolence-and-peace training, eakers such as Father Bourgeois d death penalty opponent Sister of . Joseph of Medaille Helen Prejean, d demonstrations along a temporary foot-high fence in front of the fort's o permanent fences.

At least 16 people were arrested r going over or through the mporary fence.

"I just found the whole thing inspiring, that people are concerned about human rights, especially in the Americas," Sister Martin said.

"I'm prayerfully concerned for those who are so passionate that they're willing to get arrested. They want to help, to really live the gospel message to help and to love one another," she said.

On Nov. 19, demonstrators received large white crosses bearing victims' names and countries, which they carried during a funeral procession for the victims.

There was also a two-hour-long reading of victims' names.

"It was like the Litany of the Saints," Joan Mahon said, explaining that the names were chanted in the same way as that litany.

The litany concluded by commemorating "all those not named"— the dead whose names are unknown.

The School of the Americas, originally called the Latin American Training Center, began instructing Latin American military personnel in 1946. It was named the School of the Americas in 1963 and moved to Fort Benning from the Panama Canal Zone in 1984 when the area came under Panamanian rule.

When it was closed in 2001 and reopened as Western Hemisphere Institute, Congress mandated that it include at least eight hours of human rights training in all its courses.

The institute's public affairs officer, Lee Rials, said that training covers due process, the rule of law, international human rights conventions, the role of the military in society and civilian control of the military.

He said the eight-hour minimum applies to two-week courses, but it may rise to as much as 40 hours in yearlong courses.

Rials has called it "a ludicrous accusation" that the institute teaches torture methods.

The Mahons were among the 652 demonstrators who accepted the institute's invitation to visit the fort legally Nov. 18 and participate in panel sessions in which officials described the work of the institute and fielded questions.

"His (Rials') spiel was that they don't do that anymore," Pat Mahon said.

COURTESY PHOTO

Joan and Pat Mahon from Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville pray during a Nov. 17-19 protest at the School of the Americas in Georgia.

"That's all in the past, they don't teach that (torture, and so forth) any more. They're teaching democracy."

SOA Watch says support for the institute is waning in Latin America, citing Venezuela's 2004 decision to stop sending soldiers there for training and similar decisions in 2006 by Argentina and Uruguay.

Last year the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly defeated a bill to cut off funding for the institute, 218-188. According to SOA Watch, 34 representatives who opposed the bill lost their seats in the November elections.

The institute's new curriculum, which includes some human rights and democracy instruction, helps its students "better understand their role in serving a democratic society," according to the institute's Web site.

"They learn what it means to 'protect and serve.' They learn the moral and ethical reasons for doing what is right and just in their duties, and they learn the practical benefit — the support of their own people."

Father Bourgeois sees it differently. In January 2001, he wrote in The Atlanta Constitution newspaper:

"If we in the United States are serious about teaching democracy and respecting human rights in Latin America, then we should send soldiers to civilian institutions, where they will learn that the military must be subordinate to civilians.

"We cannot teach democracy through the barrel of a gun," he wrote.

The institute's Web site states that when students return to their own countries, "the U.S. military groups there maintain ties with them as part of the U.S. military-to-military engagement plan. There is also a report to Congress each year on all U.S. education and training of foreign students; the report includes any known illegal activity by foreign students."

However, the site states, "Just as any college or university cannot guarantee that some of their students will not someday commit crimes, neither can we."

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

WANT MORE INFO?
Visit SOA Watch's Web site at www.soaw.org. Visit WHINSEC's Web site at www.infantry.army.mil/whinsec.

CFC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING
A.V. ROOFING
BBB Member Southern Piedmont Charlotte
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING
For more than 17 years, Abbotswood at Irving Park has built a reputation on providing exemplary retirement living services to independent seniors. Residents enjoy the largest 1 and 2 bedroom floorplans in Irving Park, delicious meals, a full-time wellness director and month-to-month rental with NO BUY-IN FEES. Optional in-home health care services are available. Call today to schedule your personal tour.
(336) 282-8870
ABBOTSWOOD at Irving Park
The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Pope, Anglican leader pledge friendship, recognize differences

PLEDGE, from page 1

> "We celebrate the good that has come from these four decades of dialogue."
>
> — Pope Benedict XVI and Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams

unity seems to be blocked, said Pope Benedict XVI and Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury.

The two leaders spent 25 minutes speaking privately Nov. 23 at the Vatican before giving speeches that candidly recognized the divisions within the Anglican Communion and between Roman Catholics and Anglicans over the ordination of women and over homosexuality.

After their private meeting, the pope and the Anglican leader processed side by side into the Vatican's Redemptoris Mater Chapel for midday prayer before eating lunch together.

Archbishop Williams' visit marked the 40th anniversary of the visit made by a predecessor, Archbishop Michael Ramsey, to Pope Paul VI. The 1966 meeting marked the launch of the official Anglican-Roman Catholic theological dialogue.

In a joint declaration signed Nov. 23, Pope Benedict and Archbishop Williams said that with the 1966 meeting "centuries of estrangement between Anglicans and Catholics were replaced by a new desire for partnership and cooperation."

"We celebrate the good which has come from these four decades of dialogue," the statement said.

"At the same time, our long journey together makes it necessary to acknowledge publicly the challenge presented by new developments which, besides being divisive for Anglicans, present serious obstacles to our ecumenical progress," the pope and the archbishop said.

Concerning women bishops

The Anglican Communion risks serious, permanent division over the decision by some Anglican provinces to ordain women priests and bishops, to ordain openly gay men and to bless homosexual unions.

But at a Nov. 24 press conference, Archbishop Williams said a decision by the Church of England, the Anglican Communion's mother church, to ordain women bishops is "not a foregone conclusion."

In July the church synod said it saw no theological reason why women should not be ordained bishops and a commission was established to begin working on practical preparations.

Archbishop Williams said that during his private discussions with Pope Benedict the pope asked "a little about the experience and the effect of the ordination of women" priests in the Anglican Communion, "and I was very happy to talk about the benefits I thought it had brought and some of the theological thinking behind it."

The archbishop said he and the pope agreed that a Christian community was obliged to address possible change "on the basis of shared theological principles and shared biblical understanding, not as a response to secular pressures."

In continuing its deliberations about the ordination of women bishops, the archbishop said, the Church of England must ensure it has a "sound theological basis" for its decision and is not simply reacting to a widely accepted belief that women should have equal access to leadership roles in all areas of life.

Path to unity

Both Archbishop Williams and Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, told reporters that the visit had "exceeded" their expectations and laid a solid foundation for continuing dialogue.

In fact, the two announced that a joint commission would meet early in 2007 to offer Pope Benedict and Archbishop Williams possible topics for a third phase of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, a theological dialogue body.

The second phase concluded in 2005 with the publication of a joint document on Mary.

In his speech to the archbishop, Pope Benedict said that when the official dialogue began 40 years ago it was "filled with great promise."

Catholics and Anglicans, he said, must give thanks to God for the friendship of church leaders, the cooperation and respect shown by church members and the common agreements on matters of faith and doctrine reached by the dialogue.

At the same time, he said, the pressures of growing secularism and changing moral values have had a negative impact on many Christians and their communities.

New positions have led to "strains and difficulties" within the Anglican Communion, even raising questions about whether the communion will be able to remain intact, the pope said.

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUT

Pope Benedict XVI greets Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Communio during a private audience at the Vatican Nov. 23. Pope Benedict and Archbishop Williams said that th "journey of friendship" between Roman Catholics and Anglicans will continue even though the pa toward full unity seems to be blocked.

"Recent developments, especially concerning the ordained ministry and certain moral teachings, have affected not only internal relations within the Anglican Communion but also relations between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church," the pope said.

Pope Benedict told the archbishop, "We believe that these matters, which are presently under discussion within the Anglican Communion, are of vital importance to the preaching of the Gospel in its integrity and that your current discussions will shape the future of our relations.

"It is our fervent hope that the Anglican Communion will remain grounded in the Gospels and the apostolic tradition which form our common patrimony and are the basis of our common aspiration to work for full visible unity," he said.

In his remarks to the pope, Archbishop Williams acknowledged that "the path to unity is not an easy one and that disputes about how we apply the Gospel to th challenges thrown up by modern socie can often obscure or even threaten th achievements of dialogue."

The archbishop said it is clear th changes within the Anglican Communic could impact negatively its relationsh with the Catholic Church, but he hope the friendships and trust built ov the years would enable Anglicans ar Catholics to speak honestly, to challeng each other and to help both grou discern a way forward.

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.
- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

www.andersonfamilymed.com
Anderson Family Medicine
...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 a[illegible]00 pm, (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

Pope makes symbolic journey to Turkey, encourages Catholics

TURKEY, *from page 1*

which controls Turkey's mosques and Muslim schools and implements government policy on religion.

During the conversation, the pope old his Muslim hosts: "There are so many wars, so much human blood shed every day. Religion should be a force of peace and reconciliation."

Together, the pope said, Christians and Muslims must witness to the fact hat being created by God and destined o eternity with him can give meaning o people's lives and that when they ecognize the truth of God's existence hey will live in a way that will benefit all people and the earth itself.

"We are called to work together, so as to help society to open itself to the ranscendent, giving almighty God his ightful place," the pope said.

"The best way forward," he told the Muslim leaders, "is via authentic dialogue between Christians and Muslims, based on truth and inspired by a sincere wish o know one another better, respecting differences and recognizing what we have in common."

In gesture to Muslims, pope was to visit an Istanbul mosque Nov. 30.

On Nov. 29, Pope Benedict asked Turkey's tiny Catholic community o live their faith with courage, hope and optimism. He celebrated the first public Mass of his trip under next to the House of the Virgin Mary at Ephesus.

Pope Benedict told those present that he wanted "to convey my personal love and spiritual closeness, together with that of the universal church, to the Christian community here in Turkey, a small minority which faces many challenges and difficulties daily."

While the Turkish Constitution recognizes freedom of conscience and religion, including the right to worship, the Catholic Church and other minority religious communities lack full legal recognition and protection. They also can face difficulty in getting visas and residency permits for foreign pastoral workers.

Pope Benedict urged the Catholic community to rejoice even in the midst of difficulties, following the example of Father Andrea Santoro, a missionary from Rome who was murdered in February by a disturbed Muslim youth.

Citing Mary as a mother not only of Christ's disciples but of all men and women, the pope urged Turkey's Catholics to be united among themselves and to build friendships with their Orthodox and Muslim neighbors.

Even if it is a tiny minority, he said, the Catholic Church is called always and everywhere to be "a sacrament of the unity of the human race."

Pointing out that Muslims also make pilgrimages to the House of the Virgin Mary, that they honor her as a true believer and as the virgin mother of Jesus, the pope urged Turkish Catholics to pray for peace among believers of different religions.

CNS photo by Kai Pfaffenbach, Reuters

Pope Benedict XVI and Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew arrive for an evening prayer service at the Orthodox Church of St. George in Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 29.

The pope asked for special prayers for the Middle East, "the land called 'holy' and considered as such by Christians, Jews and Muslims alike."

Claiming the brotherhood of their respective patron saints — the apostles Andrew and Peter — the pope and the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox joined together in prayer and solemnly affirmed their commitment to the full unity of their churches.

Pope Benedict paid homage to the Orthodox Church by attending a Nov. 30 Divine Liturgy celebrated by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople. The liturgy at the Orthodox Church of St. George in Istanbul marked the feast of St. Andrew, patron of the patriarchate.

The pope moved to a raised wooden throne at the side of the church while the patriarch celebrated the solemn liturgy. Afterward, Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Benedict blessed the crowd, then the patriarch took the pope's hand and held it aloft as they waved and smiled at the applauding crowd.

"In the liturgy, we are reminded of the need to reach unity in faith as well as in prayer," the patriarch said in his homily.

"Therefore, we kneel in humility and repentance before the living God and Our Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious name we bear and yet at the same time whose seamless garment we have divided," the patriarch told the pope and other members of the congregation.

"We confess in sorrow that we are not yet able to celebrate the holy sacraments in unity," Patriarch Bartholomew said. "And we pray that the day may come when this sacramental unity will be realized in its fullness."

As the Orthodox faithful processed up for Communion, they bowed to the pope before receiving the consecrated bread and wine.

Although the Orthodox Church in Turkey has fewer than 5,000 members, Pope Benedict told reporters that the patriarchate's standing in the Orthodox world as the "first among equals" made a visit almost obligatory.

"Numbers, quantity, do not count," the pope said Nov. 28. "It is the symbolic, historical and spiritual weight that counts" and the fact that the patriarchate "remains a point of reference for the whole Orthodox world and, therefore, for all of Christianity."

Addressing the congregation at the end of the liturgy, Pope Benedict said the service was an opportunity "to experience once again the communion and call of the two brothers," Peter and Andrew, chosen by Jesus to be his apostles and sent to different cities to preach the same Gospel.

The fact that the brothers also had different roles within the Christian community, with Peter and his successors in Rome having a "universal responsibility," has "unfortunately given rise to our differences of opinion, which we hope to overcome, thanks also to the theological dialogue which has been recently resumed," Pope Benedict said.

While Orthodox generally recognize the importance of the church of Rome, they object to the way in which popes have tried to exercise direct jurisdiction over all Christian communities.

Pope Benedict said he wanted to "recall and renew" the invitation issued by Pope John Paul II for a discussion among Christians on possible ways for exercising the papal ministry to serve the unity of all Christians.

Like the patriarch, he expressed his sadness at the fact that although they share the same faith and recognize the validity of each other's sacraments, Catholics and Orthodox cannot regularly share each other's Eucharist.

"May our daily prayer and activity be inspired by a fervent desire not only to be present at the Divine Liturgy, but to be able to celebrate it together, to take part in the one table of the Lord, sharing the same bread and the same chalice," the pope said.

After the liturgy, the pope and patriarch signed a joint declaration committing their churches to continuing theological dialogue and greater practical cooperation, especially in promoting Christian values in increasingly secularized societies.

They also expressed their concern for the poor and for victims of violence — especially in the Middle East — and terrorism and those whose religious freedom is not recognized fully.

Advent Morning of Reflection

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

Saturday, December 9
8:30am to noon
Belmont Abbey College
Haid Ballroom

Talks:
◆ "Cradle and Cross: Paschal Celebration of the Incarnation" by Professor David Pitt
◆ "A Christmas Look at the Prologue of John's Gospel" by Fr. David Brown, O.S.B.

Mass will follow in the Basilica at 11:00a.m. with Mid-Day Prayer at 11:45a.m.
While there is no charge, reservations are requested by calling 704-825-6777 by Thurs. Dec. 7, 2006.

Directions:
Take I-85,
Exit 26

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Bishops call on Congress

BORDER, *from page 1*

voices to have a stronger impact, the bishops hoped to encourage the members of Congress to continue to work together for comprehensive reform, remembering the humanity of those who have moved to the United States from other countries to seek better lives for their families.

The bishops were specific about what they believe to be the essential elements of reform, including "policies to address the economic root causes of migration in the sending countries; reform of our legal immigration system, including a viable and workable path to citizenship; a temporary worker program which protects the rights of all workers; family-based immigration reform which reduces waiting times for family reunification; and the restoration of due process protections for immigrants."

"We support these reforms because every day we witness the human consequences of an immigration system which is severely flawed," wrote the bishops.

"The deportation of 12 million persons is not practical," said Bishop Jugis in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald Nov. 28.

"Since, for the most part, these undocumented individuals are no putting down roots here and are productiv people, contributing to society, an earne path to citizenship should be mad available to them," he said.

The ultimate goal of the letter i political action to enact legislation t "help heal our communities and provid for a secure and prosperous future for a our children," said the bishops' letter.

Bishop Jugis said that in discussion about undocumented immigrants, "w must remember that they are still fello human beings, our brothers and sisters.'

Letter from Catholic Bishops of North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina to members of Congress in the three states:

As the pastoral leaders of the Catholic Church in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, we are touched by the faith-filled lives of immigrants in our churches, our schools, our communities and our families. These individuals have become a vital part of the fabric of our local areas and make substantial contributions to our economic and social life. These brothers and sisters are a source of great hope and promise to us all.

We write to urge you to continue working for comprehensive reform of immigration law through civil dialogue, in the spirit of cooperation and love. It is our hope the Senate and the House of Representatives will collaborate to produce a fair and just resolution to the situations that threaten to tear apart our communities. Enforcement-only measures do not realistically address the substantive issues facing our country.

Immigration is a moral concern impacting the human dignity and human rights of every person. We and our brother bishops of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops support an approach to immigration reform which includes policies to address the economic root causes of migration in the sending countries; reform of our legal immigration system, including a viable and workable path to citizenship; a temporary worker program which protects the rights of all workers; family-based immigration reform which reduces waiting times for family reunification; and the restoration of due process protections for immigrants.

We support these reforms because every day we witness the human consequences of an immigration system which is severely flawed. We are particularly distressed by the recent tragedies of our brothers and sisters who are faced with the escalation in deportation enforcement in our states. The drumbeat of dehumanizing rhetoric constantly threatens the peace and well-being of our communities, causing an increase in suffering and fear among some of the most vulnerable ones.

Comprehensive immigration reform would increase our national security, not weaken it. It is profoundly unjust to place the responsibility for acts of terrorism, perpetuated by a few criminals, at the door of immigrants who are working hard to serve us, while seeking a basic livelihood for themselves and their families. It is equally unjust to use our newcomers as scapegoats of the economic and political troubles in our nation.

We ask you to see the faces of the children separated from their parents. We ask you to hear the cries of the workers who daily risk serious injury laboring in the factories and fields. We ask you to feel the fear in the hearts of those who are not safe in the neighborhoods where they live.

Enacting comprehensive and fair immigration reform will help heal our communities and provide for a secure and prosperous future for all our children. Your reply to our letter will be greatly appreciated.

We will continue to reach out to the people who are most vulnerable through Catholic Charities and the 468 parishes and missions in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. We are asking God's blessings on you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

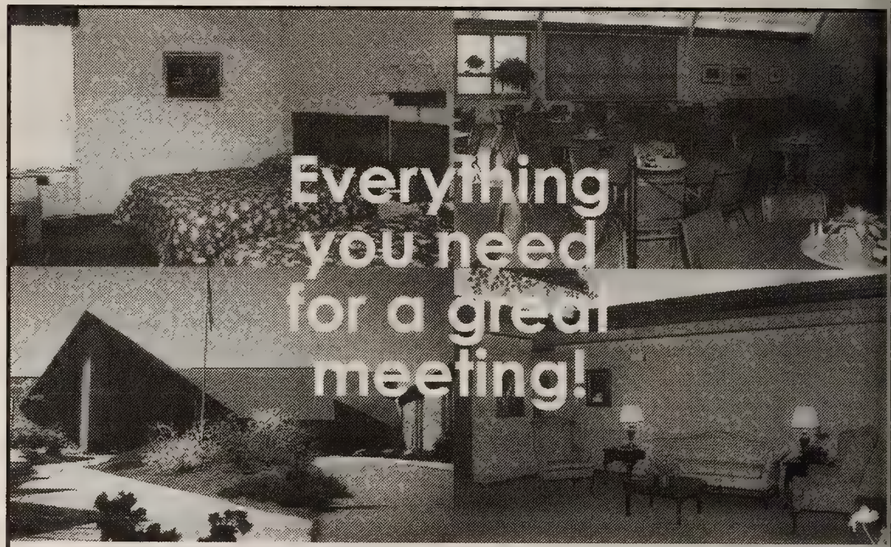
+ Wilton D. Gregory
Most Rev. Wilton D. Gregory
Archbishop of Atlanta

+ Robert J. Baker
Most Rev. Robert J. Baker
Bishop of Charleston

+ J. Kevin Boland
Most Rev. J. Kevin Boland
Bishop of Savannah

Michael F. Burbidge
Most Rev. Michael Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh

+ Peter J. Jugis
Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte



The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007 CLASSES IN

Charleston, South Carolina

Application Deadline: May 15, 2007

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Our Commitment:
- Theological Education – Formation of Mind
- Spiritual Formation – Conversion of Heart
- Pastoral Orientation – Prudential Wisdom

Foundational Texts:
- Sacred Scripture
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Writings of Pope John Paul II
- Documents of Vatican II
- 1983 Code of Canon Law
- Catholic Liturgical Documents
- Classics of Catholic Spirituality

Format:
- One Weekend a Month
- August – May
- Three-Year Cycle

For an Application or More Information:

Institute for Pastoral Theology
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
1025 Commons Circle, Naples, FL 34119
Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Fax: 239-280-2527
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

> "Sadly, many Americans believe that building walls and imprisoning foreigners is the only solution to the unprecedented immigration crisis we are facing."

Seeking solutions

Bishop sees need to expand foster care for young border crossers

BY DANIEL PEREZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

EL PASO, Texas — The youngest undocumented immigrants caught trying to enter the United States from Mexico through El Paso may benefit from a recent fact-finding trip along the border for a delegation of bishops and others involved in ministry to migrants in the U.S. and Mexico.

El Paso Bishop Armando X. Ochoa said he wanted to expand diocesan-run foster-care programs that shelter children and teenagers who are emotionally and physically traumatized during their journey north.

Compared to more institutional settings, the smaller groups and family atmosphere in foster homes enhance the healing process, he said during an Oct. 28 press conference at the Padre Pinto Plaza outside Sacred Heart Church, just blocks from the international bridge to Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

"These kids have been treated badly," Bishop Ochoa said. "They've seen horrors from snakes in the desert to being abandoned by their coyote (smuggler). Some girls get gang-raped."

The idea of expanding foster care programs came from a weeklong study tour organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in late October to gather information from church, community and law enforcement leaders about human trafficking and the experiences of unaccompanied minors along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Bishop Ochoa, a member of the bishops' migration committee, was among a contingent that included members from various Catholic migration-related programs.

The delegation was led by Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the migration committee.

He discussed some of the insights the group gained from the Oct. 23-28 mission that included stops in Tucson, Ariz., Houston and El Paso, and related Mexican border communities.

The nation's recent focus on immigration has shown a policy that is broken and in need of repair, Bishop Barnes said.

"Sadly, many Americans believe that building walls and imprisoning foreigners is the only solution to the unprecedented immigration crisis we are facing," Bishop Barnes said.

The delegates will make recommendations on how to improve the immigration system in the United States and in the countries from which the immigrants are coming, he said.

An estimated 17,500 immigrants around the world are trafficked annually into the United States for prostitution, forced labor and domestic servitude, according to a document from the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services.

Of those, about 33 percent are children.

Most of the undocumented immigrant children who make it to El Paso are helped by Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. As of late last year, the center was serving more than 140 youths ranging in age from 12 to 18, at a shelter in Canutillo, Texas.

The center provides legal representation for the children and tries to reunite them with family members.

Although Bishop Ochoa lauded the efforts of Las Americas, he said the church-run foster homes provide a greater sense of normalcy.

NO OLVIDADO

CNS PHOTO BY TIM GAYNOR, REUTERS

A woman lays marigolds on an unmarked grave in a county cemetery in Holtville, Calif., Nov. 1. A ceremony was held to recall unidentified immigrants who have died crossing from Mexico. An estimated 3,000 to 4,000 immigrants have died crossing illegally from Mexico in the last decade. Almost a third of them remain unidentified and are buried as John and Jane Does in cemeteries that run along the border.

The Catholic Shoppe
AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Searching for that perfect Christmas gift?
Find it here!

We have books for all ages, religious and inspirational artwork, statues, rosaries, jewelry, medals, crosses, crucifixes, prayer and greeting cards, music, audio books on CD's, DVD's, sacramental and general gift items and so much more!

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri
10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday
10:am - 1:00pm
closed 12-25-06 to 1-1-07

Bring this ad in for 10% off your purchase of $20 or more in our store.
Offer expires Dec. 23, 2006

Conveniently located 10 minutes from Charlotte on the Belmont Abbey College campus
I-85 Exit 26

704.461.5100 ◆ CATHOLICSHOPPE@BAC.EDU
WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES
Keep Christ in Christmas!

Give a Catholic gift to help friends and family remember the true "reason for the season"! Our stores are brimming over with unique gift ideas — beautiful artwork, fabulous gift books, jewelry and spiritual gifts for everyone on your gift list — all at affordable prices.

Why Catholic? Special for December — Paperback Cathechism — now only $8

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off
off all purchases of $35 or more.
Present coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/23/06.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Jesus of history, Christ of faith

Pope's scholarly book on Jesus scheduled for March release

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI has completed the first volume of a major scholarly and spiritual book on Jesus of Nazareth, a work he began several years before being elected pope.

"Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration" is scheduled for a March release in Italian by the Rizzoli publishing house and in German by Herder Verlag.

Announcing the publication Nov. 21, Rizzoli and the Vatican gave reporters copies of the book's preface and a portion of its introduction.

In the preface, signed "Joseph Ratzinger — Benedict XVI," the pope wrote that for decades he had noticed a growing scholarly distinction between the "historical Jesus" and the "Christ of faith," a distinction that many Christians now accept as accurate.

But, he wrote, if the human Jesus was totally different from the Jesus depicted in the Gospels and proclaimed by the church, what does it mean to have faith in him?

"I trust the Gospels," Pope Benedict wrote.

And while he said he relied on modern scholarly biblical criticism and historical research, "I wanted to attempt to present the Jesus of the Gospels as the true Jesus, as the 'historic Jesus' in the true sense of the expression."

"Only if something extraordinary happened, if the figure and words of Jesus radically exceeded all the hopes and expectations of his age, can his crucifixion and his effectiveness be explained," the pope wrote.

Pope Benedict explained that he began the book during his 2003 summer vacation, giving the final form to the first four chapters in the summer of 2004.

"After my election to the episcopal see of Rome, I used all of my free moments to work on it," he wrote. "Because I do not know how much time and how much strength I will still be given, I have decided to publish the first 10 chapters" as Volume One of "Jesus of Nazareth."

In a Nov. 21 statement, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, said, "The pope says clearly, with his usual simplicity and humility, that this is not a 'magisterial act,' but a fruit of his personal research and, as such, can be freely discussed and critiqued.

"It is not a long encyclical on Jesus, but a personal presentation of the figure of Jesus by the theologian Joseph Ratzinger," who was elected pope after beginning the work, Father Lombardi said.

"At the same time," the Jesuit said, "it is very significant that he, who was elected bishop of Rome and has the task of supporting the faith of his brothers and sisters, felt so strongly called to give us a new presentation of the figure of Jesus."

The Vatican publishing house, which holds the rights to all the pope's written works, announced Nov. 21 that the pope had handed in the manuscript and that the Vatican had turned to Rizzoli to translate the work, find publishers for it around the world and handle the marketing.

A spokesman for Rizzoli said that as of Nov. 21 the company was prepared to announce only the publication in Italian and German.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 10, 2006

Dec. 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-6
2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
3) Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Christ is gift we should seek at Christmas

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The morning paper on this second Sunday of Advent overflows with glossy, four-color inserts urging us with almost religious fervor to shop.

Christmas ads blanket TV and Internet screens. Mailboxes burst with catalogues, coupons and breathless fliers advertising everything from honey hams to diamond rings.

The acquisitive fever for getting the right gifts, and lots of 'em, so characteristic of this time of year, is once again epidemic.

It's hard resisting the culturewide illusion that decisions about Christmas purchases are matters of, if not life and death, at least epic importance on which our happiness and the happiness of our family and friends (and co-workers and neighbors, and anybody else who might give us a gift this year) teeters.

The problem is not gift giving itself. It's appropriate to celebrate God's inestimable gift of intimate friendship by the exchange of lesser gifts. Such gestures of generosity and gratitude can be powerful expressions of our mutual affection, our desire for communion of heart and mind.

Difficulties arise when we lose perspective — when our sense of proportion deserts us and we find ourselves elbowing a 9-year-old in the jaw to get the last Tickle-Me-Elmo in the store, or spending the mortgage money on the giant flat panel plasma screen TV, or fuming with rage when our expensive and lovingly chosen contribution to the Christmas gift swap yields us a cheesy gift bag with a half dozen sticks of convenience story jerky.

At moments like these, Paul's prayer in today's reading hits the mark: "that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct, you may learn to value the things that really matter."

May our Advent longing be for the Gift we already have received, whose birth we celebrate and for whose coming again we hope.

Questions:

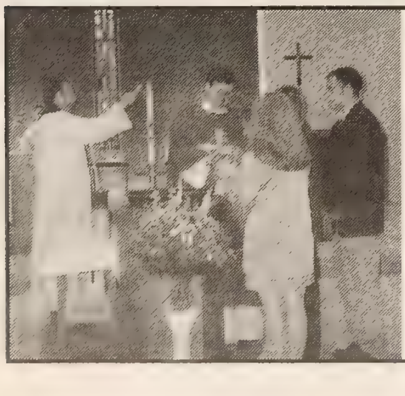
What simple gift could be an effective display of love for someone in your life? What is one concrete action to take that might help you keep your shopping in perspective?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 3-9
Sunday (First Sunday of Advent), Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12--4:2, Luke 21:25-28, 34-36; **Monday (Saint John of Damascus),** Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Nicholas),** Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Ambrose),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Immaculate Conception),** Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Saturday (St. Juan Diego),** Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26, Matthew 9-35--10:1, 6-8.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 10-16
Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6; **Monday (St. Damasus 1),** Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe),** Zechariah 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Luke 1:39-47; **Wednesday (St. Lucy),** Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (St. John of the Cross),** Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (Advent Weekday),** Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday (Advent Weekday),** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 7:10-13.

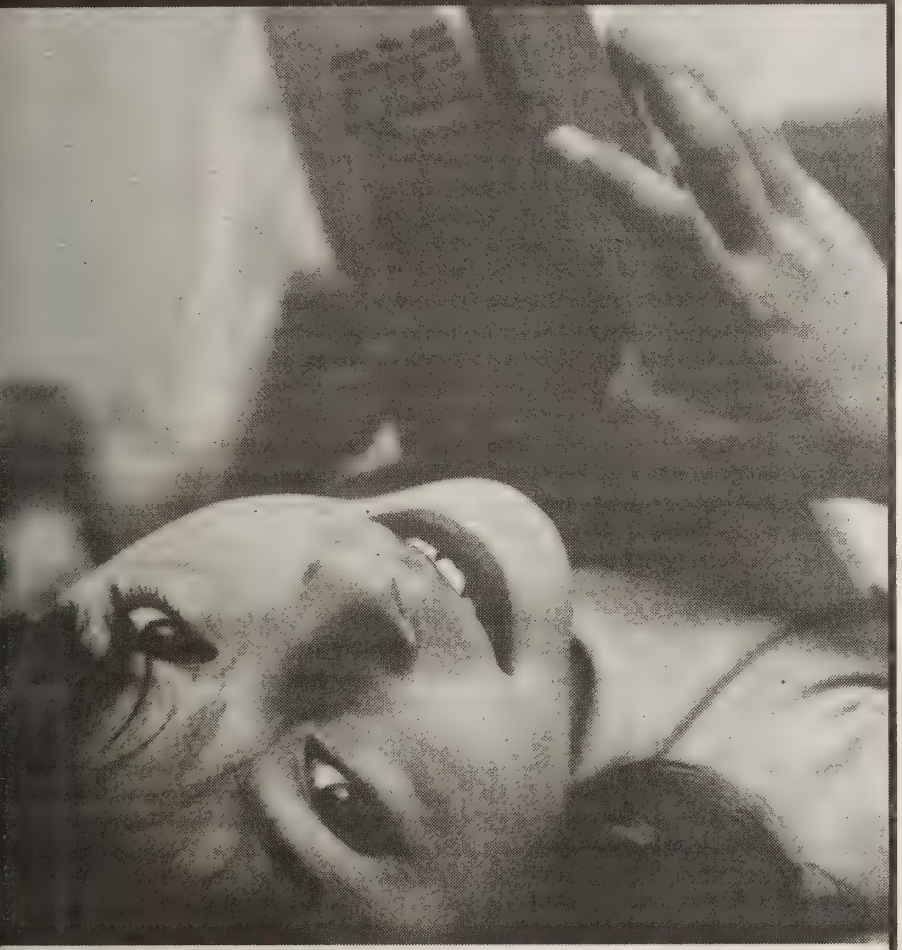
AUTHENTIC NEW YORK ITALIAN ICE! GRAND OPENING!
3 hot Dogs & Soda for $6 — includes free small Ice for December
Authentic Italian ices shipped directly from New York!
Water Ices: cherry, lemon, chocolate, rainbow, watermelon, mango, pina colada, cotton candy, coconut
Cream Ices: vanilla chip, strawberry cheesecake, pistachio, vanilla, cookie dough
Special flavor: spumoni
SUGAR FREE: sherry lemon
Listen to 1190 AM (WIXE) for more specials!
Major sponsor for Christmas Tree lighting ceremony —
Join us for Waxhaw's first-ever
Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest! 5pm - Sunday — December 10th
Uncle Sonny's
NEW YORK ICES
201 South Main Street,
Waxhaw
704-243-7336



Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:
Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains
Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

POLAND
with Father John Starczewski
parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro
"The Footsteps of John Paul II"
May 8-16, 2007
Join us while we visit Krakow, Wadowice, Zakopane, Warsaw, the world-famous salt mines of Wieliczka, Shrine of Divine Mercy and Czestochowa.
Roundtrip from Charlotte: $2,898 plus taxes and fees (double occupancy) — includes breakfast and dinner daily
For further information, call Patti Dameron at (336) 413-8127.

AT 71, REBECCA LOVES TO LEARN NEW THINGS.



[Same as when she was 9.] Yesterday, she tried tai chi. Last week, she had a bit of tofu. Today is Friday and Friday means chocolate cake! Healthy living with a touch of sugar is her goal. It's what keeps her young and what makes her happy here...

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

(336) 886-4103 or toll free (866) 627-9343

www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

NP/GNR/yng3

Building dreams

Builder applies his Catholic faith to home project for ABC-TV show

BY MARYANGELA L. ROMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WAUWATOSA, Wis. — When Larry Gruber, chief operating officer of Monarch Homes, heard he received a call from ABC, Gruber suspected a sales representative was trying to sell him siding.

But when Gruber, a member of St. Jude Church in Wauwatosa, returned the call in August, it launched his family into a whirlwind several weeks long that culminated in the Nov. 19 airing of an episode of television's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

The caller from ABC-TV, the network that produces the popular weekly show on which a home is built or renovated for a deserving family, asked Gruber if his family-run, home-building business would be interested in constructing a home for a family in Dundee.

"Talk to your partners, take some time to think about it," Gruber said the caller suggested. But Gruber said he responded quickly. "I don't need to think about it — we'll do it!"

"It was a way for our family to give to another family," he said. "Sure, we did it because we are hoping for the payback that it will help our business, but the main reason is to help a family change their lives and make them feel a little better."

Besides Gruber, the family "team" include his son-in-law and Monarch Homes president Justin Furnace; his son and Monarch field manager Jeremy Gruber; daughter Lori Furnace; and his wife and Monarch sales representative Kathy Gruber.

They headed a team of more than 600 skilled laborers and contractors and about 1,200 volunteers who constructed the sprawling, 4,500-square-foot house in Fond du Lac County.

Reflecting on the experience, Larry Gruber admitted that one motivation in accepting the task was to generate exposure for his 2-and-a half-year-old company that builds about 30 homes a year.

But above all, Gruber, a builder for 32 years, said he and his family welcomed the opportunity to put their Catholic values into action by giving another family a helping hand.

The recipients of the home are the Matthew and Christine Koepke family.

When Gruber learned of the family in August, Matthew Koepke was ill with cancer. He had been diagnosed in April with metastatic melanoma, which had spread from under his arm to his brain.

The family — which includes four children, ages 15 to 22 — had been living in a home built by Matthew Koepke's great-grandfather. Over the years, it had fallen into disrepair. It had exposed electrical wires and insulation, a leaking roof, broken windows and an attic infested with bats.

Matthew Koepke planned on renovating the house, according to an "Extreme Makeover" press release, but had spent several years renovating the historic Dundee Mill into a museum for the community. The mill is a few blocks from his home.

While undergoing chemotherapy treatments, he tried repairing his home, but on Aug. 21, at age 41, he died.

His death altered the television show's schedule. The demolition of the home, scheduled for early September, was postponed until the beginning of October.

Gruber said that gave him more time to plan and prepare for the project.

On Sept. 29, the day Gruber referred to as "door knock," the television crew arrived at the Koepke home with the wake-up call: "Good morning, Koepke family."

They quickly packed and were sent off to San Diego for a short vacation while the volunteers demolished their home and built a new one.

The clapboard structure that Gruber estimated to be 1,500 to 1,800 square feet was completely leveled Oct. 1. Just before it was taken down, Monarch employees joined thousands of people, including the "Extreme Makeover" crew, in running en masse toward the home in a symbolic gesture of power and unity.

Typically, his company completes a home in four or five months, said Gruber, ahead of the national average of six to eight months. The Koepke home was completed in 95 hours, ahead of the seven days, or 106 hours, the program allows.

He stressed that no corners were cut in construction, rather good planning helped the process go smoothly.

"It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Gruber as he reflected on the past few months. "Would we do it again? Probably not for a long time, but it was awesome the way that everyone came out to support this family.

"Everything went beautifully," he added. "We had our family working around the clock, but it's all about helping others. We also built a lot of relationships with a lot of new people."

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Giving thanks, giving back

COURTESY PHOTO

Students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point carry out food donated by students and families for the school's Thanksgiving food drive Nov. 20. The annual food drive, which benefited High Point's Open Door Ministries' food pantry, was sponsored this year by the school's Community Outreach Program in conjunction with the student council.

Recreating Thanksgiving

COURTESY PHOTO

Wearing paper Pilgrim hats, first-graders at St. Michael School in Gastonia celebrate Thanksgiving with a hot lunch and pumpkin pie Nov. 21. The first-grade class learned about the Pilgrims, Native Americans and the meaning of Thanksgiving, and discussed pumpkins, recipes and family and school traditions.

COURTESY PHOTO

Transitional-kindergarten, kindergarten and first-grade students take part in a Thanksgiving production at St. Ann School in Charlotte Nov. 21.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR
for Catholic Social Services (CSS) ;
office is located in Winston-Salem, NC.

CSS is seeking energetic individual to provide strong administrative and cooperative, team-building leadership of a regional office. Demonstrated fundraising skill and Spanish language ability are pluses. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cssnc.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by December 20, 2006 to: Gerard A. Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

CAREGIVER: Mooresville family seeks part-time, as needed, caregiver for their 18-month daughter and 5-year-old son. Some evenings, weekends and occasional overnights. Experience and references required. Please call 704-799-1990.

SERVICES

ABUNDANT LIFE HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Improve your health – Abundantly! Ask about FREE Wellness Evaluations! Julie Leonard – Personal Wellness Coach. 888-803-ALHS

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Save On This Unique 18-Day Repositioning Cruise!

Cruise Northern Europe + Germany Land Tour

Join Your YMT Chaplain Father Mel Bennett and Other Roman Catholics Departing April 29, 2007

DAILY MASS ABOARD SHIP!

MSC Cruise Lines has to reposition the new **MSC *Lirica*** from Ft. Lauderdale to Hamburg, Germany. Take advantage of this exclusive ***'Your Man'* Tours** 23-Day vacation package departing April 29, 2007. You'll spend 17 nights sailing to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Funchal, Madeira Island; Vigo, Spain; Le Havre, France; Dover (London), England; Amsterdam, Netherlands; and Hamburg, Germany. Your five day tour of Germany includes Berlin; historic East Berlin; Brandenburg Gate; Reichstag; Checkpoint Charlie; Leipzig; Rothenburg O.T.; Frankfurt, Germany; then fly home. Prices (per person / based on double occupancy) start at $2347 including taxes & port charges. Round trip airfare from Charlotte $950. $500 deposits are now due. Father Bennett has led groups to Europe five times. He is Senior Associate Pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, Indiana.

For information, reservations, brochure, and letter from Father Bennett call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Effectively evaluating

Peer mediation program begins at Asheville Catholic School

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students at Asheville Catholic School are learning how to be effective mediators.

Thirteen students in sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grades have begun training in peer mediation at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

Students and teachers are excited to be the first middle school in Buncombe County to implement the program in which a panel of trained peer mediators meets with students, either individually or in small groups, to help them solve conflicts and express concerns about problems.

Megan Leschak of the Buncombe County sheriff's juvenile division conducted the sessions, teaching students the skills a mediator needs, including how to listen and de-escalate situations.

Much of the learning was through role playing and evaluating situations. Students learned about using "I messages" — ways to express themselves when upset without attacking the other person.

The "I messages" let them express their feelings without accusing the listener with a "you message."

By practicing de-escalating techniques, students learned how to calm down an angry or upset person through listening and speaking calmly.

It is important for the mediator to remain calm in order to get a troubled person to calm down, said Leschak.

The students formed circles to practice resistance techniques.

One such technique involved two students standing apart and pushing their hands against each other — neither student moved. But when one student didn't resist, he or she allowed the other to become exhausted while conserving his or her own energy.

According to Leschak, de-escalating techniques for small children work best in classrooms if there is a "safe place" for them, such as a part of the room with stuffed toys for the children to hold.

Leschak urged the students to be cautious of stereotyping and judging people, and to put themselves in the other person's shoes.

"The mediator needs to be neutral when meeting with people you see every day," she said.

Peer mediators will also meet with students in fifth through eighth grades to teach them peer mediation techniques.

All student mediators will receive a Peer Mediation School Manual containing strategies and techniques taught in the training sessions.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Asheville Catholic School students practice resistance techniques as part of their peer mediation training.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

2007 DIOCESAN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

DOUBLETREE GUEST SUITES,**
SOUTHPARK
6300 MORRISON BOULEVARD,
CHARLOTTE, 28211

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 — 9:30AM — 2:30PM

THEME: "EMBRACING OUR FUTURE, DEALING WITH OUR PRESENT, CELEBRATING OUR PAST"

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED:

Adults $25 -- Youth $10 (RECOMMENDED FOR 6th-GRADERS AND OLDER)

This year's program deals with life altering decisions that affect the youth and adults in our homes, communities, country and the world today, as well as the consequences of those decisions and actions.

Our day will begin with our first annual "Youth Talk" series. This series will address the situations that our youth deal with on a daily basis. Ms. Yvonne Tiandam, a candidate for the Master of Theology Degree at Xavier University, and Mrs. Abong Ngranui-Fankam, CEO of A Place of Hope, Inc., will facilitate this presentation.

In addition, JNXY Productions of Durham will present an exciting, special dramatization of life in today's challenging world.

Ending the day, Mrs. Barbara Hart will give a historical presentation exploring symbols used by our forefathers in their struggles for freedom.

Registration form must be returned with payment NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22!

** One-bedroom suites available at the Doubletree Guest Suites (1 King or 2 Queen beds) for $99 plus tax per night per suite for January 5 and 6. Make reservations by **December 16** directly with the Doubletree Guest Suites at (800) 222-8733. Group code: AAM for special rate.

— REGISTRATION FORM – due with payment by Friday, Dec. 22 —

NAME______________________________ DATE____________________

ADDRESS____

E-MAIL____

PHONE__________________________PARISH_______________________

# ATTENDEES____ COST: ADULTS @ $25 p/p YOUTH @ $10 p/p (up to age 18)

ENCLOSED $____________ FORM OF PAYMENT________________

NAMES AGES (YOUTH, ONLY)

____

____

____

__ Money order or check attached (made payable to African-American Affairs Ministry)

Mail to: **African and African-American Affairs**
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Ideology over economics

Reopening the health care finance reform debate

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

Health care finance is back in the headlines. The top executives from the big-three automakers met with President Bush in the White House shortly after the November elections to discuss the plight of the U.S. automobile industry.

The minutes of that meeting highlight one simple statistic. The labor cost to automobile manufacturers related to the health care benefit they provide for their workers amounts to $1,500 per car.

Reducing costs to become more competitive over against Toyota and other foreign car manufacturers is desirable, but the only way to reduce the health care component of automobile costs is either to eliminate the benefit or shift to a single-payer system.

Dropping the benefit certainly won't fly, and ideology, not economics, stands in the way when it comes to the nation adopting a single-payer system.

The cost to the nation's private-sector employers who now provide health benefits is heavy, and employers are chafing under the burden. America's big-three automakers operate in Canada as well as the U.S. They know that Canada's single-payer system significantly reduces their labor costs, relative to what they pay labor in the U.S.

But neither Ford nor General Motors, only Daimler-Chrysler, supports any proposal to introduce publicly financed health care insurance in the United States.

"No matter how urgently needed," says veteran economics reporter Morton Mintz, "no matter how commonsensical, no matter how much bottom lines would be fattened, single-payer or other fundamental health care reforms stall unless backed by the business organizations that govern the government. The Clinton administration learned this to its sorrow."

Mintz and other observers agree that business organizations effectively killed the Clinton proposals.

Opposition from private insurers was not surprising. Those not close to the lobbying scene (where issues affecting the common good are always subject to special-interest influence) may not have expected such formidable opposition from businesses like fast-food chains.

They hire a lot of young people, often work them less than full time, pay them little and rarely provide them health insurance.

You have to wonder why such employers would oppose a federal program that, at no expense to them, would make life better for their employees. Ideology has to be part of the explanation, as is "clubbiness" with powerful big business executives and a reluctance to break away from the pack by speaking up for the uninsured.

Where is their concern for the common good?

Health care finance reform is going to be back on the legislative agenda once the Democratic majorities in both House and Senate get to work in January. They'll turn immediate attention to raising the minimum wage, easing the burden of student loans, and they'll open up strategy talks aimed at ending the war in Iraq.

And although the Clinton administration failed in its 1993 effort to make health care more affordable and accessible, the new Democratic majorities are certain to engage their congressional opponents and the White House on this issue.

My hope is that both sides choose their words and weapons carefully. They have to focus precisely on health care "finance" reform and not speak loosely about health care reform. (Most Americans believe they have the best health care system in the world and wonder why anyone would want to change it.)

Legislators have to identify accurately the variables raising the cost of health care, and they have to understand health insurance alternatives for paying those rising bills.

Rising costs are the key driver in putting the health care finance reform issue back on the national agenda.

Contact Father Byron at wbyron@sjprep.org.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic – a global problem

Prayers, actions needed to combat ongoing crisis

Guest Column

JOSEPH PURELLO
GUEST COLUMNIST

On Dec. 1, designated as World AIDS Day by the United Nations, the community of nations and development and social service organizations worldwide seek to raise awareness of the pandemic of HIV/AIDS.

Addressing both the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the varied diseases (such as TB, lymphomas, pneumonia) that signify later-stage HIV infection and the onset of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a complex global health issue that requires a variety of health, educational and social responses.

Almost 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV, and an estimated 2.9 million have died from AIDS-related illnesses this past year, according to 2006 data by UNAIDS (the joint United Nations program on HIV/AIDS) and the World Health Organization. Sub-Saharan Africa contains two-thirds of all people living with HIV and also accounts for the majority of the 4.3 million new infections.

The WHO estimates that in 2005, 24.1 percent, 23.2 percent and 18.8 percent of 15- to 49-year-olds in Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa, respectively, were infected with HIV. As Pope Benedict XVI said in a June 2005 statement to the bishops of southern Africa, such prevalence of this virus "not only kills, but seriously threatens the economic and social stability of the continent [of Africa]."

The HIV advance continues apace, with 14,000 new infections each day, according to a 2004 report by Father Robert Vitillo, special advisor on HIV/AIDS for Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations.

The report calls for immediate global action to address the imminent threat of a "second wave" of HIV infection that will strike heavily in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, India and China. If nothing is done to address this predicted wave, these nations alone may account for 50 to 75 million HIV infections by the year 2010.

Since HIV/AIDS was first identified 25 years ago, there have been more than 530,000 deaths in the United States from AIDS. Fortunately, antiretroviral (ARV) therapy now reaches most HIV-infected individuals in the United States and deaths from AIDS have fallen dramatically.

However, it is estimated that 25 percent of people with HIV in the United States do not know they are infected.

Though fewer people are dying from AIDS in the United States today, the number of people infected with HIV has been increasing each year since 2000 (with close to 1 million people now living with HIV).

The current increase in the infection rate is being borne primarily by low-income and minority communities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that almost half of new HIV/AIDS infections in the United States are within the African-American community.

We cannot lose hope. The response of Catholic Relief Services (see sidebar below) and other Catholic organizations to HIV/AIDS is based on a firm belief in the sacredness of human life.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, consider supporting such organizations as House of Mercy in Belmont, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy that provides compassionate nursing care to persons living with advanced stages of AIDS.

We must join our hearts and minds to our church's efforts to address this crisis — locally and globally. Our gifts of time, talent and treasure make a difference; most importantly, joining our prayers with those of the Holy Father and countless others worldwide to address this crisis has a most powerful and positive effect. (See the article on page 3.)

Joseph Purello is director of Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.

CRS responds to the HIV/AIDS pandemic

Since 1989 (with its first HIV/AIDS project in Uganda), Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been offering humanitarian assistance through its HIV/AIDS programming that is based upon Catholic Church moral and social teaching.

To raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among U.S. Catholics, CRS has launched http://www.crs.org/worldaidsday.

Working with local partners, CRS not only provides life-saving antiretroviral medical assistance, but also works with families and communities struggling with the physical, economic, social and emotional devastation of HIV/AIDS.

Through this work in more than 50 countries, CRS currently helps more than 3.5 million people.

CRS is leading the way in developing "Home Based Care" programs, recognizing that an overwhelming majority of HIV/AIDS-affected families lack access to affordable and regular transport to clinics and hospitals.

CRS is also a global leader in offering assistance to children who have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS and children who are growing up infected with HIV/AIDS. For more information about this work, go to www.thechildrenleftbehind.org.

Consider joining CRS in advocating for U.S. policies and action to address this worldwide pandemic. Visit http://actioncenter.crs.org and sign up to receive CRS legislative alerts to help build global solidarity, address global poverty and disease, and promote peace.

'One and done'

People, institutions must learn from mistakes

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

Newspaper editors in North Carolina must be sore from all of the back patting they have been giving one another recently, even though the self congratulation was done while the papers were prostrate in the admission of error.

How the papers treated themselves is a good example of the difference between a media mistake and all other errors.

The Charlotte Observer and The News & Observer in Raleigh published an account of an 1898 race riot in Wilmington. The riot was instigated by the state's newspapers and led to the overthrow of the elected government in Wilmington, the destruction of black-owned businesses and the murder of an uncounted number of black citizens.

The account of the riot, in a special newspaper section called "The Ghosts of 1898," is a riveting and appalling chapter in state history. The riot was a turning point for race relations in the South and led to a generation of Jim Crow laws and the legal mistreatment of people based on their skin color.

As spokesman for an organization that has gone through trauma of its own, I know how those newspaper editors must feel. It is no fun seeing in print the undeniable facts of grievous institutional transgressions.

The secular editors bear the burning cross of racism. For the Catholic Church, it is the sex abuse scandal. But there is a difference. For the media, it will be "one and done."

A year from now, "The Ghosts of 1898" will be a phantom once again. But for the rest of us who falter, we are endlessly reminded by the media of our error to the point when it becomes the touchstone, the brief characterization that identifies an institution.

This isn't a "gotcha" for the newspapers. It doesn't mitigate or change the wrongdoing that took place in dioceses where sexual abuse occurred or was covered up. But the aftermath coverage of the race riots probably won't measure up to the kind of coverage that has accompanied the sex abuse scandal.

For example, news organizations routinely call for resignations and firings when wrongdoing is uncovered. Since none of the people who instigated the riot 108 years ago is alive, that option isn't open.

However, one of the most virulent of the white supremacists at that time was Charles B. Aycock, who was later elected governor. Numerous public buildings, including dormitories at East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, are named for him.

Why aren't the newspapers calling for the removal of Aycock's name from these places of honor?

The church sex abuse scandal led to numerous lawsuits that pushed several dioceses into bankruptcy, all duly reported in the media. Will the press be the same hungry watchdog when descendants of the riot's victims come forward to pursue claims? Will the Observer and News and Observer pay out millions?

Phrases such as "embarrassing and costly sex abuse scandal" can be found almost daily in newspapers describing the church. Will expressions such as "news organizations with a racist past" or "the media elite that overthrew an elected government" be used to describe the news institutions?

I don't think so. People who buy ink by the barrel know how to keep from smudging themselves.

While the Catholic Church may have earned much of the negative coverage it received, the aftermath of the sex abuse scandal, which includes groundbreaking studies on the causes of sexual abuse, has been given little or no coverage. The church is making painful strides to learn from its errors.

Other than simply reporting the story, the newspapers don't seem to have a plan to ensure that the elitism and scapegoating that fomented the 1898 riot doesn't happen again.

You may think it absurd to suggest in this day and age that a powerful institution such as a newspaper would target a minority. But how far removed from the race baiting of 100 years ago are the immigrants among us today who, as the Catholic bishops of this province stated in their recent letter to Congress, face a "drumbeat of dehumanizing rhetoric"?

The Catholic Church has learned through the sex abuse scandal that admitting the error is only the beginning. Let's hope the media is willing to walk along the same rocky path.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

The potential in all of us

Criteria for judging and recognizing greatness

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

As the friends of Ed Bradley, who died so recently, described their relationship with him, tears flowed.

Bradley is best known as a stellar journalist and for his role as an interviewer on TV's "60 Minutes." Those he interviewed learned quickly that he never stopped raising questions until the truth was revealed.

When someone like Bradley is considered outstanding, the reasons for this judgment reach beyond his being a good journalist or interviewer. What is praised ultimately is greatness.

The theologian Father Romano Guardini would tell us that this greatness consists of:

1. The strictness of a person's demands upon himself.
2. The willingness to stand for what is important.
3. A breadth of vision.
4. Boldness of decision.
5. A depth of involvement.
6. Originality.
7. Creative power.

In clips on Bradley's life and work, nothing was more apparent than the demands he made upon himself.

As glamorous as it may look, his interviews in hostile countries were extremely dangerous and demanding of courage. Most of us would prefer to skip the glamour for the sake of our safety.

When we listen to the types of questions Bradley asked, they reflect a man who stood for what is most important. In interviewing presidents and other prominent persons, he wasn't willing to soften his questions at the expense of lowering standards.

In fact, in asking pointed questions he displayed the boldness that comes with being great.

In further listening to Bradley's questions, we hear a man who knew more than one side of an issue. He was not a one-issue person nor did he ask routine questions. His questions, more often than not, were original, creative and all inclusive.

How are great persons made?

First, it must be stated that greatness is a gift. Some people are born to be great.

This is not to say that because we aren't born with the attributes I've mentioned we can't be great in our own way. Just take a look around to see how true this is.

Take, for example, caretakers who courageously give over an entire life to the care of others. We don't usually see them because their duties seldom allow them to get out.

Then consider Father Guardini's point regarding the strict demands placed upon oneself. Who does this more than the mother and father of a newborn child? Their lives are one case after another of strict self-demands in order to give the love and attention that this child needs.

When it comes to creativity and originality, just take a look at those elderly people who forever are finding new and imaginative ways to cope with aging.

Most of the time when people in emergency work respond to emergencies, they find themselves in a situation that calls for bold decisions. In many emergencies, they also become deeply involved with those they are helping.

Ed Bradley is a public figure who personified the attributes of greatness par excellence. But if we look around, we will find greatness everywhere.

Pope says world will recognize Christ only if church is united

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

Editor's note: Due to the pope's trip to Turkey, there is no weekly general audience this week. Below is the pope's Nov. 22 audience.

VATICAN CITY — Through the church, Christ continues to be present in the world, but the world will recognize him only if members of the church are united, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Nov. 22 weekly general audience, the pope concluded his series of talks about St. Paul.

Pope Benedict said the church was a central concern of St. Paul's even though the apostle's first encounters with the Christian community in Jerusalem were "counterproductive" and, in fact, he persecuted the community.

For most people, the pope said, the church is the place where they first hear of Christ, the path to faith in him and a school for their spiritual growth.

But the church will not attract people to Christ unless it is a community marked by love and unity, he said.

The pope said St. Paul teaches Christians that they must not "extinguish the Spirit," but rather make space for the generous outpouring of different spiritual gifts and expressions.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Nov. 22.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our reflections on the Apostle Paul, we now turn to his teaching on the church.

St. Paul's encounter with the Risen Lord on the way to Damascus led him to understand that, in persecuting the church, he was persecuting Christ himself. Paul was thus converted both to Christ and the church.

We can understand, then, why the church plays so important a part in his thought and work. Paul founded several churches during his missionary journeys, and he demonstrated, through his letters and visits, a constant and lively "concern for all the churches" (2 Cor 11:28).

For Paul, the church is truly the "Body of Christ," an extension, as it were, of the Risen Lord's presence in the world, enlivened, structured and built up by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Pauline image of the church as the Bride of Christ (cf. Eph 5:21ff) likewise stresses the relationship of fidelity and love uniting the Lord and all the members of his body.

Through the prayers of St. Paul, may we enter ever more deeply into this mystery of communion, in order to testify more effectively to Christ's presence in our world.

Transcending traditions

Catholic, Muslim students share traditions on college campuses

BY CAROL ZIMMERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Heba Tellawi, a senior at the Islamic Saudi Academy in Alexandria, Va., clutches her Quran, the sacred book of Islam, while attending the kickoff of the Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest at Georgetown University in Washington in early November.

WASHINGTON — Sometimes more can be learned over a dinner-table discussion than from a lecture.

That's the basis of college campus dinners hosted by Muslim student associations and campus ministry groups at Catholic colleges across the country.

At a recent dinner at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, breaking the daylong fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, a former president of the university told Muslim participants he hoped they would help other students understand their customs and faith traditions.

"We have to respect each other's consciences, and we all want to foster the spirit of peace in the world," said Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh during the Oct. 2 dinner sponsored by the university's campus ministry group.

After a prayer ritual, the students gathered in the student lounge for a Middle Eastern halal, or meal prepared according to Islamic law.

> "The discussions are beneficial to both sides."
>
> — Zeina Abusoud, adviser to the Muslim Student Association at Benedictine University

Father Hesburgh told guests during dinner that, "at a Catholic university, we're all praying to the same God, and we have a lot to learn from each other."

Meals like this, particularly during the monthlong sunrise-to-sunset fast during Ramadan, occurred on campuses across the country.

At St. Peter's College in Jersey City, N.J., the university's campus ministry office and Indo-Pak association, a group of students with Indian and Pakistani heritage, regularly sponsored meals, or "iftars," to break the daylong fast.

Speakers were invited to discuss their faith with participants during the meal.

Loyola University Chicago similarly sponsors interfaith events that also center on a shared meal. Last year, the meal came after a daylong fast with a focus on praying for an end to the violence in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

The meal was held near the feast of St. Francis, soon after the Jewish celebration of Rosh Hashanah and during Ramadan. A speaker from the Sudan region addressed the students over dinner.

During the year, students also participated in hunger-week programs designed to raise awareness about global poverty, hunger and homelessness and raised funds to support charity programs.

The combined events are not always on large campuses. Smaller colleges such as Villanova University, outside Philadelphia, hosts an Islamic Awareness Week each spring.

Last year, the five-day event featured an introduction to Islam by a panel of students; an Arabic musical presentation; and addresses by Muslim leaders on jihad, which means struggle, on Muslims' coexistence with non-Muslims, and on Islam and the media.

At Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., students in the school's Muslim Student Association provide informal ways of teaching Islam to fellow students through movie nights on Islam followed by group discussions.

Such informational and social events are often not just one-time functions. At Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill., the university's international center frequently hosts international dinners.

The university, just outside Chicago, has also tapped into another important aspect of food and religious customs by recognizing that students' religious beliefs are also deeply tied into what they cannot eat.

So the snack bar in the school's student center now provides halal meals. Similarly, cafeterias at Loyola University Chicago also serve halal meat and no longer serve pork out of respect for their Muslim and Jewish students.

Zeina Abusoud, director of residence life at Benedictine University and adviser for the university's Muslim Student Association, said the student group has grown tremendously in recent years and is now one of the "more active organizations on campus."

She said the group's zeal in providing programs for all students is part of a broad attempt to "educate the community" and remove some of the misconceptions about the Islamic faith and culture that surfaced after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Not everyone attends the programs, she said, but those who do say they have a powerful impact.

Abusoud, a Muslim who attended Catholic school in her native Jerusalem, is convinced that the most effective way to break down misconceptions is through dialogue.

"The discussions are beneficial for both sides," she said.

Abed Bhuyan, a junior at Georgetown and president of the university's Muslim Student Association, said sometimes non-Muslim students are afraid their questions to Muslims about their beliefs or practices could be insulting, but he said he and the other Muslim students encourage them.

If nothing else, this kind of dialogue helps students find out "they're more alike than different," said Jesuit Father Timothy Godfrey, director of campus ministry at Georgetown University.

And with that understanding as a basis, many interreligious university programs are meant to go a step further by bringing the community at large together.

Such was the case Nov. 12 at Georgetown University during a kickoff event for local high school students participating in the Children of Abraham Peace Essay Contest. The event is sponsored by the nonprofit group Fund for the Future of Our Children in collaboration with Georgetown's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and the university's campus ministry.

Give the gift of lifetime memories

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping -- PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

DECEMBER 8, 2006
SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
VOLUME 16 Nº 9

Perspectives
Bishop Jugis explains new procedures for extraordinary ministers of Communion
| PAGES 14-15

A pilgrimage of dialogue

Pope calls visit o Turkey an unforgettable experience

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI called his visit o Turkey an unforgettable experience and said he hoped t would lead to improved relations between Christians and Muslims.

The pope made the remarks at his noon blessing Dec. 3 at the start of the Advent season, addressing pilgrims wo days after returning from a pilgrimage of dialogue in Turkey.

The pope thanked the organizers of the four-day trip, ncluding Turkish authorities, for ensuring that the visit was "peaceful and fruitful."

See TURKEY, page 8

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI releases a dove Dec. 1 during a visit to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Istanbul, Turkey, on the final day of his four-day visit to the Muslim country.

Learning Why Catholic?

Program will soon offer adults chance to explore, expand faith

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Adult Catholics throughout the Diocese of Charlotte are getting closer to a new opportunity to expand their knowledge and practice of Catholicism.

Approximately 230 people from St. Matthew and St. Gabriel churches in Charlotte attended the afternoon and evening workshops for the "Why Catholic? Journey through the Catechism" program held at St. Matthew Church Dec. 5.

Workshops also were held throughout the week at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory and the Regional High

See WHY, page 4

Turning up the heat

Clergy, laypeople seek action on global warming, climate change

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Throughout the United States, clergy and laypeople concerned about global warming and ecological changes are seeking new approaches to slow, stop or reverse the changes.

See GLOBAL, page 7

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sis Mecaughey and Vong Thadavong of the diocesan finance office select bread at the Pastoral Center Dec 4. Donated food is used to stock the CSS Food Pantry. Leftover products are made available to Pastoral Center employees, who are encouraged to make donations in exchange for their selections.

Feeding the (not-so) hungry

Dough-Nation program stocks shelves of CSS food pantry

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE—For more than two decades, Catholic Social Services' diocesan Food Pantry has been feeding the hungry of Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas.

Now, for the first time, employees of the Diocese of Charlotte's Pastoral Center are benefiting from donations to the food pantry, as well. Sort of.

Since August, an employee from CSS has spent each Sunday evening at a local Panera Bread bakery-café collecting loaves of bread, muffins, bagels, Danishes and other baked goods that were not sold that day.

See PANTRY, page 5

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Culture Watch
News Catholic programming on radio, TV
| PAGES 10-11

In Our Schools
Students celebrate Advent, study owls
| PAGE 12

Parish Profile
St. Mark Church a growing parish in Huntersville
| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

KEEPING KIDS ALIVE

CNS photo by courtesy of University of Notre Dame

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, stands with 2006 Opus Prize winner Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann Nov. 8 in Notre Dame, Ind. Neumann founded and leads a public health program that helps poor families in her native Brazil.

Brazilian pediatrician receives $1 million Opus Prize at Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Good health is a priceless gift, but $1 million will go a long way toward ensuring that gift also reaches the world's poorest and most underserved, particularly children and families.

Dr. Zilda Arns Neumann, a 63-year-old pediatrician from Brazil, received the $1 million Opus Prize from the University of Notre Dame president, Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, on campus Nov. 8.

Neumann, a pediatrician who served 27 years as the Brazilian public health director, saw a pressing need to address infant mortality among her nation's poor.

In 1983, she founded Pastoral da Crianca (Pastoral of the Child) to address the health issues of women, children and families.

Utilizing the country's strong Catholic infrastructure and made up of more than 264,000 volunteers, Pastoral da Crianca promotes faith and knowledge with an emphasis on the community as family.

"The technology to save lives exists in Brazil," said Neumann, who founded Pastoral da Crianca at the urging of her brother, Cardinal Paulo Evaristo Arns, when he was archbishop of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"The Catholic Church, not the government, has the capacity to integrate that technology ... to help not only the health but the heart of the family," she said.

Throughout Brazil, thanks to Pastoral da Crianca, the children are doing much better.

"In the first community we attended, we proved we can affect infant mortality," recalled Neumann. In that community in the mid-1980s, 127 out of every 1,000 children were dying.

"In one year, all children went to Pastoral and the infant mortality rate dropped by 100," she said. That rate has since dropped to 15 out of every 1,000 in 2005.

The key to Pastoral da Crianca's success is its simplicity. By training volunteers from the community and working with existing church and governmental agencies, much red tape is eliminated and costs are kept down.

Neumann credits her Catholic faith for the path taken to achieve her life's work.

"Jesus said all children deserve life, and life in abundance," she said. "I know I can save children. That is for me more important to help many, many poor children than to focus on any one particular practice of medicine."

The Opus Prize is affiliated with the Opus Group, a national real estate development company. The prize is given annually to honor a person who "combines a driving entrepreneurial spirit with an abiding faith to combat poverty, illiteracy, hunger, disease and injustice."

Each year, a Catholic college or university is selected to host the event and choose the winner.

Court to hear case over federal backing of faith-based group funding

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Dec. 1 agreed to review a case challenging the Bush administration's support for federal funding for faith-based institutions.

A group called the Freedom from Religion Foundation filed suit against assorted federal agencies saying they violated the constitutional prohibition on state-supported religions by singling out faith-based organizations as "particularly worthy of federal funding because of their religious orientation."

The organization also argued that "the belief in God is extolled as distinguishing the claimed effectiveness of faith-based social services."

The government said the lawsuit should be dismissed because the foundation had no legal standing from which to challenge the way the government operates. But the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the organization's members could sue, as taxpayers with an interest in program funded by Congress.

The Freedom from Religio Foundation describes itself as "a educational group working for th separation of church and state." I its Web site section "what does th foundation do," the first item on the lis is "files lawsuits."

In a petition asking the cour to take the case, Solicitor Genera Paul Clement said the Appeals Cour decision transforms the standing o taxpayers to challenge the governmen from its purpose of preventing "th specific historic evil of direct legislativ subsidization of religious entities."

He said the organization is askin for "a roving license for any 'individua citizen to challenge any action of th executive with which he disagrees.'"

The case will be added to the court' calendar for consideration no soone than February.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will present a bilingual Christmas program, *Las Posadas*, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. This traditional Hispanic family festivital is a re-enactment of the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Marcin Zahuta. Confession will be available from 1:30 p.m. For more information call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — *Eucharistic adoration* will be offered every Friday, Dec. 8-22, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St.

CHARLOTTE — The *50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. Fo reservations and more information, call Elaine a (704) 847-2835.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Ann Marie Wilson wil speak at the *Advent Supper-Study Series*, guidin participants through "Praying with Catherin McAuley," a spiritual guidebook on the founde of the Sisters of Mercy. The series will meet Dec 13, 6-7:30 p.m., in the Kovacic Center at Queen o the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. A simplicit meal will be served 6-6:45 p.m. No pre-registratio needed. For more information, call Dennis Teall Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26, or e-mai teallfleming@yahoo.com.

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 50 N. Main St., will host a *Faith Formation Series* o the place for the biblical ethic and lifestyle in ou 21st-century consumer society, Dec.19, Jan. 2, 9 an 16, 7:30-9 p.m. No fees or pre-registration needed For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ex 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

ASHEBORO — St. Joseph Church will celebrat the annual *feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* in th Asheboro High School auditorium, 1221 Sout Park St., Dec. 11, 5:30-10 p.m. Participants wil be treated to an authentic Mexican celebration including prayer, song and dance. The communit will gather in the church for the celebration of *La Mananitas* Dec. 12 at 5 a.m. This is a traditiona service of prayer and song to wake up a girl o woman on special occasions. For more information call Silverio Sanchez at (336) 672-7236.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mar Church, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of Seein Everyone Again* (HOSEA), a program to invit Catholics who have distanced themselves from th Catholic Church to return. This small group meet Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., through Dec. 19, to discus

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

DEC. 8, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 9

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published b the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Churc St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except fo Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks durin June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishe of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per yea for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserve the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deeme appropriate. We do not recommend or guarante any product, service or benefit claimed b our advertisers. Second-class postage paid a Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTEF Send address corrections to The Catholi News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte NC 28237.

ROM THE VATICAN

atican spokesman says pope did not ask Kissinger to be his adviser

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope enedict XVI does not have a foreign ffairs advisory board, and he has not sked former U.S. Secretary of State enry Kissinger to become one of his dvisers, the Vatican spokesman said.

CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI talks with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger Sept. 28.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said is true Kissinger met privately with the ope Sept. 28 and that Mary Ann Glendon, U.S. law professor and president of the ontifical Academy of Social Sciences, as invited Kissinger to speak to the cademy at the Vatican in late April.

"Those are the only two concrete acts," Father Lombardi said, but articles ı Italian and U.S. newspapers reporting ıat the pope had asked Kissinger to ecome an adviser or consultant "are vithout any foundation," he said Dec. 4.

A New York-based correspondent for ıe Italian newspaper La Stampa wrote Jov. 4 that Kissinger had told an "important ıember of the Italian government" of the apal offer and that "a diplomatic source" at the Vatican had confirmed that "an important dialogue is under way" between the pope and Kissinger.

The rumor has been circulating in newspapers and on the Internet since the newspaper article was published.

Vatican official discusses comprehensive, moral approach to migration

GENEVA (CNS) — Aging populations and the need for manual laborers in the Northern Hemisphere combined with poverty and conflict in the South mean that migration will continue to be an issue the entire world must deal with, a Vatican official said.

The only way to ensure that the process benefits both the North and the South is to establish policies protecting human dignity, guaranteeing order, promoting integration and "making migration a choice rather than a necessity," said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican's representative to U.N. and other international organizations in Geneva.

The archbishop spoke during the Nov. 28-Dec. 1 meeting of the International Organization for Migration in Geneva.

A comprehensive, ethical approach to migration, he said, must ensure that "the concern for security does not turn into just a restrictive logic in order to hinder migrants from entering a country, but becomes an orderly, rationalized and coordinated relationship between available human resources and the need for manpower in receiving societies."

Archbishop Tomasi said countries that have expedited procedures for professional or skilled migrants to fulfill particular needs should be offering them time-limited contracts to ensure that they do not drain developing countries of their skilled workers.

While more restrictive policies may be applied to unskilled workers, he said, once they are accepted, they must be given the resources to integrate into the local community and that means being able to bring their families with them.

"The family plays a fundamental role in the integration process, in giving stability to the presence of the immigrants in the new social environment and even in the dynamics of temporary migrations," he said.

arious issues and concerns and to receive pastoral eferrals and guidance. For more information, ontact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

REENSBORO — If you have a special need for rayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer or others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. To request a prayer or to articipate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office t (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, ddress and phone number.

ICKORY VICARIATE

ICKORY — *The Crib at Greccio*, a re-enactment f St. Francis of Assisi's first live nativity event nd Mass, will be held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Ln., Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. Franciscan Father Linus DeSantis will celebrate an nstructional Mass. Children may bring a shepherd ostume or use one provided by the secular Franciscans. For more information, call John Martin, SFO, at (828) 323-7820 or Frank Cogger, SFO, at (828) 320-0921.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, will present a *Lighted Nativity Scene* and refreshments on Dec. 16, 5-9p.m. A traditional Posada celebration will begin at 9 p.m. The event will be held on the new church property off Jake Alexander Blvd. For more information, call the church office at (704) 633-0591.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A *Christmas Crèche*, a Franciscan tradition, will be enacted by the Our Lady of Mercy Church confirmation candidates Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. in the lower parking level behind the church, 1730 Link Rd. Refreshments will be served following the enactment. For more information, call Betti Longinotti at (336) 725-3751 or e-mail bssf_sfo@yahoo.com.

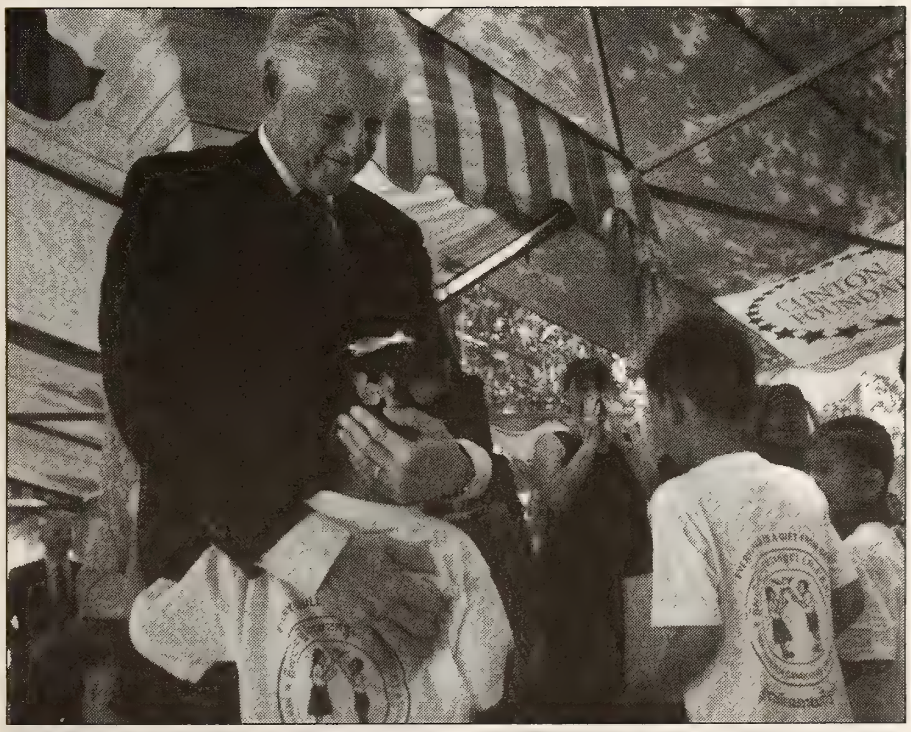
WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Catherine Sangueza will present "Immigration: Welcoming the Stranger" Dec. 13. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Providing help and hugs



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID SCULL, WILLIAM J. CLINTON FOUNDATION VIA REUTERS

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton hugs a girl infected with HIV at the Maryknoll orphanage in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Dec. 4. Maryknoll Cambodia, a Catholic organization, provides HIV treatment, including pediatric formula provided by the Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative, to more than 300 children.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 12 — 11:30 a.m.
Sisters of Mercy 175th anniversary
Belmont

Dec. 25 — 12 a.m.
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas morning Mass
St. Patrick Cathdral, Charlotte

Dec. 31 — 3 p.m.
Mass of religious profession
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Chines spokesman rejects Vatican criticism of illicit ordination

HONG KONG (CNS) — A Chinese government spokesman says Vatican criticism of a recent bishop's ordination makes "no sense."

The spokesman said Dec. 3 that China and the Vatican have no official ties and have not reached a tacit understanding on the ordination of bishops.

The spokesman said the Vatican never has recognized the government-sanctioned Bishops' Conference of the Catholic Church in China, and the government informed the Vatican in advance of the selection and ordination, "which showed great sincerity."

A Dec. 2 Vatican statement said Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened by the Nov. 30 ordination of Father Wang Renlei, 36, as coadjutor bishop of Xuzhou.

The Vatican statement said officials found out at "the last minute" about the ordination plans. Still, Vatican officials did what they could "so that this act, which would have produced a new laceration in the ecclesial community, would not come about," the statement said.

The new bishop and the bishops who ordained him face automatic excommunication if they acted of their own free will, the Vatican said.

Program will soon offer adults chance to explore, expand faith

WHY, *from page 1*

Technology Center in Waynesville.

The workshops were training sessions for facilitators, who will lead the Why Catholic? program in small Christian communities throughout the diocese beginning in 2007. These communities, or small faith-sharing groups, are based on the teachings of Scripture and the catechism.

"Parish participants will meet in these small Christian communities throughout the diocese once a week for six weeks, and then twice a year for four years in order to explore their faith," said Frank Villaronga, director of evangelization and lay ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Each year an aspect of Catholic life is explored in the small Christian communities.

Why Catholic? is a program of RENEW International, a Roman Catholic organization that fosters spiritual renewal, evangelization and the transformation of the world through parish-based small Christian communities.

Why Catholic? fosters the goals of "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us," the U.S. bishops' pastoral plan for adult faith formation.

The Why Catholic? process is comprehensive, containing a full range of elements in both English and Spanish. It includes orientation, small community leader formation, retreat experiences, an invitation video and family-oriented bulletin inserts.

Nineteen archdioceses and dioceses in the United States currently participate in the program.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis has recommended the implementation of Why Catholic? in all parishes of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The Why Catholic? program will help all of us understand better the teachings of our Catholic faith," said Bishop Jugis.

"Catechesis is tied to evangelization," he said. "If we are strongly rooted in our faith, then we will be more effective in bringing Christ's teachings into the public arena where we can have an impact on the important moral issues facing our society."

Pastors, directors of religious education and representatives of some 23 parishes, three university campuses and five Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte attended overview presentations of the Why Catholic? program earlier this year.

People were then selected and invited to serve as the small Christian community facilitators and are currently undergoing training.

Parishioners interested in taking part in the small Christian communities will soon be able to sign up for the group of their choice, which will meet at various locations at different times of the week.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Sister of St. Joseph of Cluny Marie Cooper presents an overview of Why Catholic? at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Dec. 5.

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING

A.V. ROOFING

BBB
Member
Southern Piedmont
Charlotte

Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com

704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

Retirement isn't what it used to be. PLAN accordingly.

Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church

100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397

http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

© 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

Traveling to recognition

Bishop Jugis presents Carolina Traveler with media award

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Carolina Traveler recently found his way to the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte to receive an award.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presented a Gabriel Award Dec. 6 to host Mike Redding and producer Andy Benton of the popular WCNC-TV program.

The Carolina Traveler won in the short TV feature category for "Family Union," a story about a Jewish family reunited decades after being separated during World War II.

"The segment demonstrated the power of family bonds to unite, even after decades and decades of separation," said Bishop Jugis.

"That kind of strong family love is a beautiful reflection of the love that God has for each of us," he said.

It was the program's second time winning a Gabriel.

The Gabriels are sponsored by the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals and honorg those who make films, TV and radio programs, features and spot announcements that serve viewers and listeners through the positive, creative treatment of human concerns.

"This is programming worth celebrating, programming worth supporting and programming we hope to see much more of," said Jeanean Merkel, academy president.

The 2006 Gabriel Awards ceremony was held in Hollywood Oct. 20. As Redding and Benton were unable to attend, the academy asked Bishop Jugis to present them with the Gabriel in Charlotte.

Photo by Kevin E. Murra

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presents Mike Redding, host of The Carolina Traveler TV program, with a Gabriel Award at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Dec. 6.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

Keep Christ in Christmas!

Give a Catholic gift to help friends and family remember the true "reason for the season"! Our stores are brimming over with unique gift ideas — beautiful artwork, fabulous gift books, jewelry and spiritual gifts for everyone on your gift list — all at affordable prices.

Why Catholic? Special for December — Paperback Cathechism — now only $8

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off
off all purchases of $35 or more.
Present coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/23/06.

Dough-Nation program stocks food pantry

PANTRY, ***from page 1***

> "We are so blessed to be able to participate in this program."
>
> — Jeannie Bell, Catholic Social Services

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Barbara Grisinger, a social worker for the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services, examines the inventory of the Food Pantry in this file photo from November 2003.

Through Panera Bread's Day-End Dough-Nation program, unsold bakery products are packaged at the end of each day and donated to local food banks and charities.

CSS's involvement began last summer with a call from the Jewish Community Center's own food pantry in Charlotte.

"The Jewish Community Center was looking for a partner for Panera's donation program," said Jeannie Beall, social work supervisor for the diocesan CSS office.

Employees from the Jewish Community Center felt they would not be able to distribute all the food available from Panera, so they contacted CSS looking for a partner organization.

"We are so blessed to be able to participate in this program," said Beall.

As always, CSS clients are given top priority with regard to food donations. But the leftovers are made available to Pastoral Center employees, who are encouraged to donate money for the items they choose.

All monetary donations are then used to purchase items needed for the Food Pantry. CSS has collected about $800 since August, Beall said.

The Food Pantry will soon be able to expand its stock — a freezer has been donated and will be used to store bread and other perishable products.

The Food Pantry serves people who are homeless, unemployed and the working poor. Many of the working poor must spend their earnings on rent, utilities and medicine, leaving little or no money for food, said Geri King, director of the Charlotte Regional Office of CSS.

Many Food Pantry clients are not eligible for food stamps or donations from relief organizations such as Loaves and Fishes. Also, the rations eligible clients do receive from these agencies may not be enough to sustain their families until the next distribution, according to King.

The requirements are more flexible than some of the other community food pantries. However, clients are encouraged to verify their eligibility for food stamps.

The Food Pantry receives its donations through a variety of sources, King said. Area Catholic churches, schools and faith formation classes regularly collect food for the pantry. The CSS office also welcomes donations from individuals.

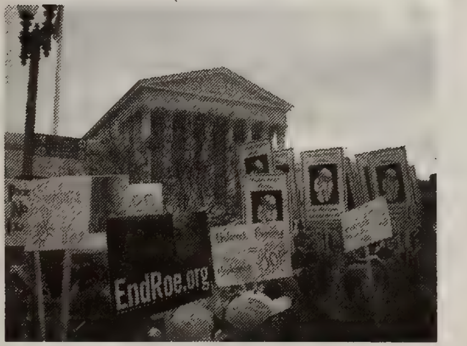
"The Monday morning pastries starts our week off right," said Sis Mecaughey, senior accountant for CSS. "I get something yummy to eat, and the Food Pantry benefits from the donations. It's a win-win situation."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT TO HELP?
Call (704) 370-6155 for more information or to donate to the Catholic Social Services Food Pantry.

Join us in the March For Life
Washington, D.C.

January 21-22, 2007



Theme: "Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each innocent human in existence at fertilization. No exception! No compromise!"

CSS
Catholic Social Service
Diocese of Charlotte

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 21 - 8 PM — Mass at Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Monday, January 22 - 10:30 AM — Mass for North Carolina pilgrims, Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
Celebrants: Bishops Jugis and Burbidge and priests of the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

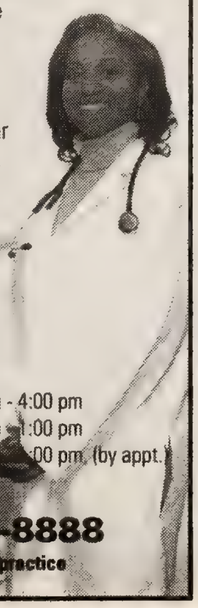
Rally begins promptly at noon, on Monday, January 22.

If your parish or school has a group attending the March for Life, please call the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 704-370-3229 or e-mail mnadol@charlottediocese.org.

www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family Medicine

...Healthcare with a heart.



Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 a[illegible]00 pm (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Making a plentiful Bounty

Bands, community work together for annual Christmas dinner

BY
KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — People in Hendersonville are combining their faith and talents to serve others this Christmas.

Bands for Bounty, a fundraising concert for the Bounty of Bethlehem Christmas dinner held each year at Immaculata School in Hendersonville, took place at the Gypsy Cab Company restaurant Dec. 1.

Bands for Bounty is coordinated by Carol Duermit and Jennifer Scott, Hendersonville-area entertainers. They brought together a number of the area's musicians for the concert.

The fundraising event came about seven years ago after Duermit volunteered at her first Bounty for Bethlehem dinner at the school.

"The following year I asked if they needed any help and they said they needed fundraisers," said Duermit. "I asked Jennifer to join me and we've been equal partners since then with Bands for Bounty."

In addition to Duermit and Scott, performers included local favorites Marc Yaxley, Cameron Austin, Tom Fisch, Mike Hall, Steve Whiteside and Fritz Owens, who moved to the area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina after playing piano on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, La., for 40 years.

Carole Duermit and Jim Bruckner, who are involved with the Bounty for Bethlehem Christmas dinner.

Bounty for Bethlehem began as a dinner for 200 people at a local restaurant in 1983. It has since grown into an annual event in Immaculata School's gymnasium, utilizing 600 volunteers to help approximately 3,000 residents in Henderson County. The dinner also includes entertainment, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus, as well as meals delivered to homebound residents.

Jim Bruckner, one of Bounty for Bethlehem's main coordinators, sat in the front row during the concert and passed a basket among the patrons for donations. More than $4,000 was collected, with all proceeds going directly toward supporting the dinner.

"We continue to grow with this every year and look forward to doing it," he said.

Dan Focarino, owner of Negozio's Deli and one of the dinner's corporate sponsors, attended the concert with family and friends.

"We are also parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church and we want to do what we can to help in the community," he said.

"Jennifer and I so appreciate the generosity of the community and support for this fundraiser," says Duermit.

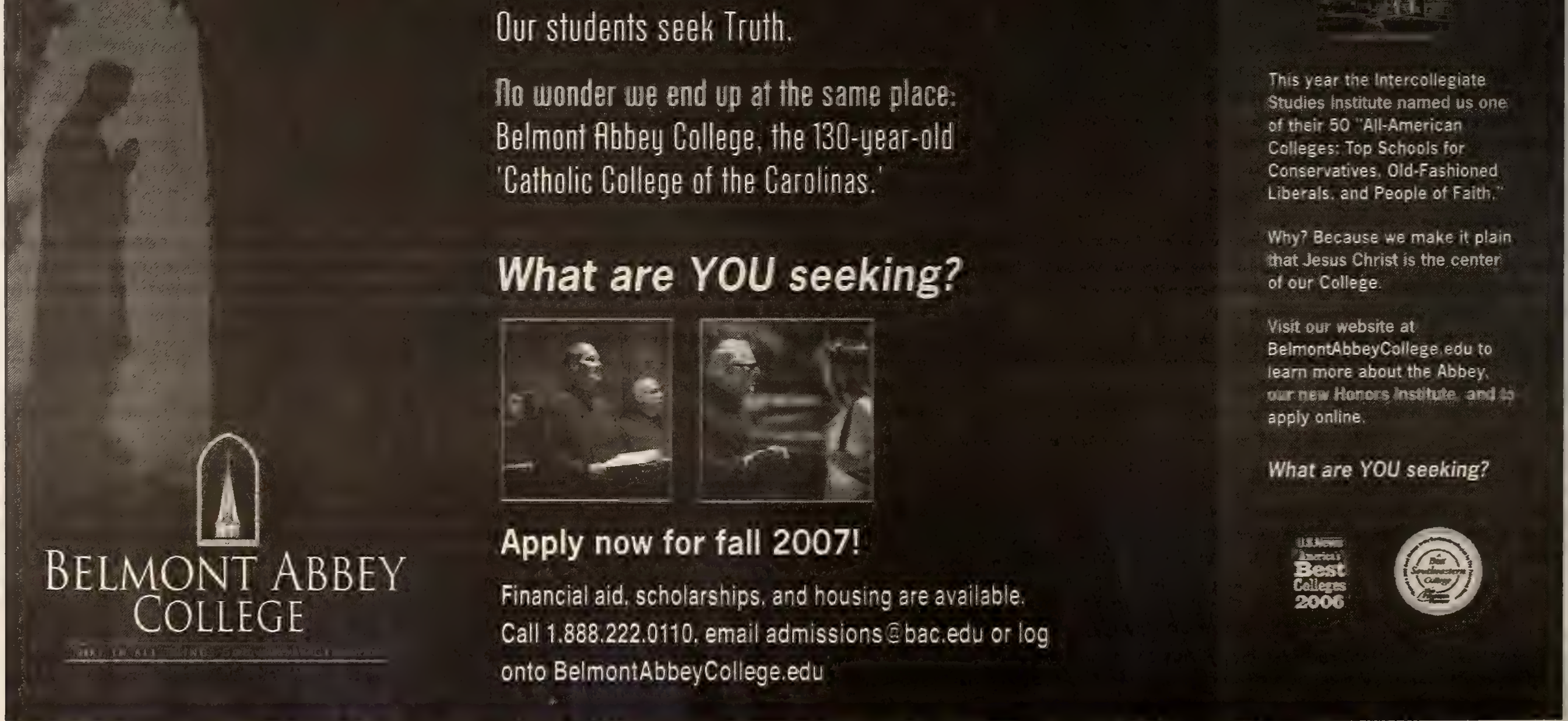
"When I see the vans every year pulling up to load the food for families in there, I cry," she said. "I see all these families and this well-oiled machine working together and it's what Christmas is — so many people willing to get out of their own comfort zones and help others."

WANT TO HELP?
Volunteer sign-up for Bounty for Bethlehem will be at Immaculata School, 711 N. Buncombe Street, Hendersonville, 9-11 a.m. Dec. 9. Dinner is served Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1-5 p.m. For more information, visit www.bountyofbethlehem.org, or call (828) 698-0313.

Outstanding service

Courtesy Photo by Elaine McMahon

Marshall Perry (left), Knights of Columbus district deputy, presents a Columbia Award to Lance Cancro, grand knight of Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, during the council's first spaghetti dinner after Mass Nov. 18. This award is presented to councils deemed outstanding in their implementation of service programs. The dinner served 86 meals and raised $166 for the council's Adopt a Child program.


got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Clergy, laypeople seek action on global warming, climate change

GLOBAL, *from page 1*

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis was one of three Minnesota religious leaders who met Nov. 20 with Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., urging Coleman to help lead efforts to mitigate the threat of global warming.

"Global warming is a religious issue," said a Nov. 20 letter to Coleman signed by Archbishop Flynn and 29 other Minnesota religious leaders. "We need energy policies that guarantee global-warming emissions will decrease, that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, and that tighten fuel economy standards."

"I don't think people in our community realize the catastrophic effect of global warming," Archbishop Flynn said. "This is a problem for all."

The meeting with Coleman came three weeks after a Pax Christi gathering in Eden Prairie, Minn., that drew hundreds who wanted to learn about climate issues from a Catholic perspective.

Another visible Twin Cities figure, WCCO-TV weathercaster Paul Douglas, said there is "a moral imperative" for all individuals to become better informed about global warming and do their part to maintain the health of the planet.

Douglas, a Catholic, said that while Minnesotans could enjoy some results of global warming — shorter winters, longer autumns, earlier springs and fewer below-zero nights — the downsides include more drought, more severe thunderstorms and a strain on water resources.

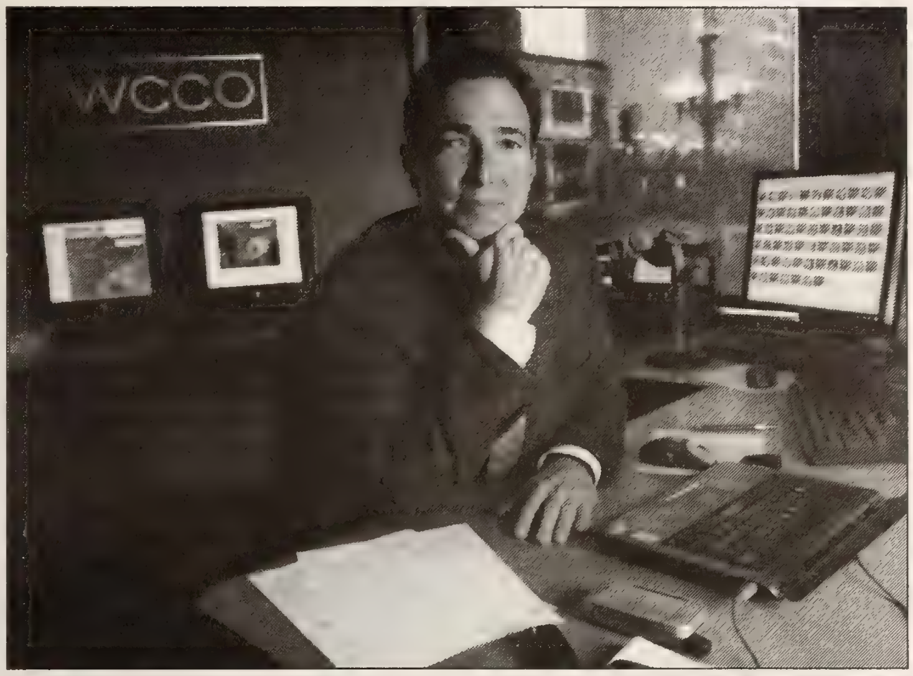
"Can we adapt in time? The naive optimist in me thinks yes, but there's no question our quality of life is going to be under increasing stress in our lifetimes, certainly in this century for our kids and for our grandkids," Douglas said.

In November, the Oregon province of Jesuits issued a 17-page plan defining sustainable development, meant to guide Jesuits as they advance ecological justice.

The plan "simply widens our vision by bringing the critical problems of the environment into focus," said Jesuit Father Bill Watson, a provincial official.

The plan calls for the use of renewable resources, recycling and the restoration of nature. Buildings at Jesuit institutions ought to meet high standards of sustainability, it said.

The plan also urges economics that take into account the human and environmental costs of production. For example, the price of treating sickness caused by pesticides and fertilizers should be figured into the price of a crop.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE HRBACEK, THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Pictured is Paul Douglas, chief meteorologist for WCCO-TV in St. Paul, Minn. Douglas, a Catholic, said he believes there is a "moral imperative" for all individuals to become better informed about global warming and do their part to maintain the health of the planet.

Theologian Russ Butkus and environmental biologist Steve Kolmes of the Catholic-run University of Portland in Oregon led workshops in November at parishes in the Archdiocese of Portland on climate change and the common good. The archdiocese sponsored the sessions.

Butkus and Kolmes pose the idea of a Catholic theology of climate justice. In the Gospels, Jesus talks of the kingdom of God as the re-establishment of creation, not just a realignment of the human order.

"It's the restoration and renewal of creation — human and nonhuman," Butkus said. "When we talk about the kingdom of God we tend to see it as about humans. But the Bible sees it as much more cosmic."

Also in November, John Kirk, a longtime parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Sparta, N.J., was honored by GreenFaith, New Jersey's interfaith coalition for the environment.

An environmental studies professor at Montclair State University and director of the N.J. School of Conservation, Kirk in 1987 helped establish the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment, which educates religious leaders in North America about serious environmental problems.

The organization has evolved into a global network of religious groups and organizations working to bring religious and ecological issues together.

"Some people are more interested in the green of money than the green of the forest," Kirk said. "We are responsible to God and the earth, this beautiful planet, which we've shortchanged."

In the Diocese of Venice, Fla., Mike Holsinger is convinced churches have a significant role to play in the educational effort to sustain life on earth. He is the only layman, along with six priests, on a church-design task force for the diocesan Environmental Justice Committee.

"New church buildings can be designed to be more energy-efficient and parishes and schools can be committed to using EnergyStar equipment," Holsinger said, referring to the federal initiative that rates appliances on energy efficiency.

"I have always thought that the church ought to be setting an example for parishioners by using Florida-friendly landscaping, native plants and fewer pesticides and fertilizers," Holsinger said.

In a commentary just released by the Florida Catholic Conference's Environmental Justice Committee, the state's Catholic bishops offer guidance on addressing environmental issues.

The document, "Cultivating Care for All Creation," identifies global climate change and mercury contamination as the two most pressing problems today.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

St. Patrick Cathedral

The Very Rev. Paul Gar[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible]

Rev. Mr. [illegible]
[illegible]

Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina
[illegible]

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
4 p.m. - Children's Mass
6 p.m. - Family Mass
Midnight - Bishop Peter Jugis

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. - Bishop Peter Jugis

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES
Midnight Mass
Doors open at 11:00 p.m.
Bishop William Curlin

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES
9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

Come
celebrate the
Birth of
Our Savior.

1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 334-2283
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?
A Lifeline for Marriage
January 19 - 21 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "re-tro-vye"). Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.

Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaille@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: HelpOurMarriage.com

Pope calls Turkey visit unforgettable experience

TURKEY, *from page 1*

He expressed his gratitude to "the friendly Turkish people" for giving him "a welcome worthy of their traditional spirit of hospitality."

He said the visit was "an unforgettable spiritual and pastoral experience, which I hope will help produce an increasingly sincere cooperation among all the disciples of Christ and a beneficial dialogue with Muslim believers."

The papal visit was designed as a primarily ecumenical trip and featured important encounters with Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

But the pope generated the most interest in Turkey and in the world by meeting with Muslim leaders and visiting the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, where he prayed alongside a Muslim cleric while facing Mecca.

The pope recalled with special affection the "dear Catholic community" in Turkey.

He said that despite its small size, the Catholic minority is rich in enthusiasm and faith, and carries out its pastoral life "in conditions that are often not easy."

> I received "a welcome worthy of their traditional spirit of hospitality."
>
> — Pope Benedict XVI

The pope said Turkish Catholics are, in effect, living in a continuous experience of Advent, sustained by hope and trust that God is coming.

The message of Advent, he said, is that Christ "is coming into human history, to knock at the door of every man and woman of good will, to bring the gift of brotherhood, harmony and peace to every individual, every family and every people."

As Christians await the celebration of the birth of Christ, they should renew this sense of hope with prayer and with concrete demonstrations of love, he said.

At an Advent vespers service the evening before in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the coming of Christ was a sign that "the real God ... is not a God who stays in heaven, uninterested in our history."

"He is a father who never ceases to think of us and, in great respect for our freedom, wants to meet us and visit us," he said.

As part of spiritual preparation for Christmas, the pope encouraged people to pray during Advent, and emphasized that good works should go hand in hand with prayer.

"In this sense, Advent is more than ever a time of communion with all those — and thank God, there are many — who hope for a more just and fraternal world," he said.

The commitment for justice should be a meeting ground for people of every culture and every nationality, including believers and nonbelievers, he said.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

The Catholic Shoppe
AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Searching for that perfect Christmas gift?
Find it here!

We have books for all ages, religious and inspirational artwork, statues, rosaries, jewelry, medals, crosses, crucifixes, prayer and greeting cards, music, audio books on CD's, DVD's, sacramental and general gift items and so much more!

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri
10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday
10:am - 1:00pm
closed 12-25-06 to 1-1-07

Bring this ad in for 10% off your purchase of $20 or more in our store.
Offer expires Dec. 23, 2006

Conveniently located 10 minutes from Charlotte on the Belmont Abbey College campus
I-85 Exit 26

704.461.5100 ◆ CATHOLICSHOPPE@BAC.EDU
WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Month 4
"I had a dream today!"
19 in.
18 in.
17 in.
16 in.
15 in.
14 in.
13 in.
12 in.
11 in.
10 in.
9 in.
8 in.
7 in.
6 in.
5 in.
4 in.
3 in.
2 in.
1 in.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte
Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

‘We must bow our heads and bend our knees and, upon rising, extend our hands. We are friends.’

Seeking similarities, appreciating differences

U.S. Muslims and Catholics involved in many dialogues

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Father Donald Rooney, director of the Arlington, Va., Diocese's Commission for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, listens as Imam Sheikh Rashid Lamptey talks about the tenets of Islam during the first meeting of the Catholic-Muslim Dialogue of Northern Virginia Oct. 16.

WASHINGTON — Muslim-Catholic dialogue is a living and growing reality in the United States.

"The important thing is to keep the dialogue going because there are so many parts of the world where it isn't going," said John Borelli, special assistant to the president and director for interreligious initiatives at Georgetown University in Washington.

Sayyid M. Syeed, national director of the Islamic Society of North America's new Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances, called the advancement of the U.S. dialogues "something of a historical imperative" because "if they go in the right direction, they could give a gift of the 21st century to the rest of mankind."

Father Francis Tiso, associate director for interreligious relations at the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said dialogue "is a tremendous opportunity to refine your thinking about the other side."

Borelli, who held Father Tiso's post from 1987 to 2003, played a major role in the 1990s in getting three official regional dialogues started between Catholic and Muslim leaders and scholars.

Father Tiso said the three dialogues — West Coast, Midwest and Middle Atlantic — have their roots in local dialogues.

"The model he (Borelli) set up is to have a pair of persons from each town or diocese, along with Catholic and Muslim scholars, get together once a year for a two-day session," he said.

For example, the Midwest dialogue has paired participants from Catholic-Muslim dialogues in Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Louisville, Ky., and Toledo, Ohio.

Under that arrangement the regional dialogue also serves as a kind of leadership meeting for the leaders of the local dialogues, Father Tiso said, and each regional group decides its own topics.

The West Coast dialogue has been focusing on spirituality, the Midwest recently completed a small book on Catholic and Muslim understandings of divine revelation, and the Middle Atlantic is working on guidelines for pastoral care of couples in interfaith marriages, specifically Catholic-Muslim marriages.

Father Tiso said the local and regional dialogues may address a wide range of shared interests from social concerns such as immigration and family life to questions of values, religious freedom, revelation, spirituality and scholarly issues.

Christian Brother David Carroll is undersecretary-general of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. He cited four levels of dialogue Catholics and Muslims can engage in, starting with what he called "the dialogue of daily existence" — getting to know one another at work, in the neighborhood.

"The dialogue of charity" includes many of the activities of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, which serves Muslims as well as Christians in its assistance for education, health care and other human needs throughout the Middle East, he said.

He described the third level as a theological or intellectual dialogue, one that can also address social issues such as poverty, human dignity and human rights because both traditions bring convictions of faith on such concerns to the table.

The fourth level is "a dialogue of silence" in which partners in dialogue together "reflect and let God speak to us," he said.

Potential global impact

Syeed is Muslim co-chairman of the Midwest dialogue and was part of the team that formed it in 1995.

In the 1980s as president of the Muslim Students Association of USA and Canada, he pioneered that organization's transformation into the Islamic Society of North America, an umbrella organization based in Plainfield, Ind. The more than 300 affiliates across the United States and Canada promote Muslim values and a better understanding of Islam among non-Muslim Americans and Canadians.

He was the society's secretary-general until earlier this year, when he moved to Washington to work full time on interfaith and community relations.

For Muslims in the United States, "one of the communities closest to us is the Catholic Church," he said.

He said current U.S. Muslim efforts to overcome discrimination and prejudice are comparable to the experiences of immigrant Catholic minorities in earlier periods of U.S. history.

Because of a lack of Catholic-Muslim dialogue in most parts of the world, "whatever progress we make here can have a global impact," Syeed said.

He cited the Second Vatican Council as "a unique experience in the history of religion" that opened the Catholic Church to such dialogues and made it a meaningful contributor to mutual understanding among people of different faiths.

Working together

Dr. Shahid Athar, a physician in Indianapolis and one of the founding members of the Midwest dialogue, said he has been involved in interfaith dialogue with Catholics and others for more than 20 years.

"Ithinkit'severyone'sresponsibility," he said.

Benedictine Sister Mary Margaret Funk of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Ind., expressed the same conviction in her 2003 book, "Islam Is...."

"And now Islam is with us in the United States and throughout the West — a jewel in our midst," she wrote. "It is a religion that brings each generation to a God-consciousness that fosters all that is human.

"Whether we are lay or religious, Christian or Muslim, we cannot afford to delegate this dialogue to specialists, academics, political and military generals," she wrote. "We must bow our heads and bend our knees and, upon rising, extend our hands. We are friends."

Her book grew out of the Midwest dialogue and Athar wrote an afterword for it.

He told Catholic News Service he has been asked to write a similar book, on Christianity seen from a Muslim perspective — a project he hopes to take up in the form of a "conversation" between him and a Christian scholar such as Sister Mary Margaret.

Local dialogues do not need the scholarly resources of larger dialogues to succeed, Athar said.

He said the first step is just getting to know one another, Catholics visiting a mosque "to see how Islam is practiced," or Muslims visiting a local Catholic church to get to know Catholics and see what they believe and do.

Syeed said that in light of the long global history of tensions and wars between Christians and Muslims, for both communities "the only way to move forward is to dialogue."

He said that after the 2001 terrorist attacks, the Islamic Council of North America urged Muslims to adopt a "mosques without walls" policy of inviting those of other faiths to visit their mosques and Islamic centers and get to know them.

"Identify the local Islamic center and tell them you want to visit them," he said.

Catholic and Muslim dialogue partners contacted by CNS stressed the broader importance of such dialogues when crises arise. Each side can contact trusted representatives on the other side to express concerns or get explanations that may avoid misunderstandings.

But Father Tiso said the dialogues are still in their infancy and still face a long struggle to overcome centuries of Catholic-Muslim misunderstanding and prejudice.

"We're trying to make 20 years of dialogue solve hundreds of years of history," he said.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York and morning host Gus Lloyd talk during the debut of the Catholic Channel in the studios of Sirius Satellite Radio in New York Dec. 4. The channel offers round-the-clock programming, seven days a week.

Catholic Channel debuts on Sirius Radio

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Catholic Channel debuted Dec. 4 on Sirius Satellite Radio. Sirius and the Archdiocese of New York worked together to create the channel.

Its original Sept. 26 launch date was delayed because of New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan's recovery from Sept. 6 knee-replacement surgery. It can be found at Channel 159 on Sirius receivers.

The Catholic Channel airs programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Many of the programs are listener call-in shows, and a dedicated toll-free telephone line has been established to handle calls: (888) 322-8465.

Among the Catholic Channel offerings are (all times EST):

— "Busted Halo," weekdays, 7-9 p.m., hosted by Paulist Father Dave Dwyer, who was not ordained until he reached his 30s. He had a career in television (MTV, Comedy Central) and radio prior to entering the seminary.

Father Dwyer aims to reach young adults and teach them that nobody is perfect, hence the name "Busted Halo."

— "Ask the Cardinal," Thursdays, noon.-1 p.m. featuring Cardinal Egan.

The show will allow the cardinal to speak directly with Catholics around the nation on Scripture, current events and Vatican news.

— "The Catholic Guy," weekdays, 4-7 p.m., hosted by Lino Rulli and offering a fresh, fun and often offbeat take on living out the faith in the world today.

— "Across the Nation With Bob Dunning," weekdays, 1-4 p.m.

Veteran broadcaster Dunning takes an in-depth look at the news and issues of the day from a Catholic perspective and helps make sense of the most important stories in the headlines.

— "As You Think," weekdays, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Father Paul Keenan, a New York archdiocesan priest and author of "Good News for Bad Days," "Stages of the Soul" and "Heartstorming" will bring his pastoral advice and 30 years' experience as a priest on how to live a meaningful, purpose-driven life in an often confusing, overwhelming world.

— "Speak Now ... With Dave and Susan Konig," weekdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dave Konig, an actor, and Susan Konig, a columnist and author, will bring their unique perspective on family, marriage, children — they have four — and culture to their program.

— "Seize the Day With Gus Lloyd," weekdays, 6:15-8 and 8:30-10 a.m.

Lloyd chats with newsmakers, personalities and call ers to discuss what's on their minds and in their hearts.

There are about 4.7 million subscribers to Sirius.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 17, 2006

Dec. 17, Third Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:
1)Zephaniah 3:14-18
Psalm, Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6
2)Philippians 4:4-7
3) Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

We should always behave for, anticipate Christ's coming

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As a mother of three children, my annual Christmas preparation tasks — baking, decorating, shopping and wrapping — are done with them in mind.

Even though the eldest is now 21, I still make their favorite cookies, fill their shoes on St. Nicholas Eve and generally try to derive maximum delight from limited time and budget.

It makes for a busy holiday, but bringing them joy is rewarding work that I look forward to each year.

But I remember that as a child my primary "work" of Christmas preparation was to be on my best behavior. It was drilled into children of my generation through songs, folklore and movies that Santa's bounty was somehow directly related to our conduct ("He knows if you've been bad or good!").

Thus the heightened anticipation of Christmas morning also carried a message of vigilance and added incentive to "be good."

One could read today's passages from Scripture in a similar fashion. If Advent is preparation for the Lord's coming, then it stands to reason that our behavior should reflect our anticipation.

Therefore, St. Paul can rightly admonish the Philippian community to make their kindness visible to all, and John the Baptizer can advise tax collectors to stop cheating their clients, because the coming of the Lord is imminent.

But I think another, more profound way for Christians to read these passages is to assume that the Lord isn't simply hiding in the wings, waiting for us to come to our senses and straighten out our lives before he makes his appearance.

The Lord — in the crucified and risen person of Jesus — is already here. His "advent," or arrival, is made visible to others precisely in our acts of kindness and generosity.

It's because of his nearness that we can overcome our isolation from one another. It's his self-giving, already present, that conquers our self-centeredness. His light is already peeking under the drawn shutters of our complacency.

The church's celebration of Advent, heightened in this third week of Gaudete Sunday, reminds us to "rejoice" not only in what God will do, but in what God already has done in Christ.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 10-16
Sunday (Second Sunday of Advent), Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6; **Monday (St. Damasus 1)**, Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Judith 13:18-19, Luke 1:39-47; **Wednesday (St. Lucy)**, Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (St. John of the Cross)**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday (Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday (Advent Weekday)**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 7:10-13.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 17-23
Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Peter Canisius)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56; **Saturday (St. John of Kanty)**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66.

POLAND

with Father John Starczewski

parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

"The Footsteps of John Paul II"

May 8-16, 2007

Join us while we visit Krakow, Wadowice, Zakopane, Warsaw, the world-famous salt mines of Wieliczka, Shrine of Divine Mercy and Czestochowa.

Roundtrip from Charlotte: $2,898 plus taxes and fees (double occupancy) — includes breakfast and dinner daily

For further information, call Patti Dameron at (336) 413-8127.

YOUR CLOSET. ONLY BETTER.

Custom storage solutions for every room in your house.
- Closets, offices, garages, entertainment centers etc.
- Handcrafted designs that fit your needs and style
- Professionally trained designers and installers

25% OFF With This Ad
FREE INSTALLATION
We Will Beat Any Competitor's Offer

Call for a FREE design consultation
704.676.5000

closetfactory

www.closetfactory.com

CNH-I

Reasons to watch TV this season

Catholic television programming steps up

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — It's starting to look a lot like Christmas.

And in the weeks and months ahead, Catholics looking for quality television programming that suits their moral and social sensibilities need look no further than programming supplied by the Catholic Communication Campaign.

"Our motto is 'How the Good News Gets Around,'" said CCC executive producer Ellen McCloskey.

And as winter begins to set in, TV viewers will be able to get both warmth and light from their set.

The first CCC project is "Picturing Mary," which is being offered to public TV stations nationwide in December. The hourlong documentary looks at how artists depicted Mary from centuries ago to more modern times.

Because it's not on the national PBS schedule, viewers will have to be aggressive about checking their local listings — or calling their city's PBS affiliate — for dates and times.

"It's a very good companion to 'The Face: Jesus in Art,' which continues to air on public TV stations at Christmas and Easter," McCloskey said.

Some stations, she added, plan on showing "The Face" and "Picturing Mary" back to back.

She offered her hopes that patrons of the new movie "The Nativity Story" will be inclined to tune in to "Picturing Mary."

In January, those same public TV stations will be offered "Lives for Sale," produced by Maryknoll Productions.

The documentary looks at the immigration issue but pays close attention to human trafficking.

"Traffickers will encourage women, 'Come to America and I'll give you a job,'" McCloskey said, although the ruse doesn't become apparent until it is too late.

The issue will get its own cinematic treatment come spring with the film "Trade," starring Kevin Kline.

In February, another public-TV documentary that got partial funding from the CCC will air on selected PBS stations in time for Black History Month.

"Sisters of Selma" examines the role nuns, many of whom were in the St. Louis area, played in the civil rights struggles of 40 and more years ago in Selma, Ala.

"It's very, very powerful," McCloskey said.

Not only does the program examine Catholic advocacy in civil rights, it also "addresses some of the changes we were going through in the Catholic Church at the time," she added.

"Many of the sisters — the women who marched at the time — are still alive," McCloskey said.

"There's a lot of good archival footage. Then you see them (the sisters) on the screen in the present day, and they look the same," she said.

Catholics will also get a triple treat if they're watching TV on Christmas Eve after their late local news. ABC, NBC and CBS will each broadcast Catholic-themed programs.

ABC's entry is a CCC production, "Celebrating Light and Hope," from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, with Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan.

CBS will air a Christmas Eve compilation of lessons and carols from St. Joseph Cathedral in Sioux Falls, S.D. It's the 10th anniversary of the program at the cathedral.

While the show will contain the readings and hymns customary to the event, expect "a little more variety to it," McCloskey said.

NBC, as it has for decades, will broadcast Christmas Midnight Mass from St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, with U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, serving as a guide to the rituals in Rome.

"Now if we could only get something on Fox," joked McCloskey.

On a more serious side, she said that with televangelists on the tube seemingly nonstop, "people ask where the Catholic Church is on television. Here, in this situation, you can say, 'Here's the Catholic Church.'"

"It's not as noticeable, perhaps, as a televangelist. But here, you have a documentary on the church and the arts ('Picturing Mary') and on the church and social activity — today ('Lives for Sale') and 40 years ago with civil rights ('Sisters of Selma')," she said. "I hope we can do more."

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Enlightening Advent

Courtesy Photo

Students at St. Michael School in Gastonia light the first candles of Advent wreaths as fellow students, Principal Joseph Puceta and Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church, gather to pray Dec. 4. The wreaths were blessed by Father Arnsparger and the students learned about Advent, a joyful period during which Christians prepare for the coming of Christ.

Advent is the season that opens the liturgical year. It begins with the liturgical observance on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve when the liturgical observance of Christmas begins. The Advent wreath is the main symbol of the season with a new candle — three purple and one pink — lit each Sunday before Christmas.

Courtesy Photo

Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, is pictured with faculty and students of St. Pius X School during an Advent retreat and luncheon for faculty and staff of the parish and school Dec. 1.

Pictured are (sitting, from left) Laura Collins, Patty Delaney, Msgr. Marcaccio and Sue Tanahey; (standing, from left) eighth-graders Allison Stavola and Erica Delaney.

Msgr. Marcaccio was the featured speaker during the mini retreat, which was started last year by the school's spiritual committee. Students' parents served as substitute teachers for two hours while teachers attended the retreat; some students helped serve the lunch prepared by committee members.

Msgr. Marcaccio asked the faculty to view their jobs as a ministry, reminding them to take care of themselves spiritually so they in turn can nurture their students' spirituality.

Students who give a 'Hoot'

Courtesy Photo by Gary Gelo

Sixth-graders and science and literature teachers Catherine Rusch and Marlene Mode hold owl wings and Carl Hiaasen's novel "Hoot" in this Nov. 14 photo. Rusch and Mode collaborated for a sixth-grade interdisciplinary unit on owls — in science class the students studied about the traits of owls; in literature class the students read "Hoot," an award-winning children's novel about students trying to save a colony of burrowing owls in Florida.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

The Christmas season is upon us, and The Catholic News & Herald is looking for unique stories in which parishes, Catholic schools, organizations and individuals are remembering the reason for the season — Jesus Christ — and are helping to spread the holiday cheer to others.

Is there an event at your parish? Is someone you know an example of how to live the Catholic faith, especially at the holidays?

If so, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Administrative Assistant

Responsible, articulate, detail-oriented person needed to handle day-to-day management of a financial planning office. Responsibilities include: client service, activity follow-up, filing, scheduling appointments and maintaining contact management database. College education and experience with Microsoft Office programs preferred. Flexible scheduling from 24 – 40 hours per week during regular office hours. Close to Charlotte Catholic High. Fax resume including education and work history to 704-540-7763.

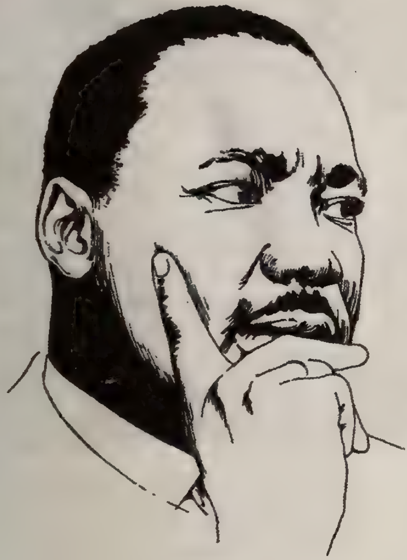
CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

REGIONAL OFFICE DIRECTOR
for Catholic Social Services (CSS) ;
office is located in Winston-Salem, NC.

CSS is seeking energetic individual to provide strong administrative and cooperative, team-building leadership of a regional office. Demonstrated fundraising skill and Spanish language ability are pluses. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cssnc.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by December 20, 2006 to: Gerard A. Carter, Catholic Social Services, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

ADVERTISEMENT

2007 DIOCESAN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION



DOUBLETREE GUEST SUITES**

SOUTHPARK
6300 MORRISON BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTE, 28211

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 — 9:30AM — 2:30PM

THEME: "EMBRACING OUR FUTURE, DEALING WITH OUR PRESENT, CELEBRATING OUR PAST"

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED:

Adults $25 — Youth $10 (RECOMMENDED FOR 6th-GRADERS AND OLDER)

This year's program deals with life altering decisions that affect the youth and adults in our homes, communities, country and the world today, as well as the consequences of those decisions and actions.

Our day will begin with our first annual "Youth Talk" series. This series will address the situations that our youth deal with on a daily basis. Ms. Yvonne Tiandam, a candidate for the Master of Theology Degree at Xavier University, and Mrs. Abong Ngranui-Fankam, CEO of A Place of Hope, Inc., will facilitate this presentation.

In addition, JNXY Productions of Durham will present an exciting, special dramatization of life in today's challenging world.

Ending the day, Mrs. Barbara Hart will give a historical presentation exploring symbols used by our forefathers in their struggles for freedom.

Registration form must be returned with payment NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22!

** One-bedroom suites available at the Doubletree Guest Suites (1 King or 2 Queen beds) for $99 plus tax per night per suite for January 5 and 6. Make reservations by **December 16** directly with the Doubletree Guest Suites at (800) 222-8733. Group code: AAM for special rate.

— REGISTRATION FORM – due with payment by Friday, Dec. 22 —

NAME______________________ DATE______________

ADDRESS____

E-MAIL____

PHONE__________________ PARISH________________

ATTENDEES____ COST: ADULTS @ $25 p/p YOUTH @ $10 p/p (up to age 18)

ENCLOSED $________ FORM OF PAYMENT__________

NAMES AGES (YOUTH, ONLY)

____

____

____

__ Money order or check attached (made payable to African-American Affairs Ministry)

Mail to: **African and African-American Affairs**
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Purification of the vessels used during Mass

New procedures for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion

From the Bishop

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

On Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006, new procedures take effect in our diocese for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion when they assist at Mass.

The sacred vessels that are used during the Mass (i.e., the vessels that hold the Hosts or the Precious Blood) will now be purified by the priest or the deacon, instead of by the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

The Holy Father has asked that we follow this new policy regarding the purification of the sacred vessels used during Mass. In October, Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, communicated the Holy Father's new directive to the U.S. bishops.

In November, I wrote to our priests and deacons informing them of the new procedures.

The new policy regarding purification of the sacred vessels by only the priest or deacon brings into focus the role of the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion during Mass.

The primary role of the extraordinary ministers is to assist the priest and deacon with the distribution of Holy Communion. The distribution of Holy Communion is a beautiful ministry that the extraordinary ministers undertake in service to their brothers and sisters at Mass.

The purification of the vessels that takes place after the distribution of Holy Communion is a separate action, which is the personal responsibility of the priest or the deacon.

What is the new procedure which extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should follow when they assist at Mass? Here are four simple steps:

1. The extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may enter into the sanctuary only after the priest has received both species.

2. After the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion receive Holy Communion, they then receive from the hands of the priest or the deacon the vessel containing the Eucharist.

3. At the end of Holy Communion, all of the sacred vessels are brought back to the altar. At the altar, the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who assisted with the distribution of the Precious Blood consume what remains of the Precious Blood from their own chalice of distribution.

4. The extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion then return to their places in the congregation.

The priest or the deacon purifies the vessels.

If a deacon is not serving at the Mass, the priest purifies the vessels at the altar immediately after Holy Communion, or he may carry the vessels that need to be purified over to the credence table and purify them there immediately after Holy Communion.

CNS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BOB ROLLER

The priest may also leave the sacred vessels that need to be purified, suitably covered and on a corporal at the credence table, and purify them there immediately after Mass following the dismissal of the people.

If a deacon is serving at the Mass, he carries the vessels that need to be purified over to the credence table and purifies them there immediately after Holy Communion.

The deacon may also leave the sacred vessels that need to be purified, suitably covered and on a corporal at the credence table, and purify them there immediately after Mass following the dismissal of the people.

After the vessels have been purified by the priest or deacon, other ministers may further wash the vessels before they are used for the next Mass.

The Catholic Church devotes a lot of attention to the celebration of the Mass because the Eucharistic Sacrifice is the source and summit of the Christian life. All of the good works and ministries of the parish flow from our worship.

The worship that we render to God through the saving sacrifice of His Son, is the most important activity of the parish. As we implement these new guidelines in our diocese, may Our Lord help all of us to participate fully, consciously, and actively in the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries.

Immigration reform

Catholics can help make a fair, just system

Guest Column

FATHER SHAWN O'NEAL
CUEST COLUMNIST

I thank Bishop Peter J. Jugis for naming me as the diocesan contact for Justice for Immigrants, the U.S. bishops' campaign for immigration reform.

However, I expect many people within and outside the Diocese of Charlotte to cringe if they are reading about this campaign for the first time. I imagine Catholics and non-Catholics alike are questioning the stand that the bishops (and I) take in regard to the present immigration system.

Believe me, I have been involved in many discussions with many parishioners and guests about this matter, and my parish, St. Joseph Church in Byrson City, has approximately 1 or 2 percent of the population of the largest parishes within our diocese. I can only imagine the volume of discussion taking place in larger parishes such as St. Matthew Church in Charlotte or St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro.

It's no secret that there are some topics Catholics would like for the clergy to discuss and other topics that they wish the clergy would leave alone.

I am expected to talk on behalf of pro-life issues, especially the evil of abortion. I am expected to preach about how we as Catholics need to be the vanguard for positive reform of our society.

I am expected to tell people to do more than make a difference, to help renew the face of the earth and prepare the world for the coming of the Kingdom of God.

Having said that, issues concerning immigration fall within the sphere of topics many of the faithful don't want the clergy to discuss.

Many Catholics believe that it makes no sense for us to call for the overturning of Roe v. Wade only to follow it up with advocating illegal immigration, which, so you know, is not advocated by the U.S. bishops.

Yet, if either I or anyone else within the clergy does not preach on behalf of immigration law reform, we do not preach for the sake of the positive development of our society and nation, and for the good of families who will benefit from the reform of present unjust laws and inconsistent processes.

I understand that many Catholics don't believe that our call for immigration reform has the same doctrinal weight as our common stand against abortion, but this an important and life-giving stand for us to take.

I would like to appeal in the name of charity that you take the time to see the issues as they are. You can visit the campaign's Web site, www.justiceforimmigrants.org; click on the "What is new @ JFI" link to get the latest media information. See what the campaign advocates and what it does not advocate.

Feel free to contact me with questions, too.

Please make sure to pray for President George W. Bush, for Congress and for all government officials on all levels. Pray that they always will do and will proclaim what is right, just and good, especially concerning immigration reform. There is much work to be done for the sake of making the immigration process fair and swift.

Please support organizations such as our own Catholic Social Services, so our staff can serve fellow North Carolinians of all ethnicities who seek legal immigrant status within the United States. The CSS staff meets many people, works many hours and drives many miles in order to help people.

If you do not like illegal immigrants living within this country, then support the people and the offices who seek to give people legal standing. Supporting legal immigration advocacy is much cheaper and much more life-giving than building a long fence.

This topic is not easy to discuss. Quieter discussions occur between UNC and Duke basketball fans than between proponents and opponents of present immigration laws and practices.

Know that I pray for calm discussions, but I also pray for honest discussions. I invite anyone and everyone reading this to send me your thoughts and concerns.

I thank you for taking the time to read this column. If you have chosen to give to CSS, I thank you for your generosity.

This issue is not easy, but if we all ask the Lord for help and understanding, the Lord will provide each of us with an overabundance of help and understanding.

Father O'Neal is pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee. Contact him at (828) 488-6766 or e-mai smoneal@charlottediocese.org.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives. Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Santa: to ho-ho or not to ho-ho?

Familiar figure can help teach kids about Jesus, Christmas

Peace of Mind

LORI FOX
GUEST COLUMNIST

If a stroll down the seasonal aisle at your local department store leaves you wondering what in the world Darth Vader, Spiderman and Homer Simpson have to do with Christmas, you are not alone.

It seems like we get further and further from the true meaning of Christmas with each passing year. Many of us question if it would be better to honor this blessed holiday by removing every scrap of commercialism.

That includes the Grinch, Rudolph, Frosty and even Santa Claus.

In response to the materialistic season that Christmas has become, many parents consider whether teaching their children about a large, jolly man who flies in a sleigh, somehow squeezes down everyone's chimneys in one night and leaves festive packages of hearts' desires under a tree detracts from the celebration of the birth of Jesus just a wee bit.

Are we only setting our children up to have unrealistic expectations and an ultimately colossal disappointment?

Not to worry! The figure of Santa Claus may actually be one of the greatest tools to help us teach our children about the miraculous life of Jesus.

The story of the nativity is a tough one for children (and many adults) to really understand. A virgin gives birth to God's son and the biggest star of all times shines in the sky, and angels appear to the shepherds.... And what does this all really mean to a five-year-old, anyway?

The beauty of Santa Claus is that he can reach children's minds and teach the mysteries of Jesus in a way that they can understand.

Think about these lessons:

1. Santa has a soft spot for children (and the child in all of us).

Jesus loved children and stated that the kingdom of heaven belonged to "such as these."

2. Santa somehow sees whether we are naughty or nice and it actually matters to him. He wants us to be accountable for our behavior and wants to reward the goodness in us.

Jesus gave us the Golden Rule — to remind us to do right by ourselves and others. He spoke of rewards in heaven for the goodness of our acts.

3. Santa has magic and can do incredible things. Time and space are relative.

Jesus taught us that all things are possible through God. Healing for the sick, forgiveness of our most grievous sins, life for the dead — not a problem.

4. Santa lives in a land far away, but is still very much with us in our lives. Children truly have an individual relationship with Santa and believe that the wishes of their hearts are not falling on deaf ears.

Jesus hears and answers (to varying degrees of satisfaction) our prayers. We believe that he knows and accepts even our most silent yearnings.

In terms of a child's cognitive development, Santa offers a perfect opportunity to lay the groundwork for an understanding of the real Christmas story. Santa teaches love, behavioral accountability, the power of prayer and the hope that what seems impossible can indeed happen.

So as we enter the season of Advent, let us all, child and adult alike, open our hearts to belief. Set up the nativity crèche and put out the milk and cookies for that red-clad visitor.

Let us prepare for the arrival of the most precious gift of all time, in the smallest of packages, given in perfect love.

Lori Fox is supervisor of counseling services for Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Letters to the Editor

Demonstrating a pastoral heart

I support the recent letter of the bishops of the Atlanta Province to members of Congress with regard to comprehensive immigration reform ("Calling for reform," Dec. 1). I think that it took a lot of courage to write the letter as many people (Catholics and others) are opposed to this approach.

As one who has ministered within the Hispanic community for the past 11 years, I have known many faithful Catholics who came to this country illegally to seek a better life and to support their families in their countries of origin. I think the overwhelming majority of those that I have encountered in my pastoral experience have been hard working, prayerful and decent people.

Many political commentators and others use harsh rhetoric against undocumented persons. As one who has perhaps a different perspective, I know that I am called to be the pastor of all those in my care, whether they were born in this country, immigrated legally or illegally.

Certainly, no one is advocating the admission of criminals, terrorists or gang members to enter this country. The U.S. bishops do not condone illegal border crossings. The bishops are attempting to encourage the legislators to adopt a pastoral approach to those who are already here and who are working and establishing roots.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is quite familiar with this situation, as he served for many years as a parish priest in communities with Hispanics. He demonstrated his pastoral heart by celebrating bilingual Masses at the past two Eucharistic Congresses.

— Father Mark S. Lawlor, pastor
St. Vincent de Paul Church,
Charlotte

Fighting domestic abuse

I was thrilled to see the column by Bill and Monica Dodds on domestic violence ("Domestic violence in Catholic homes," Nov. 24), and particularly happy that it provided information on how one might access the USCCB document on this topic. Thank you!

As an advocate, I would like to stress one point not provided in this column. Couples counseling should never be encouraged or provided when abuse is present or suspected.

There is substantial evidence that doing so presents a safety risk to the victim, as abusers will often retaliate for things said either by the counselor or the victim in such sessions.

To that extent, the victim may not feel comfortable speaking freely in front of the abuser, reinforcing a sense of isolation. If that in turn leads to counseling that does not address the primary issue of abuse, it will reinforce the message to both the victim and the abuser that the abuse is in fact not very important.

Lastly, couples counseling, by its very nature, implies that the victim has responsibility for changing behavior that is really only within the control of the abuser.

Again, thank you for printing the wonderful column on this topic.

— Tracy Webb
Charlotte

Exposure will ensure better church

I failed to see the point of David Hains' column referencing the media's involvement in the race riots of 1898 and the embarrassment we face in the Catholic Church today ("One and done," Dec. 1).

The piece bemoaned the fact that the newspapers will enjoy a "one and done" while we will be endlessly reminded of grievous institutional transgressions.

As far as I am concerned, we are getting what we deserve. I do not fault the media for the attention given to this. Shame on us. We as Catholics allowed the abuse of our children to go unchecked. We allowed boys to be robbed of their childhoods and consequently of their faith. We ruined their lives.

We are under fire now and suffering a purgatory of our own making. I welcome this. Relentless coverage in the short term will insure that we never again institutionalize evil in the very place that we come to find the Divine.

We (the Catholic Church) will come out of this stronger and better for it in the long run.

— Sean McSweeney
Huntersville

Pope says in Turkish mosque he prayed for God to help all believers

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI said that as he stood facing Mecca in Istanbul's Blue Mosque Nov. 30 he prayed that God would help all believers recognize each other as brothers and sisters.

Using his Dec. 6 weekly general audience to share reflections about his Nov. 28-Dec. 1 visit to Turkey, the pope said, "Divine providence allowed me to make a gesture that initially was not foreseen, but which, in the end, turned out to be very significant."

Describing what happened at the mosque, the pope said, "pausing a few minutes in recollection in that place of prayer, I turned to the one Lord of heaven and earth, merciful father of all humanity."

"May all believers recognize that they are his creatures and give a witness of true brotherhood," he added.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Dec. 6.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today I invite you to join me in thanking God for the success of my recent apostolic visit to Turkey.

On my first day I met civic representatives and reminded them of the great need to rediscover God and the public relevance of faith, while ensuring that such faith is properly understood and lived authentically.

In expressing my esteem for Islamic civilization, I urged Christians and Muslims to work together for peace, justice and life.

The following day I visited Ephesus and the sanctuary nearby where, according to an ancient tradition, the apostle John constructed a house for the Virgin Mary. During Mass we prayed for peace in the Holy Land and the whole world.

The feast of St. Andrew was dedicated to consolidating fraternal relationships between the bishop of Rome and the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople. In signing a joint declaration, we reaffirmed our commitment to follow the path to full communion between Catholics and Orthodox.

My visit was concluded in the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Istanbul, where Christians from various traditions, gathered in prayer, experienced a renewed Pentecost.

Full of gratitude and affection for the people of Turkey, I invite you all to pray that this country may enjoy a peaceful future, as a bridge of friendship between the West and the East.

St. Mark Church proof of Catholic population growth in northern Mecklenburg County

HUNTERSVILLE — Less than a decade ago, the people of the newly established St. Mark Parish gathered to celebrate Mass for the first time as a parish family. The site was a spacious building with state-of-the-art environs — including dozens of freshly polished bowling lanes, a snack bar, a game room and a shoe rental station.

That first Mass at Northcross Lanes at the Lake, near bustling exit 25 on Interstate 77, introduced to northern Mecklenburg County what was then the Diocese of Charlotte's newest parish.

Although area Catholics gathered to celebrate that first liturgy on June 1, 1997, the framework for a new parish had been established several years earlier. In 1990, the diocese had purchased a 23-acre tract of land on Stumptown Road, which intersects Highway 21 near one of the most rapidly growing areas in western North Carolina.

Following careful study and planning by diocesan officials, then-Bishop William G. Curlin announced the establishment of the parish May 13, 1997. Msgr. Joseph Kerin was appointed pastor, and Catholic residents in the northern Mecklenburg communities of Huntersville, Davidson and Cornelius were invited to register as parishioners.

Since then, a steady influx of families in the region has joined the faith community, and St. Mark Church now comprises more than 2,900 families.

While continuing to celebrate Sunday Mass at the bowling alley, Msgr. Kerin soon added a vigil Mass to the schedule at Huntersville United Methodist Church. From this Methodist hospitality sprung a joint ministry to Room in the Inn homeless shelter in Charlotte.

In its early years, the "bowling alley parish" received local and national press for being a unique house of prayer and for its enterprising spirit. A feature in The Wall Street Journal dubbed the worshippers "the holy rollers."

The parish's steady growth continued, and St. Mark Church turned to Davidson College for a larger place in which to celebrate Mass.

Even operating with no permanent church home, St. Mark Parish made its presence felt from the beginning by its active service in the area.

St. Mark Church
14740 Stumptown Road
Huntersville, N.C. 28078
(704) 948-0231

Vicariate: Charlotte
Pastor: Msgr. Richard M. Bellow
Parochial Vicar: Father James Stuhrenberg
Permanent Deacons: Deacon Robert Murphy, Deacon Louis Pais, Deacon Ronald Sherwood
Number of households: 2,904

Msgr. Richard Bellow

In 1998, a capital campaign was launched to construct a multipurpose building to serve as a church; it features a separate chapel, rooms for receptions and meetings, classrooms, a youth room, a kitchen and offices.

On Feb. 12, 2000, Bishop Curlin presided over the dedication Mass of the 25,600-square-foot Family Center, with Msgr. Kerin and then-Father Peter Jugis, priest in residence, concelebrating. The family center was later renamed in honor of Msgr. Kerin.

In August 2003, St. Mark School opened its doors. Part of the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools, the school's enrollment is now 610 students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

In 2004, a $3.5 million capital campaign was initiated to raise funds for a 1,400-seat church.

Community and family life, education, liturgy and stewardship commissions coordinate a great many volunteer efforts, including Boy and Girl Scouts, CROP Walk, faith formation, Habitat for Humanity, Hispanic ministry, Meals on Wheels, Room at the Inn, services for the needy and more.

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

In less than 10 years, St. Mark Church in Huntersville has quickly grown to be one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte, with nearly 3,000 households in its membership.

The parish currently celebrates seven weekend Masses, including a Spanish-language Mass, a Life Teen Mass and a Mass for college students at nearby Davidson College.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

It's news and
inspiration about
the Diocese of Charlotte!
Bishop Jugis visits DocPod this week.
Subscribe today — it's FREE!
Check it out at
www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Give the gift of lifetime memories
The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General
breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people
May 8 - 18, 2007
Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:
- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

www.charlottediocese.org

oman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

DECEMBER 15, 2006

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 10

Perspectives

Bishop Jugis' Christmas message; Father Dietzen clarifies baptismal names, validity

| PAGES 14-15

A year of fighting for life

mbryos and abortion: Pro-life agenda has a year of highs and lows

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — It was ear when President George Bush used the first veto of nearly six-year presidency strike down legislation at would have expanded leral funding of embryonic m-cell research.

But it was also a year ien Missouri voters "lost significant battle for the otection of human life," as e state's Catholic bishops t it, by approving a ballot estion that would permit y stem-cell research allowed under federal law — to the point of allowing human cloning, its opponents said.

It was a year when the South Dakota Legislature passed the nation's first state law to ban nearly all abortions since the 1973 Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade legalized abortion virtually on demand.

But voters in the state overturned the law later in the year.

It was a year that offered hope that the partial-birth abortion procedure might one day be permanently banned in the United States, as the Supreme Court considered arguments against it.

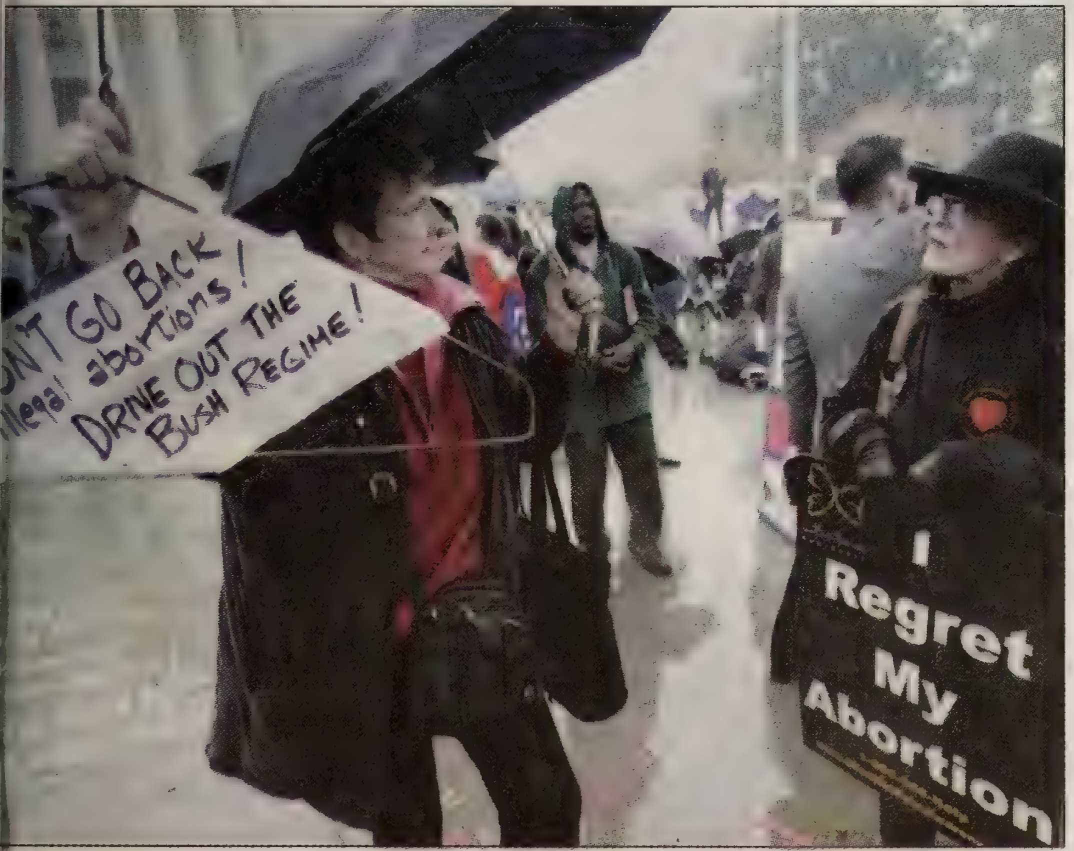
But it was also a year when abortifacient drugs such as the French abortion pill RU-486 and the Plan B "morning-after

See YEAR, page 8

More Year-in-Review Coverage

PAGE 8 | HURRICANE RECOVERY EFFORTS STILL A CHALLENGE

PAGE 9 | MUCH ACTION, LITTLE LAWMAKING ON IMMIGRATION



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

abortion foe and a supporter of legal abortion confront each other during a demonstration in front of the U.S. Supreme urt in Washington Nov. 8. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in two cases challenging the Partial Birth Abortion n Act of 2003.

BRINGING THE NATIVITY TO LIFE

PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Youth group members from St. Joseph Church in Newton take part in the Secular Franciscan Order's annual Crib at Greccio live Nativity at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Dec. 10.

Nativity, life of St. Francis re-enacted in Hickory

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — In the 13th century, the typical peasant in Italy could not read, and the Scriptures were treasured documents that were not accessible by most people.

St. Francis of Assisi wanted to bring the Nativity to life so the common folk could appreciate the magnitude of God's gift to the world. With the permission of Pope Honorius III, St. Francis staged the first live re-enactment of Christ's birth for the people of Greccio, Italy, in 1223.

Members of the Fraternity of Brother Francis of the Hickory-based Secular

See GRECCIO, page 7

Hahn in Hendersonville

CATHOLIC APOLOGIST SPEAKS ON FAITH, MARY AT DAY OF REFLECTION

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — "It's time to come to the mountains."

With this simple sentence in the subject line of an e-mail to Dr. Scott Hahn, Sandy Donecho fulfilled a two-year

See HAHN, page 6

Catholics' approval rating for bishops highest since scandal broke

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The percentage of Catholics who think the U.S. bishops are doing a "good job" is the highest it has been since the clergy sex abuse scandal broke in early 2002, according to results of the Contemporary Catholic Trends poll conducted

See SURVEY, page 12

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
5-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Carving out faith

Parishioner sculpts limbs for others

| PAGE 5

Culture Watch

Mary for Protestants; Philbin's Catholic beneficiaries

| PAGES 10-11

Youths in Action

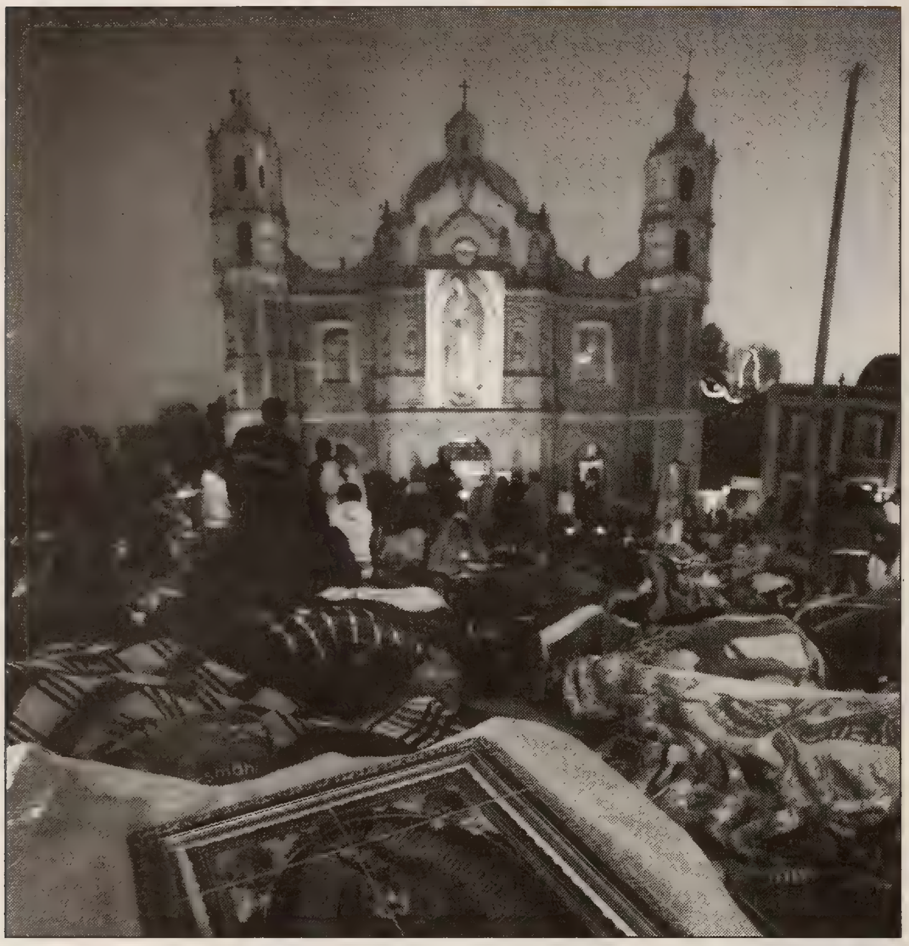
Students at Model U.N.; youths stuff shoeboxes

| PAGE 13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CONVERGENCE OF FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY TOMAS BRAVO, REUTERS

An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is seen near Mexican pilgrims as they rest in the plaza in front of the historic Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City early Dec. 12. Millions of the faithful converged on the basilica to celebrate the 475th anniversary of Mary's appearance to St. Juan Diego.

Millions flock to Mexican basilica to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Millions flocked to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe to mark the Marian feast and pay homage to the dark-skinned Mary often referred to as "mother of Mexico" and "patroness of the Americas."

In cars and caravans, on bicycles and on foot, pilgrims from across the nation — some traveling the last miles on their knees — converged on the basilica in northern Mexico City on the Dec. 12 feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and in the days leading up to it.

City authorities estimated that more than 5 million people visited the basilica Dec. 12 and millions more in the preceding days. Many camped out on the surrounding streets, with only blankets to fend off temperatures that dipped close to freezing at night.

On Dec. 12, crowds of the faithful filled the plaza adjacent to the basilica, mixing with scores of Aztec dancers in tribal garb who moved to booming drum beats.

Some pilgrims strained to hear Mass celebrated in the crowded basilica, while others climbed nearby Tepeyac Hill, where Mary appeared 475 years ago.

On crutches, 58-year old Roberto Resendiz, a Mexico City resident determined to reach the top, labored up the winding stairs that lead to the church at the hill's summit. He said he had come to the site each year for 25 years.

"We come to give thanks to the Virgin," Resendiz said. "Each time this date comes, we give thanks to her for her help in guiding us in our lives."

Juan Manuel Miranda, another capital resident who has made the annual trip to the basilica since childhood, said that this year's pilgrimage had made him appreciate his family.

"Coming here charges me with energy," he said. "It lets me know that I am living my life in the right way."

In 1531, Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego on the hillside where the basilica stands. When local clergy were dubious of Juan Diego's claims, Mary gave him a cloak upon which her image was emblazoned — reportedly the same cloak that hangs in the basilica today.

Couple plans to bring wrongful deat suit over destruction of embryo

CHICAGO (CNS) — A Chicago-based pro-life organization has filed a brief in support of a couple's petition to bring a wrongful death suit over the destruction of an embryo they wanted preserved in a frozen state for future implantation.

Using the in vitro fertilization procedure, Alison Miller and Todd Parrish had one of Miller's eggs fertilized with Parrish's sperm at a Chicago-area fertility clinic, the Center for Human Reproduction, but the clinic did not keep the embryo frozen.

In February 2005, the couple won leave from Cook County Judge Jeffrey Lawrence to sue under Illinois' wrongful death statute. That fact has drawn pro-life attention to the case, and the Chicago-based Thomas More Society, which takes on all kinds of pro-life cases, filed a brief Nov. 17 in support of the couple.

Attorney Thomas Brejcha, president of the society, pointed out that the actual case has yet to be heard. When Lawre ruled that it could go forward under wrongful death statute, he immedia certified it for appeal, in essence tel the fertility clinic it had a chance protest that decision before go through with a trial.

The clinic appealed, and although appellate court at first declined the c the Illinois Supreme Court ruled it had to be heard. The case was ha by pro-life advocates when Lawren decision was announced becaus granted the unimplanted embryo statu a person, at least for this case.

Activists have questioned w will happen to the estimated 400, embryos being held in a frozen s across the United States. If they thaw are not implanted, they die.

The American Civil Libert Union has maintained that Lawrenc allowance for wrongful death is " medically accurate."

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *Eucharistic adoration* will be offered every Friday through Dec. 22, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Peter Church, 507 South Tryon St.

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Marcin Zahuta. Confession will be available from 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral will sponsor a *Christmas Dinner* for those who would otherwise be without a Christmas celebration. The free dinner will be held Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., in St. Patrick School's cafeteria, 1125 Buchanan St. This dinner is for those people who, because of financial need, lack of family or other reason, would not have a Christmas dinner. Transportation or delivery of meals will be provided if needed. The dinner includes entertainment and a small gift. For reservations, transportation or to request delivery, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to becc reacquainted with the basics of their religion to get answers to any questions that they may h For more information, call the church offic (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led sup group for separated and divorced adults, of education, support and fellowship through divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7 9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Buildi 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — The *Young Adult Fa Reflection* group meets at St. Vincent de P Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., the first and th Mondays of each month. The group will read " Faith Explained," 3rd edition, by Leo J. Trese a chapter will be covered at every meeting. more information, call Jordan at (704) 737-1 or Ryan at (704) 377-1328.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a supp group for separated or divorced women and m All are welcome to join us for encouragement discussion with others making similar journeys St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Comm Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the N Life Center, Room 114. If you have any questio call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

CHARLOTTE — *Healing Hearts*, a support gro for people coping with the death of a spouse, me the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Chur 3016 Rd. For more information, contact Sis Therese Galligan, facilitator, at (704) 362-50 ext. 216.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 5 N. Main St., will host a *Faith Formation Series* the place for the biblical ethic and lifestyle in c 21st-century consumer society, Dec.19, Jan. 2, and 16, 7:30-9 p.m. No fees or pre-registrati

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

DECEMBER 15, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 10

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Chu St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks dur June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per ye for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserv the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deem appropriate. We do not recommend or guarant any product, service or benefit claimed our advertisers. Second-class postage paid Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTE Send address corrections to The Catho News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlot NC 28237.

OM THE VATICAN

tican says world must never forget Holocaust

cts must 'remain a warning,' says statement

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the ian government hosted a conference stioning the truth of Holocaust, the ican said the Nazis' Jewish victims st be remembered and the world must ke a commitment to ensuring such a gedy could never happen again.

The Dec. 11-12 Iranian conference, eview of the Holocaust: Global ion," was called by the country's sident, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who said the Holocaust was a myth.

Conference speakers included David ke, former U.S. leader of the Ku x Klan, and several authors who e been sued or arrested in Europe denying the Nazis' mass murder of opean Jews.

The Vatican issued a statement Dec. saying, "The past century witnessed attempt to exterminate the Jewish ple with the consequent killing of lions of Jews of all ages and social egories simply for the fact that they belonged to that people.

"The Shoah (the Holocaust) was an enormous tragedy, before which one cannot remain indifferent," the Vatican statement said.

The Catholic Church's attitude toward the Jewish community and its experience during the Second World War is one of "profound respect and great compassion," the statement said.

"The memory of those terrible facts must remain a warning for consciences with the aim of eliminating conflicts, respecting the legitimate rights of all peoples and calling for peace in truth and justice," the statement said.

The Vatican also noted that Pope John Paul II solemnly gave witness to the Catholic Church's position during his March 2000 visit to the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, and Pope Benedict XVI did so during his May visit to the German's Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

ted. For more information, call Dennis Teall-ning, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-0, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

EENSBORO VICARIATE

H POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary rch, 4145 Johnson St., hosts *Hope Of Seeing ryone Again* (HOSEA), a program to invite holics who have distanced themselves from the holic Church to return. This small group meets sdays, 7-9 p.m., through Dec. 19, to discuss ous issues and concerns and to receive pastoral rrals and guidance. For more information, tact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

H POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary rch, 4145 Johnson St., will have an *Open se* Jan. 31, for anyone who have questions ut the Catholic faith or to any "former" holics. The program will include a brief sentation on our Catholic inquiry classes, tive Catholic program and continuing adult h formation education. A tour of the church and eshments will follow. For more information, ase call Larry Kwan @336-688-1220.

H POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary rch 4145 Johnson St. will offer a *free Spanish rse* on Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. For more information or to register call Nancy e at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Larry Kwan at wan@lexcominc.net.

EENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support up* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet . 11, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish e Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are rently out of work or looking to make a career nge, join us for encouragement, support and ormative topics to help you in your job search. more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) -4696, ext. 226.

NSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

NSTON-SALEM — A *Christmas Crèche*, a nciscan tradition, will be enacted by the Our dy of Mercy Church confirmation candidates c. 17 at 4 p.m. in the lower parking level behind the church, 1730 Link Rd. Refreshments will be served following the enactment. For more information, call Betti Longinotti at (336) 725-3751 or e-mail bssf_sfo@yahoo.com.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336)940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. David Harold, M.Div., will present "Peacemaking: The Assisi Decalogue" Dec. 20. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

piscopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

c. 25 — 12 a.m.
dnight Mass
Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

c. 25 — 11 a.m.
ristmas Morning Mass
Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 31 — 3 p.m.
Mass of Religious Profession
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Vatican official: World has not been effective in helping Darfur

ROME (CNS) — The international community has failed to act effectively in putting an end to the tragic conflict and "horrific violation of human rights" taking place in the Darfur region of western Sudan, a Vatican official said.

The "killing of children, sexual abuse and rape of girls and women, forced uprooting of (the) population, burning of villages, attacks on internally-displaced-people camps, targeting of unarmed civilians" are all part of the human and environmental disaster continuing to unfold in the region, said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi.

The Vatican's representative to U.N. and other international organizations in Geneva spoke Dec. 12 at an emergency session of the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva on the human rights situation in Darfur.

"The crisis under discussion has provoked debates and international complaints," he said, but so far the international community has responded with only "insufficient effective actions."

The No. 1 priority should be concrete measures to end the killings, not wrangling over "political arrangements and commercial interests," he said.

Archbishop Tomasi called for the United Nations, the African Union and the Sudanese government to cooperate in stopping the violence.

The international community could also help by gathering evidence of human rights abuses, protecting civilians, delivering humanitarian aid and disarming rebel groups, he said.

At least 200,000 people have died in Darfur and more than 2 million people have been displaced since 2003 when fighting escalated between rebel groups and government troops and Arab militias.

Despite a May peace agreement meant to end the conflict, the fighting has continued and threatens to spread to neighboring Chad, where many displaced people from Darfur are taking shelter.

Sudan has not yet agreed to allow U.N. peacekeepers in the country, although it has agreed to U.N. help in supporting a larger force of African Union peacekeepers. For now some 7,000 African Union peacekeepers have been struggling to monitor the cease-fire and protect civilians.

While the conflict in Darfur "is a major humanitarian challenge of huge proportions," Archbishop Tomasi said, it does offer nations an opportunity to find new ways to collaborate and create constructive, "comprehensive, just and durable" solutions to "endemic problems."

Capturing Christmas

CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

A nun takes a picture as workers erect a Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 13. The tree, which is donated from a different part of Europe each year, came from the forests of Calabria in southern Italy.

Correction

In the "Learning Why Catholic?" article in the Dec. 8 issue, Frank Villaronga, director of evangelization and ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, was misquoted about when the Why Catholic? program meets. The program actually meets six weeks twice a year for four years. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

Treasuring the children

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Serving lunch at the Open Door, the soup kitchen in Waynesville, is one of the many volunteer activities of Marie Bartholomew (left).

Women earn volunteer awards for assisting children

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE — Helping children be and feel safe recently earned honors for two parishioners at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley.

Parishioner Marie Bartholomew, a K.A.R.E. (Kids Advocacy Resource Effort) volunteer for 15 years, was honored for teaching children how to avoid abusive situations.

Parishioner Winnie White is a member of the Killer Bees, which was nominated by REACH of Haywood County for making quilts that comfort children who are victims of abuse.

Elaine Kuhl, also a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church and manager of the Haywood-Jackson Volunteer Center in Maggie Valley, presented the 2006 North Carolina Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service at a volunteer-agency meeting Dec. 8.

Bartholomew, 81, makes presentations to kindergarteners through 5th-graders at Haywood County elementary schools.

"The children are taught skills that will enable them to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate touches and other protective behaviors," the award nomination notes. "In a world where children are so rebuked and taken advantage of, Marie seeks to treasure them and make them feel as special as they are."

Barthlolomew began treasuring children long before she became a K.A.R.E. volunteer. She and her husband, Jim, have been married 61 years. They have nine children, 35 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

The Bartholomews also teach their family to value community service. In addition to her work with K.A.R.E., she also provided child care for a women's support group at REACH of Haywood County.

Bartholomew volunteers with other St. Margaret of Scotland parishioners at the Open Door soup kitchen in Waynesville twice a month. For 10 years, she has helped serve meals, clean the kitchen and wash dishes.

At St. Margaret of Scotland, she's a lector, a member of the RCIA team, former president of the St. Margaret Women's Guild and she makes child-abuse-prevention presentations to the parish's youth faith formation groups.

"Now I have the time and I can do it," Bartholomew says of her volunteer work. "I enjoy doing it."

"She lives the Gospel and taught all of us to do the same," said Kathy Stark, one of her daughters. "All of us are involved in our community. We get it from Mom and Dad."

Then there are those Killer Bees: 15 women who have been gathering three Mondays each month for more than four years to make child-size quilts for every child going into a REACH shelter. Last year the Bees made 116 quilts.

The quilts, just the size that children can carry around and wrap about themselves, are, White said, "comfortable and soft and they're theirs. Something they can hold on to."

The name Killer Bees comes from the idea of quilting bees, but seemed rather threatening, White said, so her husband, Don, came up with a motto that plays on themes of sewing thread and hope for the future: "Bee knot afrayed."

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING
A.V. ROOFING
Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com
BBB Member Southern Piedmont Charlotte
704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

Holy Angels celebrates 50 year with Festival of Angels

Event honors residents, supporters of facility

BELMONT — More than 500 people, 125 performers and 50 volunteers took part in the Festival of Angels at Holy Angels in Belmont Dec. 2.

The celebration, which marked the conclusion of Holy Angels' 50th year, was to commemorate those who have helped and been helped by the facility, which serves children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities.

"We held the Festival of Angels to celebrate Holy Angels' 50 years as a member of the community in which we live — Belmont — a community that is rich in diversity as is our Holy Angels community," said Regina Moody, Holy Angels president and CEO.

Guests included Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Mercy Sister Angela Perez, council member of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina; Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory; members of Holy Angels' board of directors and foundation board; and donors.

The event, themed "Sharing Our Journey, Celebrating Our Future," was a Christmas program with singing, plays and other performances, including the Holy Angels Dance Troupe and the St. Ann School Choir.

The event also featured a live Nativity re-enactment by Holy Angels residents, as well as train and hay rides, outdoor games and a visit from Santa Claus.

Courtesy F

A resident of Holy Angels in costume during Festival of Angels celebration Dec. 2.

Lynn Leonard, past chair of H Angels' board of directors, announ the "50 Gifts for 50 Years Campai surpassed its $125,000 goal, rais $225,000 for Holy Angels to h continue quality service to its residen

"We are so grateful to the ma people who gave gifts," said Leona "Giving to this endowment is giving the future care of the residents."

Holy Angels was founded by Sisters of Mercy in 1956. Progra include Little Angels Child Developm Center, Great Adventures, Camp H and Cherubs Café & Candy Bouquets

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007 CLASSES IN
Charleston, South Carolina
Application Deadline: May 15, 2007

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Our Commitment:
- Theological Education – Formation of Mind
- Spiritual Formation – Conversion of Heart
- Pastoral Orientation – Prudential Wisdom

Foundational Texts:
- Sacred Scripture
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Writings of Pope John Paul II
- Documents of Vatican II
- 1983 Code of Canon Law
- Catholic Liturgical Documents
- Classics of Catholic Spirituality

Format:
- One Weekend a Month
- August – May
- Three-Year Cycle

For an Application or More Information:
Institute for Pastoral Theology
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
1025 Commons Circle, Naples, FL 34119
Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Fax: 239-280-2527
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

Carving out faith

arishioner sculpts new limbs for hose in need

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Wood-carver aul Nixon has literally left his mark roughout the Diocese of Charlotte, and articularly in Greensboro.

A native of Dublin, Ireland who omes from a family of carpenters and abinetmakers, Nixon's more notable ood-based sculpting includes a crosier e carved for Bishop Peter J. Jugis and 15-foot cedar tree he turned into a eace totem pole outside Triangle Lake ontessori Elementary School.

> "It makes me feel good that someone can benefit from my gifts from God."
>
> — Paul Nixon

In October 2005, he sculpted his first bronze statue for Greensboro Fire Station No. 1. But Nixon, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, recently received his most unusual carving request — a stranger asked him to carve a wooden leg.

It spurred a series of unique carvings for people in need of prosthetic limbs.

It began several months ago when David Campbell inquired about the possibility of Nixon making him a "peg leg," which he could wear with his pirate costume for Halloween. Campbell lost his leg to diabetes.

"I have type 2 diabetes and, back in March, I somehow got a blister on my foot," recalled Campbell. "Within two weeks, they started cutting my leg off a few inches at a time until it got to the point that it would heal."

Nixon, whose sister has diabetes, was inspired by Campbell's positive attitude, demonstrated by his wearing shorts that revealed his artificial leg.

"I was very impressed about David's view on life. It made me think more about my sister and what she must go through each day," said Nixon.

Nixon set to work on sculpting Campbell's peg leg, complete with a dragon guarding a pirate's chest with a skull at its feet.

"I am the only one I know who has one (a peg leg) like this," said Campbell, who said it has changed his dynamic with children.

PHOTOS BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Paul Nixon, a wood carver and parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, stands with David Campbell, who wears the unique peg leg (pictured below) sculpted by Nixon.

"They are no longer afraid (of my artificial leg). This has really turned into a fun thing," he said.

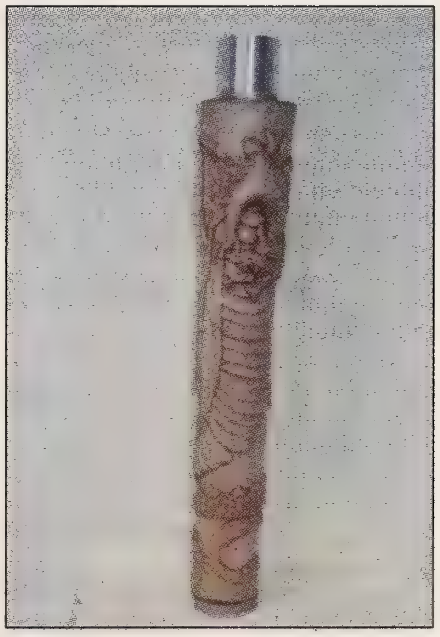
Before long, Nixon was carving a leg for another diabetic man, who was on welfare and was scheduled for an operation to remove some of his leg.

"It really upset me that this man, even though he was a stranger, would be going into the hospital to have his leg amputated," said Nixon.

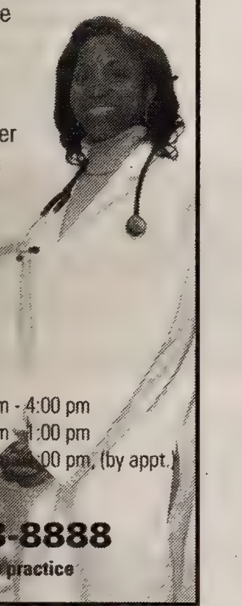
"My main concern about diabetes is that it is impartial, and we don't see the deformities it causes because they are silent and kept so hidden," he said. "It makes me feel good that someone can benefit from my gifts from God."

Nixon soon met Ralph Zeizler, who had a severely deformed arthritic hand. To assist him, Nixon made a cast of his hand grasping a clay handle, then carved for him a wooden cane in the same shape. He then sculpted the face of Jesus with the Holy Spirit on the end grain.

Nixon said Zeizler tried out the cane and was "overwhelmed with joy."



"I am glad that this God-given skill affects people in such a helpful, useful way," he said.



www.andersonfamilymed.com
Anderson Family Medicine
...Healthcare with a heart.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.
Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte
HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, (by appt.)
704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

AUTHENTIC NEW YORK ITALIAN ICE! GRAND OPENING!
3 hot Dogs & Soda for $6 — includes free small Ice for December
Authentic Italian ices shipped directly from New York!
Uncle Sonny's
NEW YORK ICES
201 South Main Street, Waxhaw
704-243-7336
Water Ices: cherry, lemon, chocolate, rainbow, watermelon, mango, pina colada, cotton candy, coconut
Cream Ices: vanilla chip, strawberry cheesecake, pistachio, vanilla, cookie dough
Special flavor: spumoni
SUGAR FREE: sherry lemon
Listen to 1190 AM (WIXE) for more specials!

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:
Parishes Youth Camps Nursing
Retreats Campus Ministry Hospital Chaplains
Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING
Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services
For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.
(336) 282-8870
ABBOTSWOOD *at Irving Park*
The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Catholic apologist speaks on faith, Mary

HAHN, *from page 1*

mission to bring the well-known Catholic apologist to Hendersonville.

Approximately 800 people filled Immaculate Conception Church for the Day of Reflection featuring Hahn Dec. 8.

"I feel the outpouring of respect from my parish, surrounding parishes and people who came from as far away as Indiana and Pennsylvania," said Donecho, director of religious education at Immaculate Conception Church.

"The respect for this man and the power of what he says to us touches us all," said Donecho, who served as the driving force that created the day of renewal and understanding of Catholicism, sponsored by the Asheville Vicariate.

Capuchin Father John Aurilia, pastor, supported the effort and opened the day-long event with Mass.

"Advent is the perfect time to stir up the water. Advent is not a routine, each is unique," he said. "This is the perfect time for Scott Hahn to stir up the water, so Jesus really comes into your heart."

Hahn is a former Protestant minister who converted to Catholicism and is now a popular author and speaker.

He spoke twice at the conference, in the morning about his book "Letter and Spirit" that links Scripture to the liturgy. His afternoon talk referenced his book "Hail Holy Queen," which addresses the three mysteries of Mary — the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption and the church's recognition of her queenship in heaven through the Scriptures.

"The more we learn about our faith, the more we will love it and the more we will live it," said Hahn.

Hahn said the Mass contains more Scripture than other Christian denomination's liturgies.

He recalled how, as a Protestant, he would study and analyze the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, only to learn the Catholic Church had already reached the same conclusions.

"I would make discoveries and ties between the two (Testaments) of the Bible and think I had discovered something completely new, then attend Mass and hear the Scriptures read and realize the church had known this all along," he said.

"As Catholics, it's not asking too much for us to reach a certain degree of biblical literacy," said Hahn, whose books and talks are often designed to help initiate an understanding of Scripture to further develop and appreciate the Catholic faith through the Bible.

"We have the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Here is the menu, here is the meal," he said.

Hahn also spoke about Catholicism's respect for Mary.

"The moon doesn't rob glory from the sun; the moon reflects the glory of the sun," he said, meaning Jesus came to give us Mary just as he gave us his Father.

"If a man gives you his own mother, you can be sure he will withhold nothing. Mary becomes the Ark of the New Covenant," said Hahn.

Hahn hopes communication and acceptance continue between the Christian denominations.

"We share so much in common. The differences are real and significant, but the common ground is more important," he said.

Father Aurilia encouraged Catholics to live their faith.

"You speak with your heart, you make Scripture come to life," he said.

Preparing for Christmas

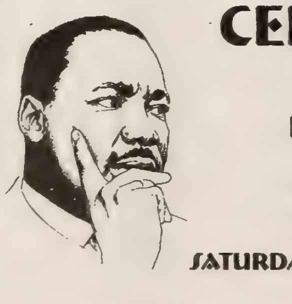
COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon collect brown paper bags of straw to take home Dec. 3 as part of an Advent project, "Prepare Him Room."

The parishioners remove the straw at home and are asked pray, make sacrifices and perform works of charity during the Advent season. With each act accomplished, a piece of straw is put back into the bag. The bags of straw then will be returned and placed in the church's Nativity display.

"The straw that the parishioners return will be placed in the stable to 'Prepare Him Room' as we prepare both spiritually and physically for a resting place for the infant Lord," said Carol Keesbury, pastoral coordinator.

2007 DIOCESAN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION



DOUBLETREE GUEST SUITES,**
SOUTHPARK
6300 MORRISON BOULEVARD,
CHARLOTTE, 28211

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 — 9:30AM — 2:30PM

THEME: "EMBRACING OUR FUTURE, DEALING WITH OUR PRESENT, CELEBRATING OUR PAST"

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH INCLUDED:

Adults $25 – Youth $10 (RECOMMENDED FOR 6th-GRADERS AND OLDER)

This year's program deals with life altering decisions that affect the youth and adults in our homes, communities, country and the world today, as well as the consequences of those decisions and actions.

Our day will begin with our first annual "Youth Talk" series. This series will address the situations that our youth deal with on a daily basis. Ms. Yvonne Tiandam, a candidate for the Master of Theology Degree at Xavier University, and Mrs. Abong Ngranui-Fankam, CEO of A Place of Hope, Inc., will facilitate this presentation.

In addition, JNXY Productions of Durham will present an exciting, special dramatization of life in today's challenging world.

Ending the day, Mrs. Barbara Hart will give a historical presentation exploring symbols used by our forefathers in their struggles for freedom.

Registration form must be returned with payment NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22!

** One-bedroom suites available at the Doubletree Guest Suites (1 King or 2 Queen beds) for $99 plus tax per night per suite for January 5 and 6. Make reservations by **December 16** directly with the Doubletree Guest Suites at (800) 222-8733. Group code: AAM for special rate.

— REGISTRATION FORM – due with payment by Friday, Dec. 22 —

NAME ______________________ DATE ______________

ADDRESS ______________________________________

E-MAIL _______________________________________

PHONE ___________________ PARISH ______________

ATTENDEES ____ COST: ADULTS @ $25 p/p YOUTH @ $10 p/p (up to age 18)

ENCLOSED $ __________ FORM OF PAYMENT ______________

NAMES AGES (YOUTH, ONLY)

____

____

____

__ Money order or check attached (made payable to African-American Affairs Ministry)

Mail to: **African and African-American Affairs**
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203

Nativity re-enacted in Hickory

GRECCIO, *from page 1*

Franciscan Order carried on this tradition with their seventh annual Crib at Greccio performance at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Dec. 10.

The choir and youth group from St. Joseph Church in Newton provided the music and the characters for the outdoor Mass and performance, which included re-enactments of St. Francis visiting Pope Honorius and traveling to Greccio for the live Nativity.

John Martin of the Hickory fraternity rounded up locals to bring animals for the re-enactment, including donkeys, goats, cows and a llama. The people attending the Mass and performance sat on bales of hay or used pieces of burlap to kneel in the grass outside the barn.

Members of the youth group performing in the Nativity included Daniel Aberle as St. Francis, Colin Barrett as Pope Honorius, Tracy Schell as Mary and Cristian Cabra as Joseph. Kolbe Thorpe filled in as the baby Jesus.

"Francis (at a young age) was a man who was distracted by the world," said Conventual Franciscan Father Linus DeSantis, regional spiritual assistant to the Secular Franciscans, during his homily.

As a young man in a wealthy family, St. Francis enjoyed the privileged life of medieval nobility and longed to become a knight. He went to war twice before dedicating his life to God.

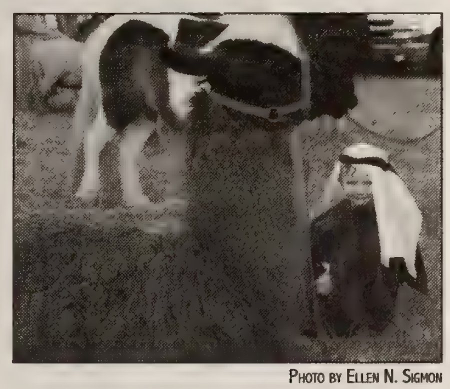


PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

A child and a llama take part in the Crib at Greccio at the Catholic Conference Center Dec. 10.

"The people of that time had lost focus. The church and clergy had lost focus," said the priest. "Through his (St. Francis') longing, his searching, the Lord called him. God told St. Francis to 'rebuild my church.'"

St. Francis went on to found the Franciscan order before his death in 1226. He was pronounced a saint by Pope Gregory IX in 1228, and is the patron of animals and the environment.

Father DeSantis reminded those present of the influence they can have on the world, just as St. Francis did.

"Everything we say and do has an impact. Everything we say and do can guide, can teach, can inspire," said Father DeSantis.

"It is good for us to be here today in a place that we can focus ourselves," he said. "Francis gives us a new hope. He helps us to realize the value of our faith."

The Catholic Shoppe
AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Searching for that perfect Christmas gift?
Find it here!

We have books for all ages, religious and inspirational artwork, statues, rosaries, jewelry, medals, crosses, crucifixes, prayer and greeting cards, music, audio books on CD's, DVD's, sacramental and general gift items and so much more!

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri
10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday
10:am - 1:00pm
closed 12-25-06 to 1-1-07

Bring this ad in for 10% off your purchase of $20 or more in our store.

Offer expires Dec. 23, 2006

Conveniently located 10 minutes from Charlotte on the Belmont Abbey College campus
I-85 Exit 26

704.461.5100 ◆ CATHOLICSHOPPE@BAC.EDU

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Professing the faith

PHOTO BY ELLEN N. SIGMON

Ismini Frieser and Betty Snipes (at right) prepare to make their profession to the Fraternity of Brother Francis of the Secular Franciscan Order during Mass at St. Joseph Church in Newton Dec. 9. Also pictured are Secular Franciscans Ruth Thoni (far left) and Marillyn Dunphy.

Secular Franciscans welcome two new members

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
CORRESPONDENT

NEWTON — The Secular Franciscan Order is growing in the Hickory Vicariate.

Ismini Frieser and Betty Snipes made their professions to the order during Mass at St. Joseph Church in Newton Dec. 9 and became part of the Hickory-based Fraternity of Brother Francis.

Conventual Franciscan Father Linus DeSantis celebrated the Mass.

"These ladies profess and embrace the fact that they are aware that God is with us," said Father DeSantis, regional spiritual assistant for the Secular Franciscans, during the homily.

"This is the joy that they seek to communicate to us," he said.

During the Mass, Frieser and Snipes were each presented with a Tau cross, a lit candle and a gift, all symbols of their professions to the order.

Before candidates can make their professions, they must go through three stages of formation.

First they go through orientation, a 3- to 6-month period exploring the Secular Franciscan Order through discernment. Next is a 6- to 9-month inquiry stage, during which they look at the process of becoming members.

Following is a 1- to 2-year period of candidacy, journeying with the fraternity to find out if God is calling them to the Franciscan way of life.

Frieser was born in France but has been in the United States most of her life. She has lived in Newton for 11 years. Snipes, originally from Omaha, Neb., married a Hickory native and has lived in Conover the last seven years.

Following Mass was a celebration dinner for the members of the fraternity and their guests.

Originally known as the Brothers and Sisters of Penance, Secular Franciscans are members of the third order founded by St. Francis of Assisi.

WANT MORE INFO?

The Brother Francis Fraternity in Hickory meets the second Sunday afternoon of each month. For more information, call Marilyn Dunphy at (828) 757-9611 or Frank Cogger at (828) 256-1453.

Everything you need for a great meeting!

The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

Pro-life agenda has year of highs and lows

YEAR, *from page 1*

pill" gained wider usage, despite concerns about their risks to women's health.

The year 2006 brought highs and lows to those in the pro-life community working against abortion, stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos, the death penalty and other threats to human life.

Conflict of science, ethics

When Bush vetoed the Stem-Cell Research Enhancement Act July 19, he said the expansion of stem-cell research that kills human embryos would present "a conflict between science and ethics that can only do harm to both and to our nation as a whole."

Among the Catholic leaders praising Bush's action was Supreme Knight Carl Anderson of the Knights of Columbus, who said the stem-cell bill was "eminently worthy of President Bush's first veto."

In a message for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said signs of progress in the pro-life effort included the "enthusiastic involvement in pro-life education and activism" by young people and the growing number of them "committed to living chastely until marriage, a trend that has contributed substantially to the continuing decline in abortions."

The cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, also cited growing public sentiment against "the policy of virtually unlimited abortion," and especially against partial-birth abortion, and "increased opposition, particularly among committed Catholics, to the use of the death penalty."

But he said negative developments included FDA approval of RU-486 and of over-the-counter sales of Plan B, as well as the "exaggerated or even fraudulent claims" made by proponents of embryonic stem-cell research.

More disappointments came in November, when Missouri voters, by a narrow margin, approved a constitutional amendment expanding embryonic stem-cell research in the state and South Dakota voters repealed a law banning most abortions there.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis said that the Missouri amendment "will come to be regarded as the bellwether of human cloning" and "will further erode respect for all human life."

The South Dakota law, repealed by a 56 percent to 44 percent margin, had drawn national attention as a possible challenge to the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision.

Voters Nov. 7 also defeated measures in Oregon and California that would have required parental notification before a minor's abortion, and approved an advisory referendum in Wisconsin that could lead to the reinstatement of the death penalty in that state.

The day after the election, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the appeals of two lower court rulings that found the 2003 Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act to be unconstitutional because it does not include provisions allowing its use to protect a woman's health.

The court's decision in those cases will not come until 2007. But earlier in the year, the high court rejected for the third time the use of racketeering laws against abortion protesters.

The case dated back to 1986 when the National Organization for Women attempted to use racketeering laws in class-action lawsuits against abortion clinic protesters.

Other pro-life steps

Among other life-related developments in 2006:

—Amnesty International considered dropping its longtime neutrality on abortion, prompting the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to urge the organization not to risk "its own well-deserved moral credibility" by taking such a step.

—The U.S. bishops overwhelmingly approved a document that encourages married couples who use artificial contraception to return to church teaching and learn how natural family planning can benefit the marital relationship.

— Catholic and Protestant organizations went to court in New York state to overturn a law requiring religious employers to provide contraceptive coverage in health plans offered to their employees.

— Democrats in the House introduced two bills aimed at reducing the number of abortions in the United States, but neither bill was acted on during the 109th Congress.

— The bishops of New Jersey expressed support for the state's temporary moratorium on executions and urged a commission created to examine the flaws in the death penalty system to make the moratorium permanent.

Recovery efforts a constant challenge in year after major hurricanes

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The swath of destruction left by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 put dioceses from Texas to Alabama in the throes of ongoing recovery efforts this past year.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi, Miss., both hit hard by Hurricane Katrina at the end of August 2005, took major steps toward rebuilding, but full-scale restoration was not even remotely attainable as thousands of residents no longer had homes, churches and schools remained damaged, and community service programs were no longer operational.

At the Texas-Louisiana border — slammed by Hurricane Rita in late September 2005 — rebuilding efforts were well under way except in the devastated area of the Diocese of Lake Charles, La., where repairs were only just beginning a year after the storm.

"The needs are still as great as ever," Margaret Dubuisson, communication director for Catholic Charities in New Orleans, said a year after Katrina. "If anything, the needs are greater as people come home or attempt to come home."

Throughout the year, the agency continued to provide immediate relief with food, medical care and shelter, but it was also inundated with long-term recovery needs from counseling to housing, and was involved in gutting destroyed homes, remodeling apartments for the elderly and helping establish new communities.

The New Orleans Archdiocese alone was hit with $120 million in uninsured losses from Hurricane Katrina. The storm's damage forced six churches to close permanently and 23 to temporarily close. Sixteen schools were closed and 21 remained open during repairs.

The Biloxi Diocese suffered property damage of $70 million and only half of the damage was covered by insurance. Thirteen churches were damaged, and three did not reopen.

Katrina also destroyed five schools and damaged 10. The diocese consolidated six schools into three and has been repairing 10 schools that remained open.

Recovery on this scale, particularly for individual homes, involved the efforts of thousands of volunteers from across the country who went to the Gulf region with parish, work and youth groups.

St. Patrick Cathedral
The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Rector
Rev. Robert Conway
Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero
Deacon
Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina
Deacon

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
4 p.m. - Children's Mass
6 p.m. - Family Mass
Midnight - Bishop Peter Jugis

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. - Bishop Peter Jugis

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES
Midnight Mass
Doors open at 11:00 p.m.
Bishop William Curlin

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES
9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

Come celebrate the Birth of Our Savior.

1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 334-2283
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

***LOW ad rates** - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!
Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

An ongoing march for change

Debate, rallies, rhetoric, but little lawmaking on immigration

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In some ways, 2006 ended as it began for the prospect of immigration reform legislation, with one highly unpopular bill that emphasized enforcement waiting on a shelf, and backers of a more comprehensive approach crossing their fingers that cooler heads would prevail in the new year.

But between the December 2005 House passage of a strict enforcement bill and the end of the 109th congressional session in mid-December 2006, the topic of immigration was one of the liveliest — and at times most contentious — subjects getting attention around the nation.

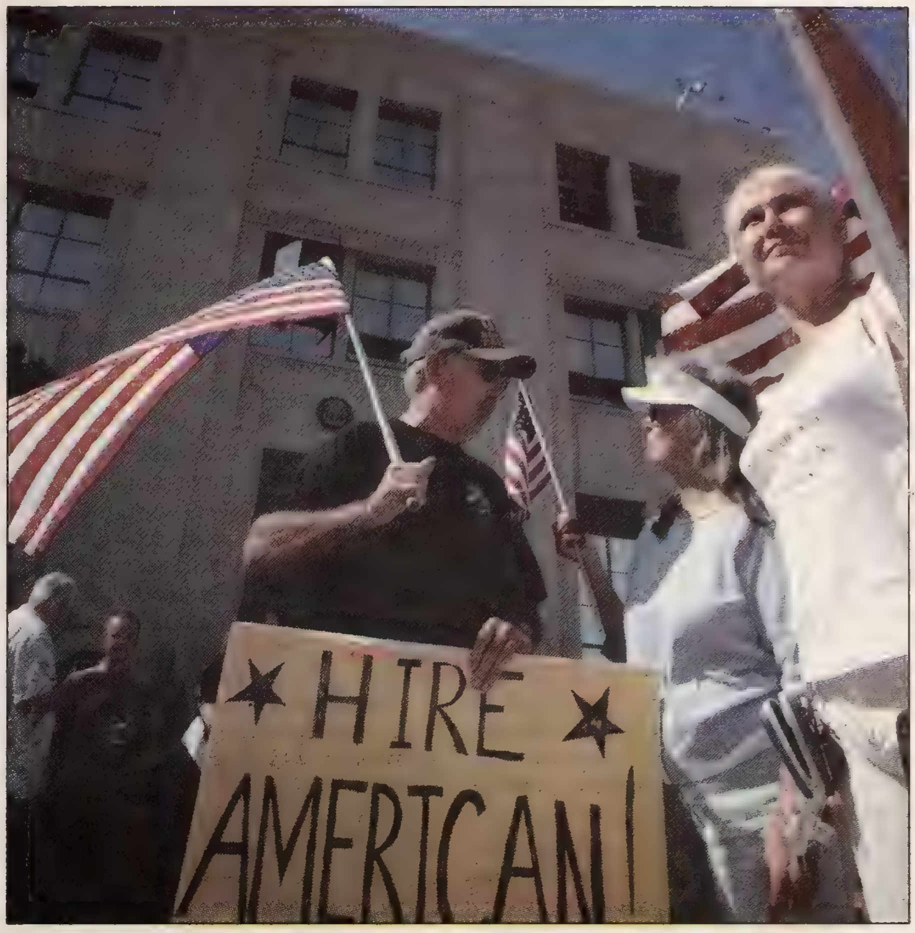
Millions of people participated in rallies and marches across the country in the spring, calling for the defeat of the House bill and its provisions that would have criminalized the act of being in the country illegally, allowed felony prosecution of anyone who offered assistance to illegal immigrants and penalized local and state governments not actively prosecuting illegal immigrants, which is currently only a federal responsibility.

In the end, the main immigration legislation that passed out of the 109th Congress encompassed some provisions in the Homeland Security Department's appropriations bill dealing with security improvements and Border Patrol staffing and a bill to construct 700 miles of fence along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Funding for the fence was not approved. And before members of Congress had even left town for Christmas, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a possible Democratic candidate for president in 2008, was urging the new Democrat-controlled Congress to reverse the bill as it works on more comprehensive immigration legislation.

Rallying for reform

In the spring, a broad coalition of churches, social service agencies, unions, business organizations and immigrant groups teamed up to organize some of the biggest rallies and marches seen in this country since the Vietnam War and the civil rights marches of the 1960s and 1970s.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MAUNG

Supporters of tighter immigration laws demonstrate in August outside the San Diego county administration building, where the U.S. House of Representatives committee on government reform was holding a public hearing on immigration issues.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas to protest the House bill. The crowds of native-born Americans and immigrants urged Congress to instead pass legislation that would provide a path to legalization for the estimated 10 million to 12 million people in the country illegally.

In addition to those big-city protests, thousands of people in dozens of small cities and towns took off from work and school to join in asking for changes in the legal immigration system to make family reunification a more viable option and for a guest worker program and legal protections for immigrant workers.

A Senate bill that included many of those provisions passed in May.

Action on immigration

But House and Senate leaders were never able to even bring the two bills to the negotiating table to see if there was a compromise version they could get out of their chambers.

Just days before Congress adjourned in advance of the November elections, the border fence bill was separated from the original House bill and pushed through both the House and Senate and signed into law.

The get-tough approach to the border apparently had little effect in keeping its most vocal supporters in office. Some of the most strident supporters of enforcement-only legislation were not elected or re-elected to Congress.

Exit polling indicated that many people who had participated in the rallies and marches in the spring turned out to vote in November, many for the first time.

Frustration with waiting for Congress to act led more than a dozen towns to pass ordinances intended to drive illegal immigrants away. Hazleton, Pa., was among the first, passing a law in June that makes it illegal to rent housing or give jobs to people who are not in the country legally.

Hazleton's ordinance remained under a temporary restraining order blocking its enforcement while the law's constitutionality was being challenged.

Through all this, the U.S. Catholic bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign continued to educate Catholics about the church's teachings related to migration.

As the year came to a close, the bishops turned their attention to the problems of minors who cross into the United States on their own and how they are treated by the federal government.

Join us in the March For Life
Washington, D.C.

January 21-22, 2007

Theme: "Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each innocent human in existence at fertilization. No exception! No compromise!"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 21 - 8 PM — Mass at Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Monday, January 22 - 10:30 AM — Mass for North Carolina pilgrims, Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
Celebrants: Bishops Jugis and Burbidge and priests of the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

CSS
Catholic Social Service
Diocese of Charlotte

Rally begins promptly at noon, on Monday, January 22.

If your parish or school has a group attending the March for Life, please call the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 704-370-3229 or e-mail mnadol@charlottediocese.org.

CFCC
Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Mary not just for Catholics anymore

Protestants, Muslims showing acceptance of Mary

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As publications from Time magazine to Christianity Today have discovered recently, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is not just for Catholics anymore.

Features on Mary are perennial favorites for editors looking for a religion-themed story before Christmas, and in the last few years many of these articles have focused on the increasing popularity of Mary among Protestants.

Marianist Father Thomas Thompson, editor of the Marian Library Newsletter at the University of Dayton in Ohio, points out that the expanding Protestant acceptance of Mary is based upon a strictly scriptural view of her, rather than on any change in Protestant theology.

Some Catholic doctrines about Mary, such as the Immaculate Conception — the belief that she was conceived without sin — remain controversial among Protestants, Father Thompson said.

But as anti-Catholicism has waned among Protestants, the barriers to Episcopalians, Baptists and evangelicals turning to Mary have faded as well.

"We're very happy to see others taking an interest in Mary," he said.

Timothy George, dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, a Baptist college in Birmingham, Ala., wrote recently that "it is time for evangelicals to recover a fully biblical appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in the history of salvation, and to do so precisely as evangelicals."

George's comments appeared in the December 2003 issue of Christianity Today and in a 2004 collection of essays by various theologians, "Mary: Mother of God."

"We may not be able to recite the rosary or kneel down before statues of Mary, but we need not throw her overboard," George wrote.

In the magazine, he quoted an early 20th-century Southern Baptist New Testament scholar, A.T. Robertson, who said Mary "has not had fair treatment either from Protestants or Catholics." Robertson argued that while Catholics have "deified" Mary, evangelicals have coldly neglected her.

"We have been afraid to praise and esteem Mary for her full worth," said George, citing Robertson, "lest we be accused of leanings and sympathy with Catholics."

George's article explained historical, scriptural and theological reasons why Protestants should embrace Mary.

"We need not go through Mary in order to get to Jesus," George concluded, "but we can join with Mary in pointing others to him."

Another recent book, "Blessed One," is a collection of 11 essays about Mary by Protestant scholars.

In their introduction, editors Beverly Gaventa and Cynthia Rigby, professors at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas, respectively, said their goal for the book was to help Protestants think in new ways about Mary, "blessing her and being blessed by her."

"She is a person of faith who does not always understand but who seeks to put her trust in God," they wrote.

For Muslims, on the other hand, Mary has always been a part of the picture.

John Williams, professor emeritus in the humanities of religion at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, is a Catholic historian who has studied Islamic civilization and religion. He and fellow professor James Bill published "Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims" in 2002.

It notes that two sections of the Quran, the sacred book of Islam, are devoted to Mary, known there as Maryam. She is recognized as the purified woman chosen to be the mother of the promised Messiah.

Islam considers Jesus an important prophet, but not the incarnation of God.

Williams explained that, like Catholics, Shiite Muslims believe in intercessory prayer through saints and other holy people. That includes Mary, who is highly revered as a mediatrix between humans and God, or Allah. Sufis, another Islamic sect, also believe in intercession.

In Sunni Islam, "the whole idea of intercession is disputed," Williams said, "just as it is among Calvinist Protestants."

Among the differences the leaders of the Protestant Reformation had with the Catholic Church was the growth during the Middle Ages of devotion to Mary.

Reformers argued that Jesus was the only mediator between God and mankind and that "exuberant Marian devotion seemed to them to threaten the clarity of the Gospel message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone," wrote Daniel Migliore, a theology professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, in "Blessed One."

Muslims who seek Mary's intercession, on the other hand, see her in much the same way Catholics do.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 15, 2006

Dec. 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:

1) Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
2) Hebrews 10:5-10
3) Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

The kingdom of God is coming

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I have a friend who burns with the desire to proclaim Jesus, come in the flesh, born of the Virgin, walking among us, teaching and sanctifying, crucified, died, buried and raised from the dead.

He's an imperfect guy like the rest of us, but he loves Jesus and wants everyone else to love him too.

But he gets frustrated. I think he sees the ideas and the scenes in today's readings and wants them to happen now.

He sees the Micah reading that points to the coming Messiah as one who "shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord" and whose "greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth," and he wants it to happen now.

He looks at Luke in which Elizabeth's baby, John the Baptist in the womb, leaps for joy in the presence of Jesus inside Mary, and he leaps himself, aware of his Lord's presence in our world.

His is a holy impatience. He wants the coming kingdom to be the present kingdom. He wants to have the moment happen now when all the kingdoms of the earth bow down to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

His is a model of holy impatience for the rest of us as we strain toward not only the birth of the Christ Child at this holy season, but toward the fulfillment of his kingdom: swords beat into plowshares; the lion lying down with the lamb; the poor and humble lifted up and the rich and haughty pulled down.

And I seem to hear a refrain that will carry us forward from the stable in Bethlehem all the way to the throne room of the Lamb: "O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

Questions:

Have you contemplated the coming kingdom of our Lord and how it proceeds from the small and humble beginning of the birth of a child? How can you personally hasten its coming?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I have come to do your will" (Hebrews 10:9b)

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 17-23
Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent), Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18; **Monday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-25; **Tuesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; **Wednesday (Late Advent Weekday)**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Peter Canisius)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Friday (Late Advent Weekday)**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8, Luke 1:46-56; **Saturday (St. John of Kanty)**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 24-30
Sunday (The Fourth Sunday of Advent), Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45; **Monday (The Nativity of the Lord)**, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (St. Stephen)**, Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59,, Matthew 10:17-22; **Wednesday (St. John)**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1-8; **Thursday (Holy Innocents)**, 1 John 1:5–2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Friday (St. Thomas Becker)**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Saturday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40.

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?
A Lifeline for Marriage
January 19 - 21 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "re-tro-vye"). Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.

Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaillenc@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: HelpOurMarriage.com

Regis Philbin's 'Jeopardy' win brings Bronx Catholic school $50,000

BY CLAUDIA McDONNELL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx has an extra $50,000 to put into its current capital campaign, thanks to the man who is probably its best-known alumnus — and thanks to his success on the television quiz program "Jeopardy," where information about him might appear like this:

Answer: He's a television star and talk-show host, but he's never forgotten his alma mater.

Question: Who is Regis Philbin?

Philbin was a guest on "Celebrity Jeopardy," in which famous contestants compete to win cash for their favorite charities.

Philbin chose Cardinal Hayes, which he has supported in many ways over the years. He also obtained 10 tickets for a group from Cardinal Hayes to attend the taping of the show that aired Nov. 8.

It was a nail-biter, too. Going into the "Final Jeopardy" round, the stage of the game in which the winner is determined, another player had more cash than Philbin.

But Philbin's correct answer, and the amount of his wager, put him in first place — by $1. He threw his arms in the air as Alex Trebek, the show's host, announced that Cardinal Hayes would receive $50,000.

"It really was a terrific victory," Philbin said. "I didn't think I was going to win."

In the audience were seven Cardinal Hayes students and three administrators, including Robert Budelman, director of development.

"The boys were ecstatic, and we were all cheering," Budelman said. "We walked out of there on cloud nine."

But not before Philbin invited the Cardinal Hayes group to join him on the stage. Also with the students were Father Joseph Tierney, school president, and Frank Mosco, director of technology.

"We were just looking to get a glimpse and thank him," Father Tierney said. "All of a sudden the producer said, 'He wants to see you onstage.'"

Philbin met each of the students and then got everyone together for a photo.

Father Tierney said, "It was a big hit for the kids. He congratulated them and told them he wanted to make sure they continue to do well in school, and get the most they can out of the Cardinal Hayes experience."

Philbin is a member of the Class of '49 and went on to graduate from the University of Notre Dame. He's been generous to both schools.

His gifts to Cardinal Hayes include $500,000 to renovate the auditorium in 2000; he also led the 1995 and 1999 capital campaigns that funded a $7 million endowment and the updating of school facilities. He is honorary chairman of the current capital campaign.

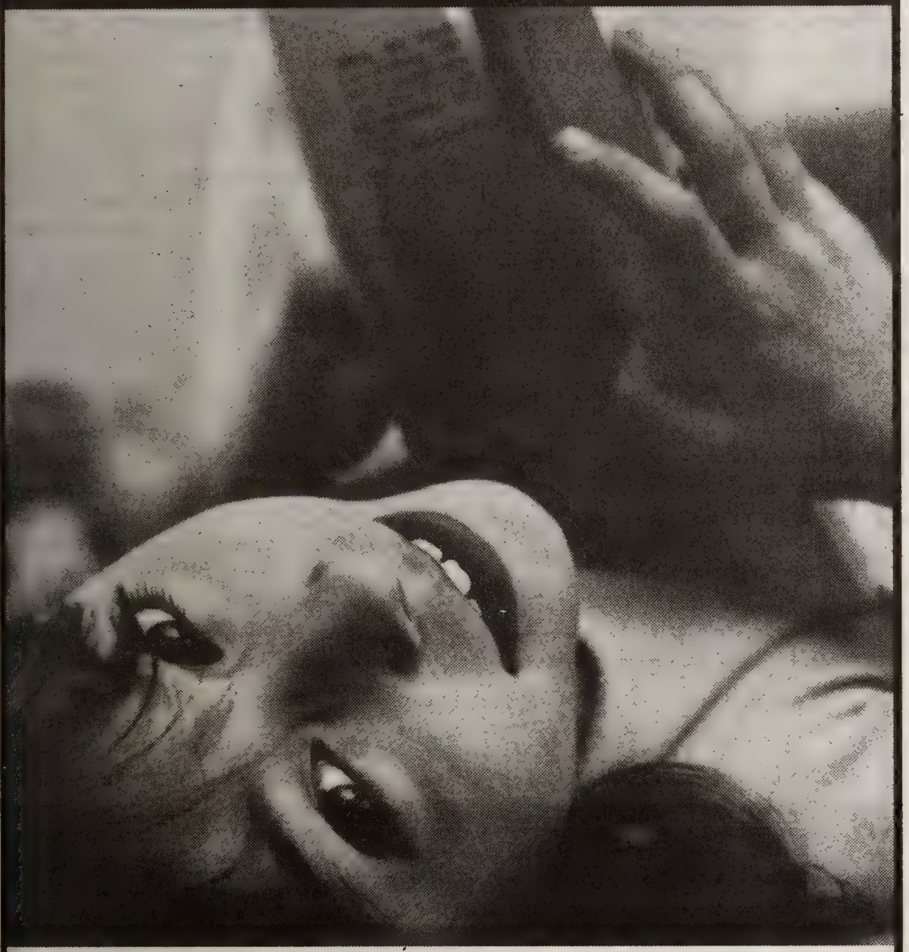
"He has a tremendous love and appreciation for Hayes," Budelman said. "He is grateful for the education he received here.

"Whenever Hayes calls upon him, he always responds. He's always willing to do whatever he can to help the school," he said.

Budelman recalled that before the taping Philbin sent a message to Father Tierney asking him to "say a little prayer" for him. Did that have anything to do with the outcome?

"I think it did," Philbin said. "How else could I have won that game?"

AT 71, REBECCA LOVES TO LEARN NEW THINGS.



[Same as when she was 9.] Yesterday, she tried tai chi. Last week, she had a bit of tofu. Today is Friday and Friday means chocolate cake! Healthy living with a touch of sugar is her goal. It's what keeps her young and what makes her happy here...

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

(336) 886-4103 or toll free (866) 627-9343

www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260 NP/GNR/yng3

This Christmas, Miracles Are Happening.
Charlotte's Web
PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND WALDEN MEDIA PRESENT A KERNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY/NICKELODEON MOVIES PRODUCTION "CHARLOTTE'S WEB" JULIA ROBERTS DAKOTA FANNING
STEVE BUSCEMI JOHN CLEESE OPRAH WINFREY CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER KATHY BATES REBA McENTIRE ROBERT REDFORD THOMAS HADEN CHURCH ANDRÉ BENJAMIN KEVIN ANDERSON
BEAU BRIDGES MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS EDGAR M BRONFMAN JULIA PISTOR BERNIE WILLIAMS PAUL NEESAN PRODUCED BY JORDAN KERNER BASED ON THE BOOK BY E.B. WHITE SCREENPLAY BY SUSANNAH GRANT AND KAREY KIRKPATRICK DIRECTED BY GARY WINICK
WALDEN MEDIA
G GENERAL AUDIENCES
CharlottesWebMovie.com
In Theatres Everywhere December 15

Bishops' approval rating highest since scandal

SURVEY, *from page 1*

> The poll showed a high level of support for the work of Pope Benedict XVI and for local pastors.

by LeMoyne College in Syracuse and Zogby International.

In the fall 2006 Contemporary Catholic Trends survey, 71 percent of Catholics said they strongly agreed (29 percent) or somewhat agreed (42 percent) that "the U.S. bishops are doing a good job leading the Catholic Church."

That percentage had been 83 percent in the fall of 2001; the U.S. clergy sexual abuse crisis erupted in Boston in January 2002.

Later that year the percentage dropped to 68 percent and was as low as 58 percent in 2004. In late 2005, 64 percent of Catholics said the bishops were doing a good job.

The latest survey results, made public Nov. 30, had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points. Zogby conducted telephone interviews of 1,505 self-identified Catholics chosen nationwide.

The poll also showed a high level of support for the work of Pope Benedict XVI and for local pastors.

More than 83 percent agreed — 45 percent strongly and 39 percent somewhat — that the pope was doing a good job leading the Catholic Church, while 88 percent agreed — 69 percent strongly and 19 percent somewhat — that the pastors of their parishes were doing a good job.

The recent Contemporary Catholic Trends survey also compared attitudes on various social issues of Catholics who attend Mass and those who do not, as well as all Catholics' views on friendship, trust, their financial situation, and charitable giving and volunteering.

In all, 20 percent of the 1,505 respondents said they had left the church at some time during their lives and 10 percent said they do not attend Mass in a typical month.

Although 64 percent of Mass-attending Catholics said they thought priests should be able to marry, 81 percent of nonattending Catholics thought so.

On artificial birth control, only 15 percent of Catholics who do not attend Mass were opposed to it while 36 percent of those who do attend at least occasionally were opposed.

The highest percentage of those opposed to it — 43 percent — were Catholics who attend church weekly or more often.

Overall, 50 percent of Catholics believe all abortions should be illegal; 49 percent disagreed and 1 percent said they were undecided. Of Catholics who attend Mass at least weekly, 60 percent said all abortions should be illegal.

Only 30 percent of those who never attend Mass agreed with the statement.

Fewer than half (48 percent) of Catholics said the death penalty should be illegal, although the percentage rose to 53 percent among those who attend Mass weekly or more often.

In other results, the Contemporary Catholic Trends survey found that:

— Sixty-five percent of Catholics are satisfied or very satisfied with their financial situation.

— More than half (51 percent) agreed that "most people can be trusted," while 44 percent said that "you can't be too careful" in dealing with people.

Among the general population in 2004, only 36 percent of Americans said most people can be trusted.

— Catholics also have more "close friends" than those in the general population. Although 25 percent of Americans said in 2004 that they had no one to confide in, only 4 percent of Catholics said they had no one they considered a close friend and 1 percent reported only one such friend.

Over a quarter of Catholics (27 percent) said they had 10 or more close friends.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving The Entire Charlotte Diocese Area
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Accounting Manager

St. Matthew Catholic Church — Southeast Charlotte

Responsible for preparation and oversight of all parish accounting functions. Requirements include: bachelor's degree in accounting or related field, strong organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills, strong business acumen and the ability to communicate in a clear and concise manner.

Send resume to:
Deacon Jim Hamrlik, St Matthew Catholic Church, PO Box 49349, Charlotte, NC 28277.

ORGANIST

St. Michael Catholic Church in Gastonia is in need of an organist for the 10:00a.m. Mass on Sundays. Responsibilities include playing for rehearsal at 8:45 am on Sunday with the adult choir and then Mass at 10:00a.m.

Please contact Chrissy Glisson at 704-867-6212.

Trinity Road is Hiring!

Trinity Road - the largest and fastest growing distributor of Catholic Christian books and gifts - offers a great work environment, business casual office, competitive pay, and benefits. Our office is located in South Charlotte, convenient to I-77 and I-485.

Inside Sales Representative

We are seeking an Inside Sales Representative to sell wholesale products to over 1,500 Catholic bookstores nationwide. The successful candidate excels in the following:
* Solid Understanding of the Catholic Faith
* Cold Calling and Customer Communication
* Sales Reporting and Organization

You will be responsible for researching and generating sales leads from trade association member lists and industry directories. The Inside Sales Representative will "cold-call" daily to a list of association members. The position also entails sending marketing materials to association members and follow-up communication with both prospects and customers. You will also respond to inbound calls from customers and process all sales orders. Each week you will be responsible for generating sales reports and marketing reports for management review. You must be able to attend trade association shows twice a year in various parts of the United States. To be considered for this position you must be highly organized and able to multi-task, working on several sales initiatives simultaneously. You must be proficient with Microsoft Office products – particularly Word and Excel. You MUST be able to work with spreadsheets and sales database applications. You must be able to operate in a fast paced, highly dynamic environment. You must be an outstanding communicator with strong telephone etiquette. This position offers a competitive base pay plus commissions. We will consider both full-time and part-time (minimum of 25 hours per week) applicants. A college degree is preferred. Prior sales experience is a plus. If interested, please send your resume, cover letter and three personal references to kristen@trinityroad.com.

TRinity Road™

Administrative Assistant

Responsible, articulate, detail-oriented person needed to handle day-to-day management of a financial planning office. Responsibilities include: client service, activity follow-up, filing, scheduling appointments and maintaining contact management database. College education and experience with Microsoft Office programs preferred. Flexible scheduling from 24 – 40 hours per week during regular office hours. Close to Charlotte Catholic High. Fax resume including education and work history to 704-540-7763.

Bishop McGuinness students win at Model U.N.

KERNERSVILLE — Students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville took home awards from a recent Model United Nations competition.

Thirty-six members of Bishop McGuinnness' Model U.N. team, moderated by faculty advisor David Seidel, participated in the competition at Duke University in Durham Nov. 9-12.

Simulating a United Nations assembly, students researched positions on the country they represented and worked with other "countries" to pass resolutions on the issues presented.

Bishop McGuinness' Model U.N. club, now in its third year, has won numerous awards at competitions at Duke University, Appalachian State University in Boone and at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Recent award winners at Duke University included Brendan Cain, Mike O'Shea, Heather Hofmann and John Valitutto, representing Austria; Neil Goodman, Mark Sowinski, Lohr Beck and P.J. Dascoli, representing the United Kingdom; and Matt Sutter, Evin Torney, Jake LaRoe, Terri Walsh, Justin Balser and Craig Meadors, representing Iran.

"This is a team that we all can be proud of, and one that will continue to meet all of the challenges placed before it," said Seidel.

Courtesy Photo

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School's Model U.N. team and faculty advisor David Seidel (lower right) are pictured at the Model U.N. competition held at Duke University in Durham Nov. 9-12.

Christmas in a shoebox

Teens help bring holiday spirit to children in Zambia

DENVER — Teens in the Diocese of Charlotte are doing their part to spread Christmas cheer around the world.

Twenty-four teenagers and six adults from the youth ministry program at Holy Spirit Church in Denver traveled to Charlotte to assist with Operation Christmas Child Nov. 29.

Operation Christmas Child is a gift-giving project of the Christian relief and evangelism organization called Samaritan's Purse.

It's a project with simple means to a simple goal: Give a shoebox full of gifts and Christian literature to children in poverty-stricken countries so they can know Jesus and feel his love on Christmas.

The organization, based in Boone, ships millions of shoeboxes worldwide to more than 70 countries each year.

The group from Holy Spirit Church joined groups from seven states and helped pack items including dolls, toys, art supplies, personal hygiene items and Bible stories for children in Zambia. The boxes will be among the estimated 1.7 million boxes to be shipped from the Samaritan's Purse Charlotte warehouse.

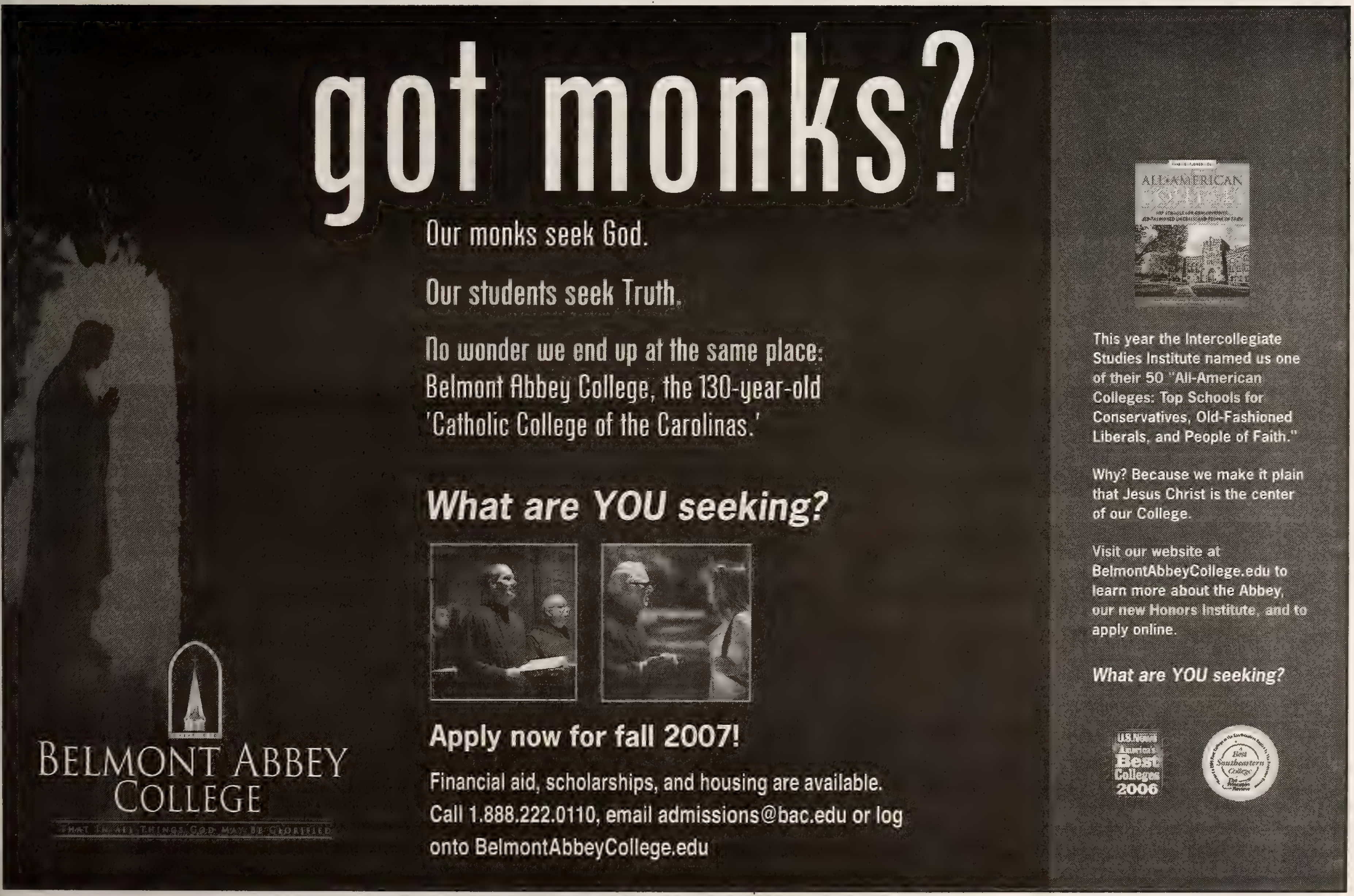
"For four hours they stood and sorted, taped, packed, and best of all we felt the love of God and the love from others all over the country," said Kate D'Amato, director of faith formation at Holy Spirit Church.

"What an awesome experience to be involved in such a worldwide charitable project," she said. "It was a heart-warming opportunity."

D'Amato said the youth group plans to make volunteering with Operation Christmas Child an annual event.

Courtesy Photo

Youth ministry members from Holy Spirit Church in Denver are pictured during their volunteer work with Operation Christmas Child in Charlotte Nov. 29.



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

A Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Baptismal names

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. I'm curious about baptism names today. In the past several years, Catholic parents I know, including some of our family, give names to their children that are certainly not names of saints.

Sometimes they're made up from the names of relatives, friends or even movie stars. Is there any Catholic regulation now about baptism names for children? (Florida)

A. Before answering your question directly, it is worth noting that the centuries-old tradition of naming children after one of the saints is still good and admirable.

Among other things, it is one way of reminding them that they are part of a long Christian line and puts them at an early age in touch with the heroes of our faith. It gives them someone who has lived a holy and exemplary life as their "patron saint."

Perhaps that is even more valuable today than in the past.

If you're asking about specific Catholic law on the subject, under the former Code of Canon Law Catholic parents were restricted to Christian names — saints or virtues such as Faith, Prudence, Hope and so on. Pastors were responsible for assuring that was done.

Over time those restrictions were loosened, particularly in areas of the world where cultural customs tended to dictate the names of children. The recently revived Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults allowed a wider choice for baptism names, "provided that such a name is not incompatible with Christian beliefs" (No. 73).

The rule today is: "Parents, sponsors and the pastor are to take care that a name foreign to Christian sensibilities is not given" (Canon 855).

This obviously allows greater flexibility than in the past. Its application will vary from culture to culture.

Validity of baptisms

Q. My daughter, who lives in Ireland, is a nonpracticing Catholic. When she did not have her three children baptized, I baptized them myself. These children are now in their 20s. Are those baptisms valid?

Also, my grandson was sponsor for the baptism of a child of his cousin, who is not married to the mother of the baby. How could this baptism be allowed? (New York)

A. For various reasons, apart from mortal physical danger it is not proper for someone, including relatives like yourself, to baptize children without their parents' knowledge or approval.

If the baptism became known, as it easily might, it could raise serious complications in later life concerning, for example, validity of their marriages.

However, if you used water and the proper form — "(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" — those baptisms were valid.

If you are wondering about the propriety of baptizing the child of an unmarried mother or couple, that is not unusual.

If, in the judgment of the pastor, the parent fulfills the ordinary conditions for baptism, promising to give the best example possible in the circumstances of a good Catholic life and to raise the child as a Catholic with training in prayer and the sacraments, the child may be baptized.

Of course, the priest or other pastoral minister who is preparing the parents for the baptism will also do what is possible to lead them to a fuller Catholic life, especially helping them return to regular reception of the sacraments if that is not already part of their life.

A free brochure in English or Spanish answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Christmas' true meaning

Sharing with others inspires good holiday tradition

Guest Column

KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
GUEST COLUMNIST

December traditions. I hang treasured ornaments, follow my mother's recipes, listen to holiday songs fill the air around me. Another season of remembering, loving and giving is upon us.

A part of Christmas is, of course, the gifts. Some gifts become family lore, the story behind them worth more than the gifts themselves. A few come in small packages holding great treasures, others are long forgotten; some end up in a closet still in the box with the thought, "What were they thinking?"

But there are gifts we never put away; they cannot be broken and they cannot be taken from us. They are gifts of our foundation — shared laughter, kind words, encouraging smiles, a moment spent in reverie.

Long after things are gone or forgotten, the memories of the love we shared with our families and friends still linger in our minds and hearts.

When I was 7 years old, the only child of devoted parents, they gave me exactly what I asked for that year — a Christmas with more than just the three of us around the table. I had visualized a Norman Rockwell version of the holidays, where everyone celebrated with a table surrounded by people.

And that year, my parents invited a needy family — a father, mother and daughter — to join us for the day. Getting what I wanted led to a lesson in giving I would never forget, but it was a lesson that took me years to fully appreciate.

The little girl, also 7, walked into our house and immediately ran to hug our Christmas tree, sending ornaments crashing to the floor.

She swept my dolls from their chairs, tossed games in all directions, dismantled my neat piles of toys and continued to wreak havoc to my Norman Rockwell moment. In a few minutes, I suspected this had been a terrible idea and expected my father to promptly return them to wherever they came from.

Instead, when the meal was over, my father began to gather up many of our things — his only suit and good pair of shoes, our coats and several other outfits we put into grocery bags.

Before my father drove the family home, my parents took me aside and asked, "Kathy, which doll do you want to give away?"

"I don't want to give away any doll," I pouted. Petulance does not end at 7, but it seeks perfection at that age.

After a moment of persuasion, I gave away the new doll Santa had brought me to a stranger, who I would see for the first and last time on that day.

When my father left with the family, taking my coat and doll and our leftovers with them, I cried to my mother, "How could you?"

"We have so much and you wanted to share our Christmas. You should feel good," she said.

When my father returned, he saw my frustration and tried to explain that this was what Christmas was really about — giving to others.

"I gave the man my suit and shoes because I have a good job, but he needs to find work and it will be easier to get hired if he looks nice," he explained.

"I gave them the coats because they were cold and we have others to wear. That little girl didn't get a Christmas toy until you shared yours. You should feel good that we could help someone else."

At the time, I did not feel benevolent or generous; I felt cheated and frustrated.

My father held me in his lap and repeated one of the life principles he and my mother lived by: "You will never give anything away that isn't given back to you in many ways."

That night my father left to work the 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shift at the freight company, where he loaded trucks. He returned the next morning with good news — the lottery numbers he played hit and he had won $500, a fortune for my family.

The day after Christmas we drove downtown to replace everything we had given away only one day before. My parents bought me another doll. While I don't remember her name, I do remember parents who gave without reservation or expectation of getting anything in return.

Every Christmas since, I remember a family we never saw or heard from again, a family that helped teach me the real meaning of Christmas by allowing me to share, reluctantly at the time, but in a way that has touched my heart forever — more perfect than even a Rockwell Christmas.

Letters to the Editor

Church, not politics, should save souls

Two items in the Dec. 1 issue were troubling. First was the local bishops' letter to members of Congress, requesting compassionate acceptance of all illegal immigrants. Although fair arguments can be made in favor of proper integration of illegal immigrants into our country, the letter ignores the respect Catholics are expected to show toward the just, though imperfect, laws of our land.

The catechism states that all countries should employ reasonable means to welcome immigrants, but it also states that immigrants should respect the laws of the countries they enter. Nowhere in the letter do our bishops mention the requirement that immigrants obey the laws of the country of destination, including those laws defining and restricting legal entry.

Second, Jesuit Father William J. Byron's column ("Ideology over economics") argues the virtues of a national health care system, using Canada as the model of perfection.

Too many of our pastoral leaders have a disproportionate obsession with social issues that are matters of prudential judgment about which reasonable Catholics may disagree, while harboring little interest in teaching the doctrines of the faith about which there can be no disagreement.

Instead of focusing on saving souls, many clergy think their mission is to challenge the state to solve humanity's problems. The "state" solution is antithetical to our catechism, for it conflates the City of God with the City of Man by fostering the notion that we can achieve heaven on earth.

What would happen if our country eliminated all the barriers to the massive number of illegal immigrants while enacting a national health care entitlement for all?

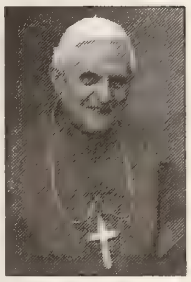
— Joseph Lindsley Sr., Charlotte
— Joseph Lindsley Jr., Washington

Sts. Timothy and Titus teach vital lessons

Pope urges collaboration in fulfillment of church's mission

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY — Preaching the Gospel and keeping the Christian community united requires the collaboration of all the church's members, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Dec. 13 weekly general audience, Pope Benedict focused on Timothy and Titus, "two close associates of St. Paul in his missionary journeys" to the earliest Christian communities.

In St. Paul's New Testament letters to Timothy and to Titus, the pope said, it is clear that although he was a tireless, authoritative preacher and founder of many Christian communities, "Paul relied on collaborators in fulfilling his mission."

"It is clear that he did not do everything himself, but counted on the support of trusted persons who shared his trials and his responsibilities," the pope said.

"They teach us to serve the Gospel with generosity, thus contributing to building up Christ's church," he said.

The pope ended his main audience talk quoting St. Paul's Letter to Titus, insisting that believers should "devote themselves to good works; these are excellent and beneficial to others."

Pope Benedict told his visitors, "Through our concrete commitments, we must and we can discover the truth of these words."

Especially during the season of Advent, he said, acts of love and charity will help "open the doors of the world to Christ, our savior."

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Dec. 13.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the church's apostolic ministry, we now consider Sts. Timothy and Titus, two close associates of St. Paul in his missionary journeys.

Timothy, born of a Jewish mother and a pagan father, is frequently mentioned in the apostle's letters.

Titus, a convert from paganism, was brought by Paul to the Council of Jerusalem, which sanctioned the preaching of the Gospel to the pagans while not imposing upon them the precepts of the Mosaic law.

Both were sent by Paul on important missions to the young churches, often as his representatives in difficult situations. As we see from the New Testament epistles addressed to Timothy and Titus, Paul clearly counted on the help of these two collaborators in his ministry.

Timothy and Titus were likewise prompt in accepting the responsibilities entrusted to them by the apostle. May the example of these apostolic men inspire us to serve the cause of the Gospel with generosity and thus contribute to the building up of Christ's church.

The Christmas dilemma

Balance needed between commercial, holy aspects

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

Watching the film "The Nativity Story" made me ask myself about the celebration of Christmas that has arisen from the humble birth of Jesus — which Christmas do I celebrate? The birth of Christ, or the super-sized holiday indulgence that is as familiar as an inflatable manger?

"The Nativity Story" depicts the hardscrabble life into which our Savior was born. Jesus did not choose a pleasant place to start his earthly ministry. Being God, he could have been born anywhere. His birth could have been a reality TV event, broadcast worldwide with a 5,000-voice choir announcing that the King of Kings has arrived.

But I digress. The first Christmas was not celebrated with video games, Santa or sugar cookies. Staying alive in that time meant backbreaking labor.

And once the people of Nazareth obtained some food and comfort, much of it was taken from them by force in the form of taxes by Roman rulers.

Despite this harsh world, the Nativity remains the most joyful story in Scripture. Over the millennia, it has evolved into two distinct phenomena.

The newest version of this ancient event is the "Holiday Season," a commercial undertaking that begins even before the Halloween costumes are put away. It is fueled by the media hype engine and measured in the gross receipt of weekly sales.

The "Holidays" are a jumping-off point for stuffing ourselves with toys and food and parties. It's all great fun. But what does this have to do with the birth of Jesus?

"The Nativity Story" seems to ask that question as we watch humble people cope with oppression, misunderstanding and the challenges of scratching a living from the earth. And to this band of poor Jews comes the greatest gift of God, "A Savior ... he is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

The other, older, expression of the Nativity is a little more subtle. We see it in the spirit of giving that is so evident this time of year. I like to think that gift giving is our meager attempt to imitate God's extraordinary gift of his Son.

Of course purchasing a toy for a child or putting a few coins in a kettle doesn't come close to matching his gift in the manger. But it is the best we can do.

I try to celebrate both Christmases. Giving and receiving is the great Yin and Yang of our existence. In order to be whole, we need both.

Without giving we become miserly like Ebenezer Scrooge, measuring our existence as we count what we possess. At the same time, if our pride makes us unwilling to receive gifts from others, we are "Bah, humbugging" our way through life.

The lesson for Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" was that it is better to give than to receive, but what about Bob Cratchit? He received a prize turkey, and Tiny Tim lived thanks to Scrooge's ultimate generosity

Giving and receiving is like a wreath of holly, interlocked with another wreath and another in an endless chain of joy. The gift of the infant Jesus is there to be received by each new generation, completing a fundamental transaction with the divine.

I suppose that a lot of complaining about the holiday season's excesses stems from an observed imbalance between the two great forces of giving and receiving. Perhaps the holiday is found when we strike a balance between graciously accepting God's gifts while generously giving of ourselves.

Merry Christmas.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column can be found on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

Love so amazing, so divine

From the Bishop

BISHOP
PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

Christmas is a time of Christ's love, mercy for all

God's blessings are around us everywhere as we celebrate the birth of the Infant Savior of Bethlehem!

At Christmas, God the Father reveals his extraordinary love to us. Jesus is the Love of God who has personally entered into human history. Our experience of the sorrow and suffering of this world makes us long for God's love, and Jesus is that Love who heals all brokenness and sin.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has noted that those who encounter the love of Jesus are left surprised and amazed by this encounter, because Jesus' love is unlike anything that we have ever before experienced — a love that is self-emptying, self-giving, and not caught up in concern for one's own welfare.

Not only are we left surprised and amazed by the experience of his love, but we are also left with a desire to imitate his love.

Those who encounter Jesus discover a love that touches the deepest longing of the human heart. It is a love which the heart has always desired to know and imitate, because it is the only thing which brings fulfillment to the human heart.

Striving to imitate Jesus' self-giving love leads inevitably to a discovery of our true self, just as Jesus promised, "Whoever loses his life will save it." (Lk 17:33)

"Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." These are words that we sing during Lent, but they are appropriate also at Christmas.

The Love that is so amazing and so divine, which is revealed to us at Christmas in the Infant Savior, draws out from us a response of love which engages our whole being — our soul, our life and our all.

Christ's grace makes this kind of self-giving love possible for us. When we ask for his grace to live out his love, He will give it to us.

At Christmas, let us allow God to move us once again to greater love in imitation of Christ's love — a love that does not count the cost, a love which goes to the limit of forgiveness, patience and kindness.

In my Christmas Masses I will ask the Lord to send the blessings of his love and mercy to you and to your loved ones. May God grant you a Merry Christmas!

‘We’re in a position to help steer how some of these practices evolve.’

Diocesan CFO leads national Accounting Practices Committee

Weldon will set arrange meeting, agendas for USCCB committee

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, has been appointed as chairperson of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Accounting Practices Committee (APC), effective Nov. 1.

In a letter dated Sept. 21, Weldon was invited to be chairperson by Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the USCCB.

“I have every confidence that your contributions of skill and dedication to that committee will prove invaluable,” wrote Msgr. Malloy in his letter.

The Finance and Accounting Services Office of the USCCB assists the bishops, individually and collectively, in fulfilling their roles as shepherds in the church and in administering the church’s resources. The office’s duties include planning, developing and reporting on the fiscal affairs and procedures of the USCCB.

The APC was established in 1976 by U.S. church institutions and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants to develop agreed-upon guidelines and standards for the accounting practices of church entities.

The 12-member APC has been an active advocate of the accounting and financial reporting interests of the Catholic Church since its inception. The mission of the APC is to represent the Catholic Church before regulatory bodies in the formation of accounting and reporting standards that would affect the Catholic Church.

“We are proud of the service that Mr. Weldon gives to our diocese as our chief financial officer,” said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

“His appointment to chair this USCCB committee is an added responsibility, but he can certainly handle it,” said the bishop.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, discusses financial matters with Stella Nell, controller, at the Pastoral Center Dec. 11. Weldon was recently appointed chairperson of the Accounting Practices Committee, which operates under the auspices of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

As chairperson, Weldon’s responsibilities include arranging meetings of the APC and setting meeting agendas.

“Our (the committee’s) duty is to represent the United States Catholic Church in the areas of financial reporting and accounting standards,” said Weldon.

In practical terms, the committee provides input to the two primary bodies of the financial bodies: the Financial Accounting Standards Board and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Weldon said.

Having a diocesan employee on the APC gives the Diocese of Charlotte the advantage of being on the forefront of financial reporting and standards and being in a position to provide input in those areas, Weldon said.

“We’re in the position to help steer how some of these practices evolve,” Weldon said.

Weldon’s term as chairperson will last three years, with a possible second term.

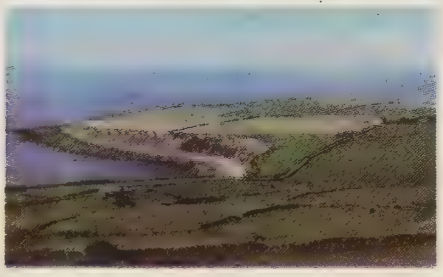
“Through his years of service, Bill has demonstrated his love for the church,” said Bishop Jugis. “We are grateful for the sound advice and direction he provides regarding the stewardship of patrimony of our diocese.”

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Give the gift of lifetime memories

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people



May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, O’Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES
Keep Christ in Christmas!
* Special 3-day sale: Thursday, Friday & Saturday *

Give a Catholic gift to help friends and family remember the true “reason for the season”! Our stores are brimming over with unique gift ideas — beautiful artwork, fabulous gift books, jewelry and spiritual gifts for everyone on your gift list — all at affordable prices.

Why Catholic? Special for December — Paperback Cathechism — now only $8

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

$5 off
off all purchases of $35 or more.
Present coupon. Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/23/06.

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

DECEMBER 22, 2006

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 11

Celebrating Christmas

Parishes, schools share holiday spirit

| PAGES 8-9

Transforming the world

Christmas is reminder of greatest gift given, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

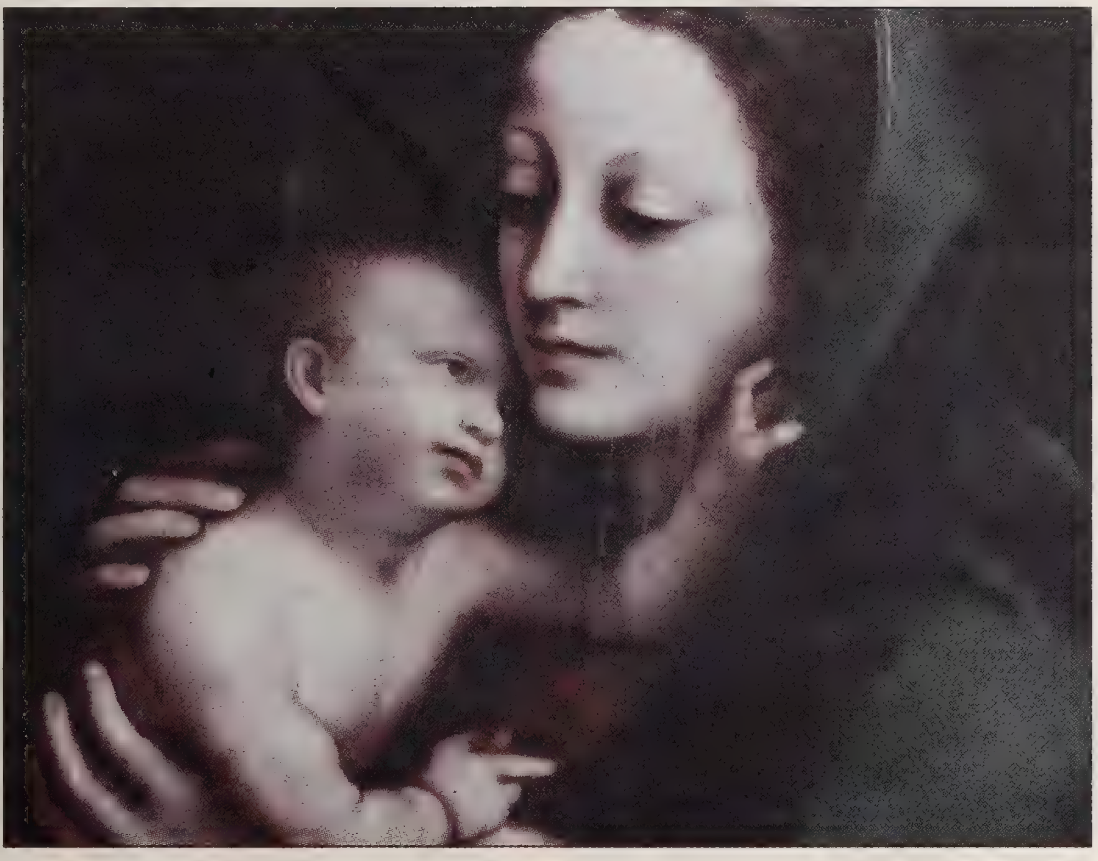
VATICAN CITY — Making, buying and giving gifts at Christmas should be a reminder of Christ, the greatest gift ever given to humanity, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting Dec. 14 with Rome university students after they attended an evening Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said it is right to consider Christmas "the feast of gifts."

"Christmas gifts remind us of the gift par excellence, that which the son of God made of himself in the Incarnation," the pope told the students from state and private universities in Rome.

Exchanging gifts at Christmas time has real meaning only if it is a symbol

See GIFT, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY ERICH LESSING, ART RESOURCE

Mary and the Christ Child appear in this fragment from a larger 16th-century piece by Bernardino Luini. The Dec. 25 Christmas feast commemorates the incarnation of the divine word at the birth of Christ.

Answering the call

Two women from diocese choose lives as Dominican sisters

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Two women with ties to the Diocese of Charlotte have answered the call to serve the Catholic church as Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne. And both can thank Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, for his encouragement and spiritual direction.

"God has blessed us with vocations," said Father Kauth, who said he encourages

See WOMEN, page 4

Do the children go or stay behind?

Deportation orders split families

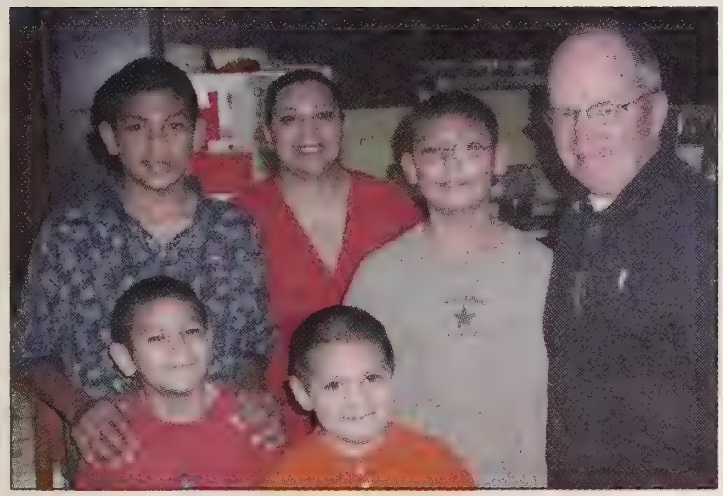
BY DAVID MYERS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LIBERAL, Kan. — Thirteen-year-old Jonatan Delgado, a native of Los Angeles, might soon find himself learning Spanish to survive in a country he has never even visited.

From his mother's mobile home in the western Kansas community of Liberal, a few miles from the Oklahoma border, Jonatan explained that next year he wants to play soccer, if he can maintain his high grades and balance it with his job in the school library and his activities at St. Anthony Church.

His mother, Veronica Delgado, wiped away tears as

See FAMILIES, page 6



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MYERS, SOUTHWEST KANSAS REGISTER

Redemptorist Father Mike McAndrew (right) has been trying to help the Delgado family. The children's parents, victims of unscrupulous immigration attorneys, may be forced to move back to Mexico and leave behind their U.S.-born boys.

Through the generations

Immaculata School celebrates 80 years

HENDERSONVILLE — At precisely 2:20 p.m., a small hand bell signaled the end of the school day. The 10 students left the three classrooms and bid good afternoon in French to their teacher.

That was 1926, the year Immaculata School in Hendersonville first opened its doors.

In 2006, Immaculata School celebrated its 80th year with a number of events and accomplishments, beginning

See SCHOOL, page 13

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Culture Watch

Sisters and their press; video game study

| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives

Making families holy; New Year's resolutions

| PAGES 14-15

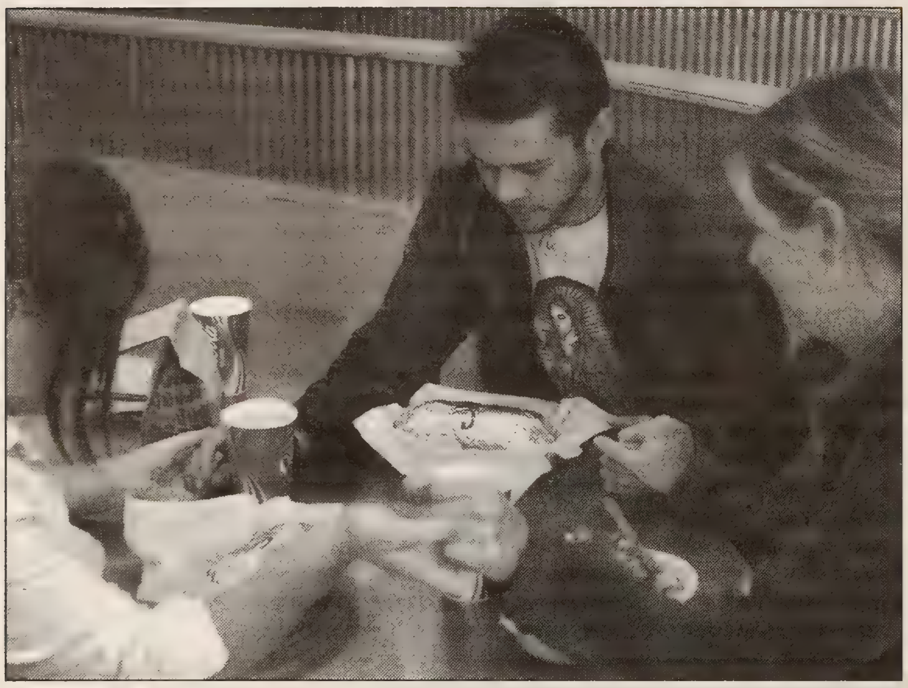
ATTENTION READERS

THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE PRINTED FRIDAY, DEC. 29. OUR NEXT ISSUE IS JAN. 5. THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD WISHES YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAITH OVER FOOD



CNS photo by Larry Burgess, University of Dayton

Joe Melendrez prays during a faith-based lunch discussion at a restaurant in Ohio. His table guests are (from left) fellow college students Danielle Desmond and Courtney Montgomery. Melendrez is using his winnings in a local Chipotle restaurant contest — three burritos a day for a year plus four 20-burrito parties — to spread his school's Catholic mission of leading through service.

Burritos for the soul: Student turns contest winnings into ministry

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Some college students barely know how they'll feed themselves let alone 800 others during the year.

University of Dayton student Joe Melendrez is using meals he won in a local Chipotle contest to spread his school's Catholic mission of leading through service.

Melendrez recently won three burritos a day for a year plus four 20-burrito parties.

The aspiring Christian rapper unveiled his ode to the Chipotle restaurant and then issued an open dinner invitation to talk about faith, life, service work, solidarity with the poor and equality, all of which are backbones of the Marianist-run university's mission.

"I have a responsibility to share this," said Melendrez, who held one of the burrito parties for homeless in the area.

"You live the Marianist mission by focusing your efforts on the well-being of others and working to fix problems in the community," he said.

Danielle Desmond met with Melendrez, co-director of Marianist involvement for the University of Dayton's student government association, because she "wanted a free burrito and to meet someone new."

"But, more importantly, I learned about the reasons he wanted to win (the contest), which I think are beautiful," she added.

"He is very devoted. He is going beyond what most people would do with the burritos. He is sharing it with the rest of us, just as Jesus taught us to do," she said.

Desmond said she has learned to find common bonds with people.

"Joe is helping the UD community by bringing different students together that would have probably never met and taken the time to know," she said.

"I have always considered myself a religious person. But, I never considered sitting down at Chipotle, praying before I ate my burrito and talking about faith in a restaurant," she added.

Melendrez, who has shared a meal with at least 80 people already, was booked through late 2006.

"I've met with people from all faiths — Christian, Jewish, agnostic," he said. "This has been rewarding, as I'm able to learn and better understand their personal stories and beliefs."

Melendrez makes announcements in classes, at church and during speaking engagements at local high schools. Some people are acquaintances. Some reach him by e-mail or through Facebook.com, a social networking site on the Web. He's even met with faculty members.

"His generosity and enthusiasm for sharing his faith are great," said Marianist Father Chris Wittmann, the university's director of campus ministry. "His initiative and creativity are very commendable."

When the year of the burrito ends, Melendrez will continue working on his music. He said he's looking forward to traveling to Catholic high schools nationwide after he graduates.

Cuban cardinal meets with U.S. legislators, calls visit 'interesting'

HAVANA (CNS) — Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino called a mid-December visit to his nation by 10 U.S. legislators "very interesting."

"It seems to me that they have a favorable attitude, and at this time of year, when Christmas is near and we are so in need of peace and dialogue among human beings, I consider this mission interesting, very interesting," said Cardinal Ortega, archbishop of Havana.

The cardinal met Dec. 16 with the U.S. congressional delegation of six Democrats and four Republicans.

"It was very pleasant. The legislators were pleased with our conversation, and I was pleased with them," he told Catholic News Service Dec. 17.

"They want an improvement in the U.S. government's relations with Cuba, and they have addressed various issues with Cuban officials," he said.

Asked about current prospects for bilateral relations between Cuba and the United States, the prelate replied that "everything depends on attitudes there in the United States."

At a Dec. 17 press conference at the end of their three-day visit to Havana, the legislators said that dialogue between the United States and Cuba has begun, although Cuban officials have not acknowledged that "a new era" has begun.

The visit came in the wake of conciliatory comments made Dec. 2 by Raul Castro, ailing President Fidel Castro's brother who is acting as president. Raul Castro said the two countries should settle their differences at a negotiating table.

The U.S. lawmakers did not meet with Raul Castro, although they had requested an appointment.

The two countries broke off diplomatic relations in 1961, two years after the Cuban revolution. The only official relationship is through the interest sections that were established in Washington and Havana in 1977.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to become reacquainted with the basics of their religion and to get answers to any questions that they may have. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The *Notre Dame Folk Choir* will perform a free concert at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Elizabeth Davis at (262) 227-0376 or e-mail emdavis@charlottecatholic.com.

CHARLOTTE — Join area Catholics in the *March for Life* and pray for an end to abortion Jan. 12. Participants will gather in the parking lot across from the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., at 11 a.m. and then march to Trade and Tryon Streets and to the courthouse. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361,

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope John Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on Sex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Babysitting will be provided. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* will host an inquiry formation session Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235 or Kathleen Zuckerman at (704) 455-7954.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat*, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for Jan. 5 will be "Schools of Prayer." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a *Faith Formation Series* on the place for the biblical ethic and lifestyle in our 21st-century consumer society, Jan. 2, 9 and 16, 7:30-9 p.m. No fees or pre-registration needed. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Jan. 11, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will have an *Open House* Jan. 31, for anyone who have questions about the Catholic faith or to any "former" Catholics. The program will include a brief presentation on our Catholic inquiry classes, inactive Catholic program and continuing adult faith formation education. A tour of the church and refreshments will follow, for more information, please call Larry Kwan @336-688-1220.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

DECEMBER 22, 2006
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 11

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Reproductive health wording keeps Vatican from signing U.N. document

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican said it could not sign the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities because of language it contains on reproductive health.

The Vatican "understands access to reproductive health as being a holistic concept that does not consider abortion or access to abortion as a dimension of those terms," said Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's nuncio to the United Nations.

But, he added, "in some countries reproductive health services include abortion, thus denying the inherent right to life of every human being," which the document affirms.

"It is surely tragic that, wherever fetal defect is a precondition for offering or employing abortion, the same convention created to protect persons with disabilities from all discrimination in the exercise of their rights may be used to deny the very basic right to life of disabled unborn persons," the archbishop said.

"For this reason, and despite the many helpful articles this convention contains, the Holy See is unable to sign it," he said.

The convention was adopted by U.N. members Dec. 13 by consensus. It aims to, among other things, guarantee rights for the world's 650 million physically and mentally handicapped people and end discrimination against them in education, jobs and daily life.

Despite the Vatican's problems with the document, "protecting the rights, dignity and worth of persons with disabilities remains a major concern for the Holy See," Archbishop Migliore said.

"While there are many helpful articles in the convention, including those that address education and the very important role of the home and the family, surely the living heart of this document lies in its reaffirmation of the right to life," Archbishop Migliore said.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church 4145 Johnson St. will offer a *free Spanish course* on Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 18. For more information or to register call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Larry Kwan at hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and School, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The group will be facilitated by parishioner and life coach Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the group is to create a time and a space for women to better connect with their inner wisdom and move forward on their journey in life. For more information or to register call Lucy (336) 632-1940 or e-mail coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

FRANKLIN — *The Respect for Life group* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Loretta Bedner will speak about "The Gift of Human Sexuality" Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Dec. 25 — 12 a.m.
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas Morning Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Dec. 31 — 3 p.m.
Mass of religious profession
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Jan. 3 — 7 p.m.
Seminarian dinner
Charlotte

Jan. 4 — 6 p.m.
Priests' Christmas gathering
Bishop's residence

Pope stresses solidarity with poor in talks to diplomats

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Addressing ambassadors from wealthy and developing nations, Pope Benedict XVI emphasized international solidarity with the poor and the "moral character" of all economic activity.

The pope also spoke about the AIDS crisis in Africa, pledging the church's continuing support for those affected by the disease and endorsing a prevention policy based on sexual responsibility.

The pope spoke separately Dec. 14 to ambassadors from six countries, as he accepted their credentials. In a group talk, he said that economic and social injustices around the globe cannot help but provoke disorders and "an escalation of violence."

In a speech to Lesotho's new ambassador to the Vatican, the pope noted that the southern African country was facing the challenges of poverty and food shortages.

"Economic activity has a moral character, and to the degree that every person is responsible for everyone else, the wealthier nations have a duty in solidarity and justice to promote the development of all," the pope said.

He added that in a world of globalized communications and trade this duty is "all the more evident" and the means of achieving it are more readily available.

The pope said AIDS had brought untold suffering to millions of people in Africa, including Lesotho, where approximately one in five adults is infected with HIV, the AIDS-causing virus. He said the church will continue to "do all it can to bring relief to those affected by this cruel disease, and also to their families."

"At the same time, it is vitally important to communicate the message that fidelity within marriage and abstinence outside it are the best ways to avoid infection and to halt the spread of the virus," he said.

The pope made a similar point speaking to the Ugandan ambassador. He said statistics confirm the practical value of a policy of AIDS prevention based on sexual responsibility and the promotion of faithfulness in marriage.

In remarks to the African diplomats and to the ambassador of Denmark, the pope emphasized that the Vatican firmly supports the Millennium Development Goals and similar efforts to distribute economic resources more fairly.

Christmas cheer in Lebanon

CNS PHOTO BY JAMAL SAIDI, REUTERS

Two men dressed as Santa Claus spread Christmas cheer in the largely empty commercial district of Beirut, Lebanon, Dec. 19. Pro-Syrian supporters have been holding protests nearby against the U.S.-backed government of Lebanon.

N.J. legislators reject bishops' advice, approve civil unions

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — Rejecting the advice of New Jersey's Catholic bishops, the state Legislature approved a bill allowing civil unions for same-sex couples, giving them all the rights and privileges available to married couples under state law.

Gov. Jon Corzine has said he will sign the bill, written after the N.J. Supreme Court ruled in October that the state's ban on same-sex marriages resulted in "the unequal dispensation of benefits and privileges to one of two similarly situated classes of people." The court had set a 180-day deadline for the Legislature to revise the marriage laws to provide for equal treatment of same-sex couples.

The bishops, in an open letter to legislators Dec. 6, said: "Please know that we share your desire to bring about a law that will treat people with justice and respect," adding that "a need for justice ... may indeed exist" in such areas as health and retirement programs, property rights, tax advantages and inheritance laws.

But "this need should not be determined solely on the basis of a sexual relationship," said the bishops. Many other people — "elderly siblings, single mothers and grandmothers caring for a dependent child, to name a few" — also need access to such benefits, they added.

"If New Jersey is to be a leader in the nation in terms of equitable treatment of its people, let it be a leader in how it treats all of its people," they added.

Women from diocese choose lives as religious

WOMEN, *from page 1*

vocations to the priesthood and religious life in his parish.

Father Kauth said he has spoken to several women in his parish about the religious life. Of these, four have explored orders and two are currently in formation.

Many young women don't consider a religious vocation because they don't meet sisters and the option is presented to them, Father Kauth said.

Sister Catherine Marie took her first vows Sept. 14 with the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne in Hawthorne, N.Y.

Sister Catherine Marie is the third member of her family to choose religious life as a vocation. Her father, the late Deacon Richard Kauth, was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1992. Her brother is Father Kauth of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

"From the time I was a little girl in Illinois, I wanted to be a nurse," said Sister Catherine Marie. "I had no idea that the road to nursing would lead me to religious life."

"One night I helped care for a little boy who had broken his arms," she said. "His parents weren't with him, so I tried to console him. He fell asleep eventually, holding my hand. I knew then that I wanted to be a pediatric nurse."

In 2002, Sister Catherine Marie and her mother, Sharon Kauth, were helping to organize retreats and talks given by priests for women in the Diocese of Charlotte. She also attended a conference on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

"I began to see I needed to choose a vocation: marriage or religious live," she said.

One night she was reading from the Gospel of Matthew where Christ speaks on marriage and the consecrated life.

"I was sad, thinking it was too late for me to choose and I began to pray," Sister Catherine Marie said. "Then, in the next chapter I read the parable about the late workers who receive the same wage as the early ones. God spoke to me in prayers: it was not too late."

Sister Catherine Marie was directed to two nursing religious orders; one was the Hawthorne Dominicans. About a month later, she visited the motherhouse, Rosary Hill Home.

COURTESY PHOTO

Sister Catherine Marie makes her profession of vows as a Dominican Sister of Hawthorne at the motherhouse's Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary in Hawthorne, N.Y., Sept. 14. Her profession followed a year of study, prayer and service as a postulant and two years as a novice.

As she prayed in the chapel at Rosary Hill Home, she knew God was calling her, she said.

"It was the easiest and the hardest decision I ever made," she said. "It was easy because I knew I was following God's call, but hard because I had to leave family, friends, my house and work I loved."

Marian Morales-Nazario, whose home parish is St. Francis of Assisi, entered the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne as a postulate Nov. 28.

A native of Puerto Rico, Morales-Nazario attended the University of Puerto Rico and worked as a compensation and benefits specialist.

"I was living a very 'successful life' that had no meaning or purpose," said Morales-Nazario, who said Father Kauth has been her spiritual director.

Morales-Nazario began her discernment process in her diocese in Puerto Rico.

"That's when I became aware of it: God had been calling me all my life, but I just wasn't paying attention," she said.

Morales-Nazario's sister has also chosen the religious life. Mariber Morales-Nazario is a Holy Spirit Adoration ("Pink") Sister in St. Louis, Mo.

"I'm overwhelmed with joy after accepting God's call," said Morales-Nazario. "I feel my life has a meaning and a purpose, and I'm happy inside out."

"What excites them is the idea that they've been created to be the bride of Christ," Father Kauth said. "They are excited to have Jesus as their first love, their spouse."

Seminarian installed as lector

Eckert among 22 theologians installed during Mass

COLUMBUS, Ohio — John J. Eckert, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, recently took another step toward the priesthood.

Eckert was among 12 seminarians installed as lectors and 10 installed as acolytes by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio Nov. 19.

The Mass and installation for the seminarians of 12 dioceses were held in St. Turibius Chapel in the company of visiting priests, families of the candidates and benefactors and friends of the Josephinum.

Once termed minor orders, the ministries of lector and acolyte are conferred on first- and second-year theologians prior to their diaconate and priestly ordinations.

Once installed as lectors, the first-year students are commissioned to read the Word of God in liturgical assembly and to participate in instruction of catechesis to prepare lay men and women to receive the sacraments.

During the ceremony, Eckert and the other candidates knelt before Bishop Olmsted, who held out the Lectionary for them to touch.

"Take this book of holy Scripture, and be faithful in handing on the Word of God so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people," said Bishop Olmsted.

The candidates for acolytes are second-year students who are entrusted with the duty of attending to the altar and assisting the deacon and priest in Mass, as well as distributing Communion.

They may also expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and have the authority to instruct any laity appointed to assist in Mass.

COURTESY PHOTO

John Eckert (left), a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte, was recently installed as a lector by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted (center) of Phoenix at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 19. Also pictured is Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, rector and president of the Josephinum.

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of January:

Rev. Vincent Erb	2005
Rev. Msgr. Eugene H. Livelsberger	1987
Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Newman	1981
Rev. Arthur J. Racette	1975
Rev. Tom Stott	2005

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
Bishop Jugis visits DocPod this week.
Subscribe today — it's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.
docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

175 years of Mercy

Sisters of Mercy celebrate anniversary of religious community's founding

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas recently celebrated the 175th anniversary of their religious community.

The sisters celebrated Foundation Day with a special luncheon at the Mercy Administration Center in Belmont Dec. 12, marking the founding of the community by Mother Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland in 1831.

Since then, the Sisters of Mercy have spread worldwide, honoring Mother McAuley's dedication to serve the poor, sick and uneducated.

> "As the needs of the church change, the Sisters of Mercy endeavor to meet those needs."
>
> — Mercy Sister Paulette Williams

"As the needs of the church change, the Sisters of Mercy endeavor to meet those needs," said Mercy Sister Paulette Williams, president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

"As we celebrate this 175th anniversary of our founding, we also celebrate and give thanks to God for all who have journeyed with us, for our benefactors, co-workers and for our volunteers who have made it possible for us to share our works of mercy with the people of God," she said.

The Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina originated from the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, now known as the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, which was founded by Bishop John England in Charleston, S.C. in 1821.

In 1862, three sisters arrived in Wilmington, N.C. to nurse the victims of yellow fever but returned to Charleston after a few months. It was in 1869 that then-Bishop (later Cardinal) James Gibbons requested the sisters come and start a convent in Wilmington.

Courtesy Photo

Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara, president and CEO of Catherine's House, and Alex Sanchez, board member of Well of Mercy, are pictured during a luncheon in Belmont Dec. 12, celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy.

The sisters started the first Catholic school there, and continued to open schools throughout North Carolina and in 1892 established a motherhouse in Belmont.

Through the years the sisters established and staffed many ministries, such as Mount St. Joseph Academy in Hickory; St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville; Mercy Hospital in Charlotte; and St. Ann's Orphanage, Cathedral Grade School, Sacred Heart Campus School, Sacred Heart Academy, Sacred Heart College and St. Leo's Jr. Military School in Belmont.

The Sisters of Mercy were the first to staff many of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic schools, including Charlotte Catholic High School and O'Donoghue (now St. Patrick) School in Charlotte; St. Michael School in Gastonia; St. Lawrence (now Asheville Catholic) School in Asheville; and Sacred Heart School in Salisbury.

Currently the Sisters of Mercy continue to minister in parishes, hospitals, schools and clinics.

Pope Paul VI opened Mother McAuley's cause for sainthood in 1978. Pope John Paul II in 1990 declared her venerable, signifying the completion of the first major step to sainthood.

The second step is beatification. After one miracle attributed to her intercession is verified, she may be declared blessed.

The third step is canonization. A second miracle verified by the church is ordinarily required before the candidate can be proclaimed a saint.

Sisters of Mercy ministries

Sponsored ministries include:

— Holy Angels, a network of residences and a developmental center for the mentally challenged and medically fragile;

— House of Mercy, a residence for people living with HIV/AIDS;

— Catherine's House, providing temporary housing for women and women with children who are homeless;

— Sisters of Mercy Services, which operates three urgent care facilities, outreach health care services, rehab and substance abuse programs;

— McAuley Center, which offers spiritual, theological and scriptural educational programs, sacramental preparation and retreats;

— Well of Mercy, which offers spiritual companionship, emotional support, hospitality and quiet sanctuary for adults in need of temporary respite from daily demands.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, go online at www.mercync.org or call (704) 829-5260.

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

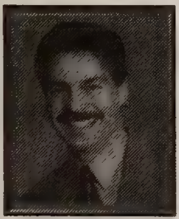
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

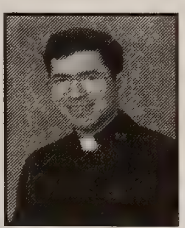
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Catholic Family EXPO
Belmont Abbey College
April 13 - 15, 2007

"Formation for Vocations"

Be transformed to fully embrace your vocation
Learn how to prepare your children for God's call


Dr. Ray Guarendi


Fr. Frank Pavone

Dr. William Theirfelder

Gail Buckley

Learn more and register:
www.catholicfamilyexpo.org
Or call 704-455-7233

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Deportation orders split families

FAMILIES, *from page 1*

she listened. It's likely that by early 2007 the life that her boys — Jonatan, Saul, 12; Alexis, 8; and Alan, 5 — have known since birth will come to a crashing end.

Veronica and her husband, Saul, are among hundreds of Kansas immigrants whose encounters with unscrupulous attorneys may mean an end to the lives they've built in the United States.

The attorneys convinced the Delgados and others that to stay in the country they could apply for political asylum — they didn't qualify for it but they didn't know that. The lawyers charged hundreds of dollars to file the paperwork.

Now Saul Delgado has been deported to Mexico and his wife could be next. They and other parents agonize over whether to leave their U.S. citizen children in this country, or take them to Mexico, where they will likely face impoverished conditions.

"The children have never been to Mexico," Veronica Delgado said. "They don't know Mexico. They don't read or write Spanish well. They want to stay in school and be with their friends. Their life is here."

Like Jonatan, Saúl was born in Los Angeles, and their two younger brothers were born in Kansas.

Redemporist Father Mike McAndrew, pastor of St. Anthony Church in Liberal, is part of the Redemptorist Hispanic Missionary Team in the Diocese of Dodge City.

In 2004, when a Liberal man with three U.S. citizen children was deported after falling victim to what Father McAndrew called a local attorney's "asylum scam," he organized a meeting for others who might have had problems with the attorney.

"We expected 15 or so people to come forward," he said. "That evening we had 47 people. We found that (among them) they had 53 U.S. citizen children, several of whom were already teenagers.

"In the next few months, more than 100 victims of the scam came to our attention," he said.

And that's just in Liberal. Father McAndrew believes there may be thousands of victims in Kansas.

"The scam was to have people who did not qualify apply for political asylum," Father McAndrew explained. "They charged $1,500 or more to begin each application."

"Most of those scammed had been in this country for more than 10 years, waiting and hoping for relief from their immigration status," he said. "The temptation to try to come out of the shadows of the 'undocumented' overcame the fear that this was too good to be true."

Saul Delgado had been in the United States 18 years when he met attorney James Phillips and his wife, Alicia Morales-Phillips. After waiting nearly 13 years for immigration red tape to clear, he turned to Phillips.

Saul Delgado soon found himself in a "hardship hearing," trying to convince an immigration judge that deporting him and his wife would cause undue hardship to their four citizen children.

He was deported to his hometown of La Soledad in the state of Durango in October. He is ineligible to apply to return to the United States for 10 years.

Phillips and his wife have been arrested and charged with multiple counts of filing forged documents. Phillips pleaded innocent at his first court appearance Dec. 8 in Wichita.

Morales-Phillips is also being sued by the Kansas attorney general, alleging that she took advantage of her clients' lack of English skills to file documents that contained errors.

Of 10 hardship hearings with which Father McAndrew has been involved, none has resulted in a cancellation of deportation orders.

He attributes that to what he sees as the court's incorrect assessment of the current social and educational climate in Mexico, as well as its misinterpretation of "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship."

"It would be hard to find any hardship that would satisfy the court that I witnessed," Father McAndrew said.

"We're talking (about) separating children from their parents," he said, "or sending them to live in poverty conditions, where there may be no education at all, or at the very least, a system that's far inferior to our own."

At Veronica Delgado's Sept. 29 hardship hearing in Kansas City, she raised concerns about Mexico's poor educational system.

Paula Davis, assistant chief counsel for the Department of Homeland Security, countered with a State Department report that read, in part, "Education is one of Mexico's greatest priorities." Davis said enrollment in public schools in Mexico had increased in recent years.

In upholding the deportation order, Judge Jennie Giambastiani concluded Delgado's claim of substandard education was "unsubstantiated."

Since the hearing, Father McAndrew has found a 2005 Rand Corp. report that notes: "Many of the schools (in Mexico) lack basic infrastructure equipment such as bathrooms, cement floors, student desks and blackboards. Teachers often have to work with very limited resources and few schools have libraries, copier machines, and computers with Internet access."

Veronica Delgado's deportation order has been appealed. Father McAndrew said he hopes the appeal is not only granted, but immigration courts will revise their understanding of "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship."

"The inability of the judge in this case to find on behalf of the respondent is unbelievably cruel," Father McAndrew said. "While Congress struggles with the complexities of our immigration law, it is urgent that the most vulnerable victims of the harshness of our broken immigration system be protected.

"It should be considered the right of citizen children to have their parents granted legal residency. It is the least we can do to protect these children," he said.

Archbishop decries immigration raids at plants in six states

DENVER (CNS) — The archbishop of Denver decried the immigration raids conducted at meatpacking plants in six states Dec. 12 by federal authorities to arrest workers in the country illegally who were suspected of participating in an identity theft scam.

"The mass arrest of unauthorized workers in Colorado and across the country this week once again puts a human face on the flaws in our immigration system, a system that needs immediate and very serious reform," Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said Dec. 13.

The Catholic Church supports the law and respects law enforcement officers, he said. But Catholics must question why the federal action occurred so close to Christmas and on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a special day in the church, particularly for Hispanics, he said.

Many of the affected workers are Hispanic. The raids were conducted at plants run by Swift & Co., a meat processor based in Greeley, Colo.

Federal agents targeted the Greeley plant as well as plants in Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Iowa and Minnesota. The six facilities handle all of Swift's domestic beef processing and more than 75 percent of its pork processing.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a Dec. 13 news release it had arrested 1,282 people at the six plants on "administrative immigration violations." The arrests were "part of an ongoing worksite enforcement investigation into immigration violations and a massive identity theft scheme that has victimized U.S. citizens and lawful U.S. residents."

Of those arrested, 65 also were charged with criminal violations related to identity theft or other violations, such as re-entering the United States after being deported. Many of those being held were from Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Peru, Laos, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Archbishop Chaput said that as he has stated many times "the church supports the law. She supports our nation's right to regulate immigration and secure our borders for the common good of all citizens. We also deeply respect the men and women who have the task of enforcing the law in difficult circumstances."

However, "as Catholics, we also need to vigorously question the timing, manner and focus of these latest arrests," he said, referring to the fact that the raids occurred on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and "barely two weeks before Christmas."

"And while public officials have explained the reason for these raids as criminal identity theft, most of the real criminals — the people who steal and sell the false identities so that undocumented immigrants can find work — were not among those arrested."

The agency said the investigation began in February 2006 and has been looking into whether undocumented immigrants have illegally assumed the identities of U.S. citizens and improperly used their Social Security numbers and other identity documents to get jobs at the Swift facilities.

Swift officials said that the raids shut down the plants only temporarily as federal agents interviewed employees and operations resumed the same day, though at "reduced output levels." They said the company expected "no adverse long-term impact."

According to an Associated Press story, immigration officials told Swift that raids to remove unauthorized workers would take place Dec. 4.

On Dec. 7 the judge denied the request, clearing the way for the raids. Company officials also have noted that they use an existing federal program to check applicants' identity papers but that the system is flawed.

St. Patrick Cathedral

The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Rector

Rev. Robert Conway
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero
Deacon

Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina
Deacon

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
4 p.m. - Children's Mass
6 p.m. - Family Mass
Midnight - Bishop Peter Jugis

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
11 a.m. - Bishop Peter Jugis

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES
Midnight Mass
Doors open at 11:00 p.m.
Bishop William Curlin

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES
9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

Come
celebrate the
Birth of
Our Savior.

1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 334-2283
Visit our website at www.stpatricks.org

Local Connections Make Global Changes

John Nelson, '06, president of *The Least Among Us*, leads a unique mission in El Salvador

Over the past five years, 23-year-old John Nelson has made eight trips down to El Salvador, usually bringing with him one of his seven siblings, to organize, facilitate and plan mission projects for *The Least Among Us*, founded in 2000. Nelson is now the President of this non-profit organization that, according to the mission statement, is "dedicated to helping impoverished people in developing nations."

Nelson grew up in Raleigh, NC, attended Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and graduated from Cardinal Gibbons High School in 2002. After a semester at UNC – Chapel Hill, Nelson transferred to University of Dallas, a private, Catholic, co-educational, liberal arts university located in Irving, TX.

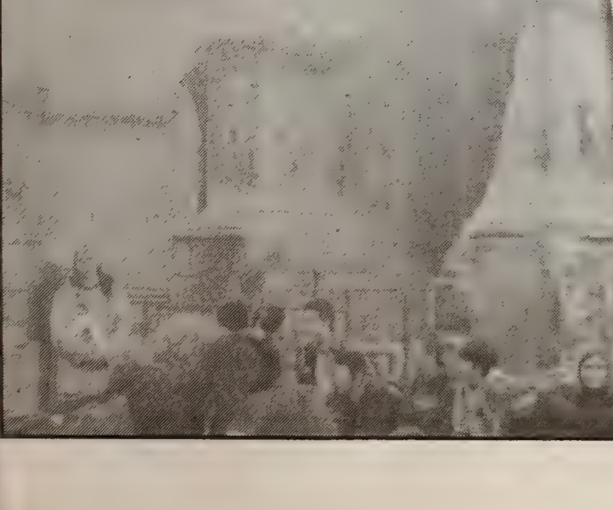
Nelson's experience at UD helped fuel his desire for service. A politics major and pre-med student, he traveled to El Salvador as often as he could, in between college semesters and his four-month study abroad experience at UD's permanent campus in Rome, Italy.

Similar to Nelson's Franciscan-run high school, Cardinal Gibbons, University of Dallas offers its students many opportunities to put their faith into action through various campus ministry service projects, mission trips, pro-life leagues and social awareness groups.

Knowing that he was surrounded by service-oriented peers, Nelson enlisted the help of his fellow UD students to support *The Least Among Us*. Over the past three years University of Dallas students have contributed nearly $20,000 to Nelson's cause, through money raised during the annual fall Charity Week. UD's Student Foundations, a student-run organization that raises money in order to donate to worthy causes, funded the construction of a new roof for one of the Salvadorian families that worked with Nelson. It came as no surprise to Nelson that the UD student body was so ready to help him.

"The people in El Salvador are the most generous, hardworking and genuine people I have ever met. They don't let their poverty get the best of them. University of Dallas students are not in the same situation financially, but I see the same sort of things echoed in the faith-centered fellowship of the students at UD. The friendships are genuine," Nelson said of his alma mater.

Nelson, who will be attending medical school next year, will continue to lead *The Least Among Us* as they embark on new projects, including building classrooms, modern plumbing, drinking-water infrastructures, and providing supplies for local Catholic schools. To read more about *The Least Among Us*, visit www.theleastamongus.org.



UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS

UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS
www.udallas.edu • 1-800-628-6999
Irving, Texas Rome, Italy

To read more about John's education at the **University of Dallas, visit www.udallas.edu.** That Web page also includes a link to "A Short Film About UD By Two Students." You may view the film in broadband or dial-up, using any of the commonly available media players that are already installed **on most computers.**

> Nelson's experience at UD helped fuel his desire for service. A politics major and pre-med student, he traveled to El Salvador as often as he could... "The people in El Salvador are the most generous, hardworking and genuine people I have ever met. They don't let their poverty get the best of them. University of Dallas students are not in the same situation financially, but I see the same sort of things echoed in the faith centered fellowship of the students at UD. The friendships are genuine," Nelson said.

John Nelson
University of Dallas, 2006

Above: John with students from Centro Escolar Santa Monica in Quezaltepeque, El Salvador at the inaguaration of a classroom they constructed. John with parents Dr. Leonard and Sharon Nelson.

Pope: Christmas is reminder of greatest gift given

GIFT, *from page 1*

of "the principal gift" remembered as people celebrate the birth of Jesus, he said.

Pope Benedict urged the Italian young people not only to "fix your gaze on the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in the manger," but also to contemplate and adore him in the Eucharist.

"Under the appearance of a small piece of bread," the pope told the students, "it is Jesus who gives himself and who wants to enter into our hearts."

"In the manger at Bethlehem, we adore the same Lord who, in the eucharistic sacrament, wanted to be our spiritual food in order to transform the world from the inside, beginning from the human heart," Pope Benedict said.

Pope's Christmas schedule

Pope Benedict will preside over a full schedule of public Masses and prayer services over the Christmas period.

The Vatican released the pope's calendar of liturgical celebrations Dec. 14.

The pope is scheduled to:

— Celebrate Christmas Mass at midnight in St. Peter's Basilica.

— Give a message and the traditional blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city of Rome and to the world) from the central balcony of the basilica Dec. 25 at noon.

— Preside over evening prayer and offer a prayer of thanks for the past year at a 6 p.m. service in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 31.

— Celebrate Mass at 10 a.m. Jan. 1 in St. Peter's Basilica for the feast of Mary, Mother of God, and the World Day of Peace.

— Celebrate Mass for the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord at 10 a.m. Jan. 6 in St. Peter's Basilica.

— Celebrate Mass on the Jan. 7 feast of the Baptism of the Lord, during which he will baptize infants in the Sistine Chapel.

The pope also planned to hold his annual meeting with cardinals and Vatican officials Dec. 22, an encounter that usually provides a review of the past year in the life of the church.

Lending a helping hand

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Mary Grace Maynard, who attends St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, helps fills laundry baskets with paper products at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte Dec. 18. Each year during Advent, St. Matthew Church parishioners fill about 100 laundry baskets with non-perishable food items and paper products for clients of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Christmas choruses

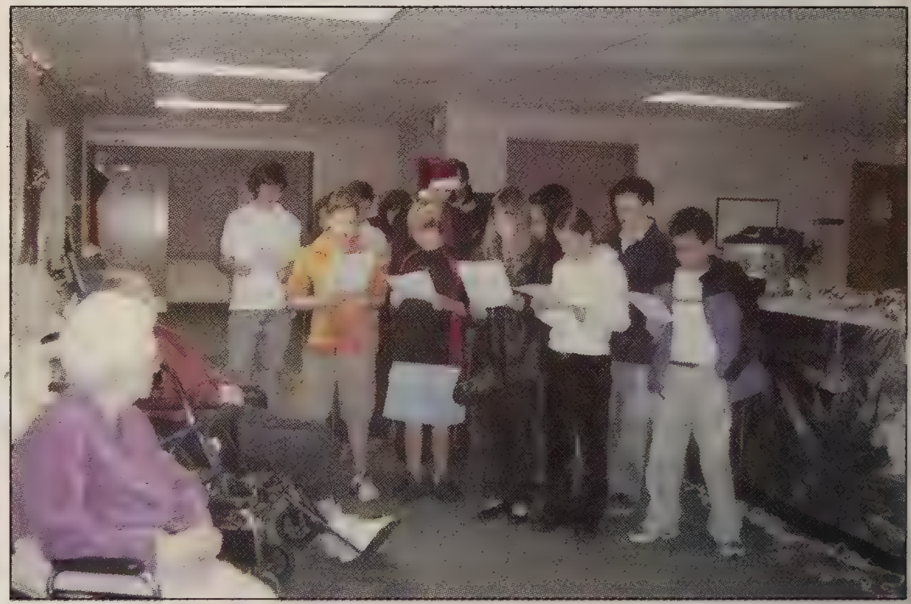
Courtesy Photos

Above: Second-graders at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point perform during the school's 20th annual community outreach Christmas Musical Dec. 12. The musical consists of a free public performance in the morning and a performance for school families in the evening.

Students in kindergarten through fifth-grade performed "Flower of the Holy Night" about the religious history/significance of the poinsettia, and students in grades sixth through eighth recited family holiday memories and performed many Christmas song favorites.

The musical was directed by school music teacher Mary Connolly, with assistance from speech/language pathologist Paige Kalish.

Below: The youth group from Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro sings Christmas carols to residents at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point Dec. 14.



Creating Christmas cards

Courtesy Photo

Students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem create Christmas cards for their grandparents Dec. 7. The cards are being sent to the grandparents with a DVD created by the parents about the school. The DVD contains more than 100 photographs showing the school's many curricular and extracurricular activities, as well as a request to support the school through an endowment fund.

Christmas spirit in full swing at Asheville Catholic School

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — From performances to shopping to studying religious symbols, students at Asheville Catholic School are getting into the Christmas spirit.

Students recently shopped for gifts while learning about sharing with those who are less fortunate.

The Christmas Shop opened in the school library Nov. 27-30, allowing students to purchase gifts through Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade organization through which purchases help artisans in poor countries and remote communities around the world.

Ten Thousand Villages offers a wide range of seasonal items such as handmade Christmas ornaments and Nativity scenes. Local stores pay artisans a fair wage to practice their crafts.

Proceeds from purchases through the Christmas Shop went to the store in Montreat, near Asheville. Each gift came with a card containing the name of the artist who made it.

Run by parent volunteers, the Christmas Shop offered students a safe place to shop without their parents.

The volunteers, who helped wrap the students' gifts, said many students were excited about being able to surprise their parents on Christmas.

In addition to learning about artisans in other countries, students learned about similarities among different cultures, religions and holidays.

Leigh Schuller from the Center for Diversity Education, located at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, recently brought various religious symbols from several countries.

Kindergarten through eighth-grade students learned about Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights; "Las Posadas," the traditional Hispanic procession depicting the search for an inn by Mary and Joseph on the first Christmas; and the Russian New Year, a Christmas celebration celebrated on New Year's Day during Communism.

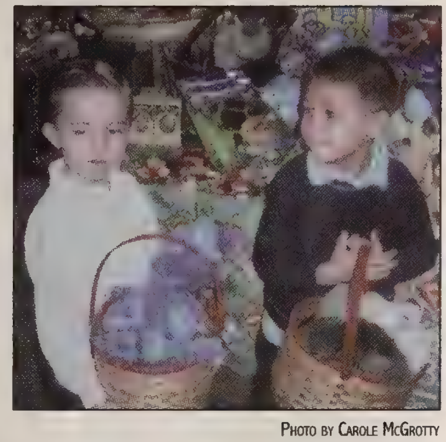


PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students Chase Winkenwerder and Waylon Metcalf get gifts in the Christmas Shop at Asheville Catholic School in November.

Fourth- through eighth-graders learned the traditions of Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights; Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast from food and drink daily from dawn to sunset; as well as "Las Posadas."

In addition to sampling foods from different cultures, the students learned that many traditional stories in Islam, Hindu and Christianity are similar in content.

After an afternoon dress rehearsal before the student body, the pre-kindergarten class was in good form for the evening performance of Christmas songs.

The songs kicked off "Stories Before Christmas," a four-act student play written and directed by school religion coordinator Rita Pisano. Music teacher Tiffany Gallozzi and pre-kindergarten teacher Jennifer Palmer worked with students on the songs.

The final act featured the Nativity, with the students and audience singing "Night of Silence" and "Silent Night."

Visits from St. Nick

COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Eighth-graders Nick Maul and Stephen Marrujo, dressed as St. Nicholas and his helper, distribute candy canes and holy cards in kindergarten students' shoes at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Dec. 6.

Below: St. Nicholas, portrayed by Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church, visits transitional kindergarten students at St. Ann School in Charlotte Dec. 6, the feast day of St. Nicholas. During his visit, he visited classrooms, relaying the story of St. Nick and handing out candy canes.

Carols and camaraderie

COURTESY PHOTO

anta Claus and children from St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro sing and dance at a senior enter in Greensboro Dec. 14. Parishioners from St. Paul the Apostle Church served refreshments and istributed gifts to the senior citizens as part of the celebration.

COURTESY PHOTO BY STEPHEN UZZELL

Parishioners of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill lead residents of the Uptown Men's Shelter in Charlotte in Christmas carols Dec. 17. The parishioners served 150 men with meals and distributed packages of hats, gloves, socks and underwear.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Print shop with a twist

Sisters of St. Joseph handling 'press' of business

BY MICHELLE MARTIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LAGRANGE PARK, Ill.. — In the basement of the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse in LaGrange Park sits a hulking piece of equipment with a small statue of St. Joseph perched on top.

The Hewlett-Packard Indigo 5000 digital press is the centerpiece of St. Joseph Press, which produces booklets, greeting cards, calendars and newsletters for a variety of religious and nonprofit organizations around the country, and is the pride and joy of Sister Judy Sikorski.

Sister Sikorski, press operations manager, has the no-nonsense manner of someone who spent 41 years as a Catholic schoolteacher and administrator.

When she retired as a principal in 2002, Sister Sikorski never thought she would have a second career in the printing business.

"I like the challenge of it," she said. "I like to work with people I have to work with, and to meet the customers. I like to work with machinery, although I had no experience with that.

"And I like to feel that we can produce something that really looks good. I'm proud of what we produce," she said.

But the story of St. Joseph Press starts before Sister Sikorski came aboard. It starts with the congregation's ministry of the arts, which spreads the Gospel message of love through everything from prayer cards and postcards to music and sculptures, sold on-site and by mail order.

The logo for St. Joseph Press is a reproduction of a stained-glass rendering of St. Joseph. Last year, they found the original window stored in the basement. They mounted it in the press room.

The sisters first began exploring the option of doing their own printing to reduce their own costs, said Edward Sutoris, the chief operating officer.

Sutoris, who began working with the sisters after leaving the private sector, actually took the press into operation in February 2004, while Sister Sikorski was finishing her last year as a teacher.

When the school year ended, she flew to Massachusetts for two weeks of training and was back in LaGrange Park taking up her new duties on her 65th birthday.

Sutoris said that when the sisters decided to make the $600,000 investment in start-up costs to do their own printing, members of their council talked as much about the environment and whether the press would push any existing printers out of business as they did about whether they could make money.

"I walked around for a year saying to myself, 'The object is not to make money,'" Sutoris said.

Or at least not too much money. The congregation is counting on income from the press to help pay for all its ministries, from the ministry of the arts to the School on Wheels, which uses a specially outfitted bus to take English-as-a-second-language and other classes to communities where they are needed.

CNS PHOTO BY DAVID V. KAMBA, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Sister Judy Sikorski is the press operations manager at St. Joseph Press at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph in LaGrange Park, Ill.

To avoid competing too much with commercial printers, the press limits its customer base to religious and nonprofit groups — including the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Catholic Schools — who can see their own ministries benefit from reduced printing costs.

For smaller jobs — "short runs" of under 10,000 copies — St. Joseph Press can generally offer significantly better prices than for-profit printers because of lower costs. It has no overhead, being housed in the motherhouse basement, and benefits from the volunteer labor of the sisters.

"When we put out an all-call, we announce over the speakers that we need help in the press room, and they all come down," Sister Sikorski said.

Even with no marketing, word got around, and Sister Sikorski remembers running the first digital press, an HP 1000, 12 hours a day. In May 2005, St. Joseph Press upgraded to the digital press it has now, and the pressure eased.

Still, Sister Sikorski said, the sisters make sure they check all the material that goes out. While the new press is easier to use and more reliable — it's less prone to jamming — no machine is perfect.

"You can send a job out late, but you can't send out poor product," she said.

So far, that has not been a problem, Sister Sikorski said. St. Joseph Press is very much a real print shop, but one with a twist.

"We're producing a message," she said. "That message is love of God and love of neighbor. We can't lose sight of that."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: DEC. 22, 2006

Dec. 31, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Cycle C Readings:

1) Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
   Psalm 128:1-5
2) Colossians 3:12-21
3) Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Children carry light of Jesus to world

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Last week I knew it was truly Christmas when I heard Luke's beloved description of the nativity of Jesus.

"What child is this?" seems to be the continuing question on the lips of each man or woman who meets Jesus and his parents in the second chapter of Luke's Gospel.

What child is this indeed! Looking back through the cross gives us 20/20 vision. Likewise, in our mind's eye we have seen a tiny hand close around Mary's finger. From our vantage point in the 21st century, how could anyone miss the point?

As his life unfolds, we sympathize with Mary and Joseph as they frantically search for their son Jesus. We know he has to be in "his Father's house." Where else would a precocious Jewish boy be who happens to be the Son of God?

We see his destiny looming before him and the instrumental part Mary and Joseph will play in helping this life take shape. It was easy for us to recognize him there in his mother's arms, but the question is, Do we recognize him now?

When we as parents, grandparents or teachers look into the faces of children, whose destiny do we see written there? Is Jesus there waiting to flower within the world?

Do we take the time to wonder what child has been placed in our care? Who is it that regards us through uplifted eyes?

If we had been teaching in the temple that day, would we have had the good sense to have seen Jesus as more than a gifted 12-year-old? Smart but never cheeky, he could have answered our questions, but would we have allowed him to push us on a controversial or questionable point?

Would we have considered seriously his possible destiny or any part we might have played in it?

To be able to look into the eyes of children and consider the question of shepherd and temple scholar alike becomes an act of courage and an act of faith because we must be prepared to see who is looking back at us.

Questions:

What child or young person in your life offers you a promise of Jesus' light in the world in the new generation? What crosses do you foresee in her or his life, and how can you support this child as a Christ bearer?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 24-30

Sunday (The Fourth Sunday of Advent), Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45; **Monday (The Nativity of the Lord)**, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (St. Stephen)**, Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59,, Matthew 10:17-22; **Wednesday (St. John)**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:1-8; **Thursday (Holy Innocents)**, 1 John 1:5–2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Friday (St. Thomas Becker)**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Saturday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 31-JAN. 6

Sunday (The Holy Family), Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52; **Monday (Mary, Mother of God)**, Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Tuesday (St. Basil, St. Gregory)**, 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Wednesday (Holy Name of Jesus)**, 1 John 2:29–3:6, John 1:29-34; **Thursday (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)**, 1 John 3:7-10, John 1:35-42; **Friday (St. John Neumann)**, 1 John 3:11-21, John 1:43-51; **Saturday (Bl. André Bessette)**, 1 John 5:5-13, Mark 1:7-11.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

We're brimming over with the latest in Catholic books, new Bible study materials, spiritual gifts for special occasions, Bibles, artwork, rosaries – a wide inventory awaits you at both locations!

Why Catholic? Paperback Cathechism — now only $8

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

704-342-2878
4410-F Monroe Road,
Charlotte, 28205

©2006 Closet Factory All rights reserved

YOUR CLOSET.
ONLY BETTER.

Custom storage solutions for every room in your house.
- Closets, offices, garages, entertainment centers etc.
- Handcrafted designs that fit your needs and style
- Professionally trained designers and installers

25% OFF With This Ad
FREE INSTALLATION
We Will Beat Any Competitor's Offer

Call for a FREE design consultation
704.676.5000

closetfactory

www.closetfactory.com CNH-1

Study: Efforts halting violent game sales to minors up, more needed

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Major retail chains have improved their policies against selling violent video games to minors, but they're not perfect, according to a Dec. 13 report issued by Christian Brothers Investment Services and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

A look at seven nationwide sellers of video games showed that all seven follow the same three of 26 elements judged by the two organizations to be part of an "effective, responsible and well-monitored video game sales policy": store signage featuring game ratings, age verification in stores and employee training programs.

Overall, the retailers' compliance with all the elements suggested in the report varies.

Best Buy followed 20 of the 26, followed closely by Target with 19. Trailing were Circuit City with 15, Game Stop with 13, Wal-Mart with 12, Toys "R" Us with 10, and Sears and Kmart, now jointly owned, with eight.

Even stores without sterling compliance marks were commended for "best practices" in the report. Toys "R" Us puts video games rated M — mature — on top shelves. Game Stop's compliance policy has a strong tie to its store manager evaluations.

Target bans ads for M-rated games in advertising it places in teen publications and has an enlarged "M" logo in its circulars. Best Buy bans M-rated games from its TV ads and audits at least 100 of its stores each month for compliance.

According to Julie Tanner, corporate advocacy coordinator at Christian Brothers Investment Services, there doesn't seem to be a sense among retailers that video game sales are too big to be stopped by compliance policies or game sales are just a small part of a national retail chain's overall revenues.

Rather, "it seems at one point or another all of these (stores) have been hit by a local TV station" using consumers — from "young kids to mystery shoppers" — to help them expose flaws in video game sales policies, she said.

"That, coupled with the threat of legislation," keeps retailers on the straight and narrow, Tanner said.

At least one jurisdiction, Tanner added, mandates fines of up to $25,000 against store managers convicted of selling M-rated games to minors.

The report comes on the heels of the National Institute for Media and the Family's annual "report card" grading the video game industry.

It gave an A to the manufacturers of game consoles and to the enforcement of big retailers' policies — but an F to enforcement by specialty stores — and gave B grades for retailer policies and education about ratings.

The report card gave a grade of incomplete for parental involvement.

"Although the response of most parents to the challenge of raising kids in a world filled with video games is inadequate, it doesn't seem fair to give parents a failing grade because parents are constantly subject to mixed messages from the video game industry," the National Institute for Media and the Family said.

"While representatives of the industry encourage parents to follow the ratings which warn certain age groups away from mature content, they simultaneously deny that video games have any impact on kids.

"Making matters worse, the rating system itself has flaws. Parents could be, and should be, doing a lot better, but at least part of their failure can be attributed to the confusion created by the game makers," the institute said.

When confronting businesses about violent video games and other issues, Tanner said, "I don't go alone to talk to a company. I go with other shareholders" so top company management can understand the concerns are authentic.

"We had dialogues with each of" the chains mentioned in the report, she added. "We work with them constructively. That way we can have the most impact."

The effort at curtailing the sale of violent videos does not begin or end with the retailers, Tanner said. She has had conversations with the Entertainment Software Rating Board, which devised the ratings system in use for video games.

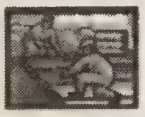
Talks are also in progress with the Interactive Entertainment Merchants Association — which is "a way you can influence several companies," Tanner said — as well as the Entertainment Software Association.

"We will continue to monitor further developments in this industry, such as the downloading of games to cell phones and the selling of video games online, to ensure that children are not exposed to inappropriate video game content," the report said.

Christian Brothers Investment Services' partner in the report, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, includes several Catholic groups among its membership.

They include the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, the Sinsinawa (Wis.) Dominicans, the Adrian (Mich.) Dominican Sisters, the Benedictine Sisters of Mount Angel (Ore.), the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Milwaukee, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Nazareth (Mich)., the Benedictine Sisters of Cottonwood (Idaho), and Aquinas Associates.

AMERICA'S VIVEROS ROOFING



A.V. ROOFING

BBB
Member
Southern Piedmont
Charlotte

Specialists in Shingles
Licensed & Insured
FREE ESTIMATES
www.avroofing.com

704-320-4526 — 704-622-8185

Immaculata School celebrates 80 years

SCHOOL, *from page 1*

with a unique float that won first place in the Henderson County Apple Festival Parade Sept. 4.

Students built the float, which was reminiscent of schoolchildren of the early part of last century.

"It was really cool painting the backdrop and building the float all together," said eighth-grader Cannon Dillon.

Immaculata School then won first place in the elementary school division of the Ginger Bread House Competition sponsored by the Henderson County Arts Council Dec. 8.

Students created a replica of the original 1926 Immaculata schoolhouse and decorated it with candy and sweets befitting the festive holidays.

"It was fun working together, thinking up all these ideas and putting it together to recreate the first schoolhouse," said fourth-grader Mary Kelly.

The students won $25, which they donated to the Bounty for Bethlehem, a Christmas Day dinner held annually in the school gym to feed residents of Henderson County.

Also this year, a new fund was created to assist new students.

The Digger Dawson Tuition Assistance Program was named after a longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church, who worked at the school for 24 years.

"An anonymous donor gave us $25,000 toward this fund, contingent upon us raising a matching amount," said Principal Linda Kenzik.

"We want to fill our seats with those Catholic families who desire a Catholic education … but are having difficulty," she said.

A special Mass is planned for Catholic Schools Week in January 2007 in celebration and thanksgiving for 80 successful years.

Student body

In 1926, the rectory next to Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville was converted to serve as Immaculata School.

On the first floor were a chapel, a reception-music room, a dining room and kitchen. Three of the four rooms on the second floor were converted to classrooms; the fourth and largest became a dormitory for the sisters, Religious of Christian Education, who first staffed the school.

The school was enlarged in 1944 to accommodate 125 students. Today, the school has around 159 students.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: The Immaculata School choir sings on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8, at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. Special songs were prepared for the school's patronness as the school celebrates its 80th anniversary year.

Below: A black-and-white photo of an Immaculata School class taken in the 1960s.

Since 1974, parishioners John and Suzanne Sherill sent their five children to Immaculata School.

"We are both products of Catholic education and it was such a blessing for us. We wanted them to have the same experience," said John Sherill.

"We never thought of it as a financial sacrifice at all because the children benefited so much," he said.

Their daughters, Cynthia Sherill Ward and Emily Sherill Sevier, both have fond memories of the school.

"Looking back, going to Friday Mass made such an impact on my life. It was such a blessing," said Cynthia Ward.

"I'm looking forward to sending my daughter to Immaculata," said Emily Sevier, youth minister at Immaculate Conception.

Suzie Aruffo, a 1981 alumnus, now directs the children's Mass program at the parish. Her son, Albert, is a second-grader at Immaculata School.

"I wanted him to have the same opportunity for a Catholic education I had," she said.

Contributing to this article was Joanne Gregory.

Trinity Road is Hiring!

Trinity Road - the largest and fastest growing distributor of Catholic Christian books and gifts - offers a great work environment, business casual office, competitive pay, and benefits. Our office is located in South Charlotte, convenient to I-77 and I-485.

Inside Sales Representative

We are seeking an Inside Sales Representative to sell wholesale products to over 1,500 Catholic bookstores nationwide. The successful candidate excels in the following:

* Solid Understanding of the Catholic Faith
* Cold Calling and Customer Communication
* Sales Reporting and Organization

You will be responsible for researching and generating sales leads from trade association member lists and industry directories. The Inside Sales Representative will "cold-call" daily to a list of association members. The position also entails sending marketing materials to association members and follow-up communication with both prospects and customers. You will also respond to inbound calls from customers and process all sales orders. Each week you will be responsible for generating sales reports and marketing reports for management review. You must be able to attend trade association shows twice a year in various parts of the United States. To be considered for this position you must be highly organized and able to multi-task, working on several sales initiatives simultaneously. You must be proficient with Microsoft Office products – particularly Word and Excel. You MUST be able to work with spreadsheets and sales database applications. You must be able to operate in a fast paced, highly dynamic environment. You must be an outstanding communicator with strong telephone etiquette. This position offers a competitive base pay plus commissions. We will consider both full-time and part-time (minimum of 25 hours per week) applicants. A college degree is preferred. Prior sales experience is a plus. If interested, please send your resume, cover letter and three personal references to kristen@trinityroad.com.

TRinity Road™

ORGANIST

St. Michael Catholic Church in Gastonia is in need of an organist for the 10:00a.m. Mass on Sundays. Responsibilities include playing for rehearsal at 8:45 am on Sunday with the adult choir and then Mass at 10:00a.m.

Please contact Chrissy Glisson at 704-867-6212.

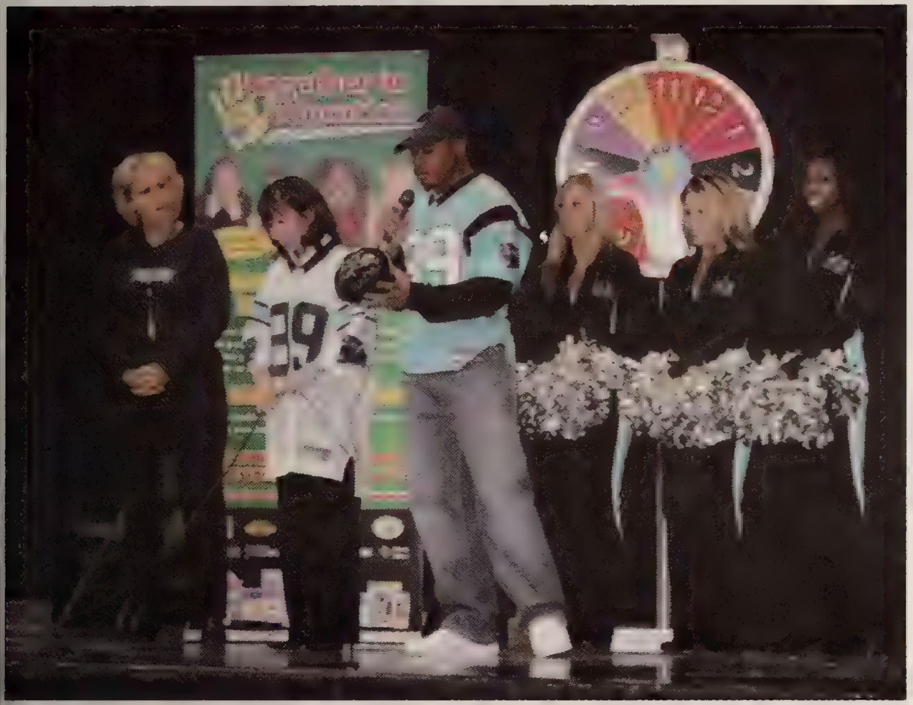
Accounting Manager

St. Matthew Catholic Church — Southeast Charlotte

Responsible for preparation and oversight of all parish accounting functions. Requirements include: bachelor's degree in accounting or related field, strong organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills, strong business acumen and the ability to communicate in a clear and concise manner.

Send resume to:
Deacon Jim Hamrlik, St Matthew Catholic Church, PO Box 49349, Charlotte, NC 28277.

Smith in school

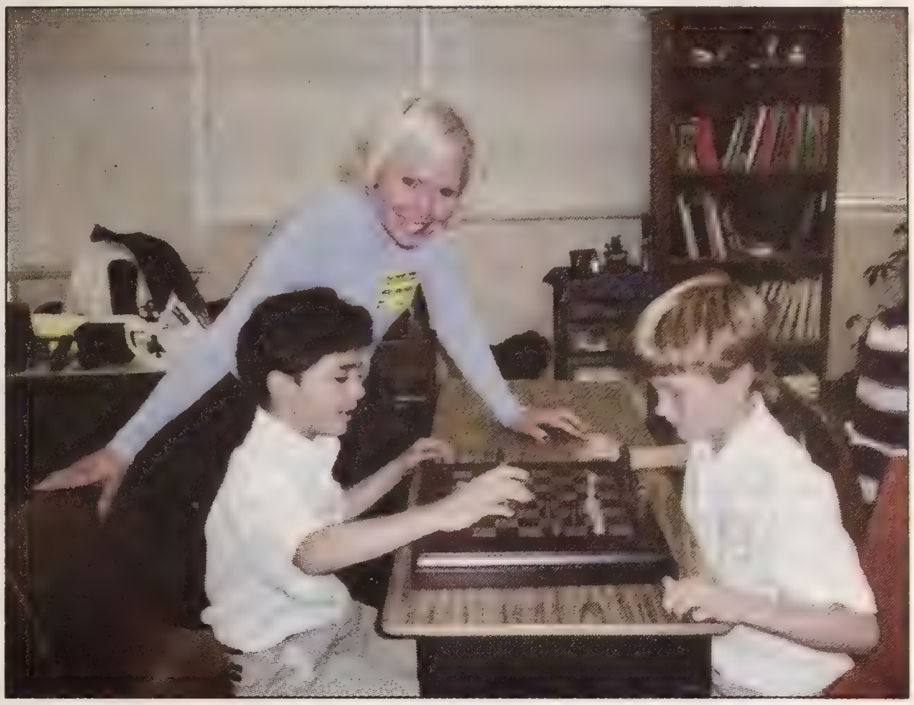


Courtesy Photo by Lisa Crates

Steve Smith, wide receiver with the Carolina Panthers football team, visits St. Mark School in Huntersville during a pep rally Dec. 5. The visit by Smith, mascot Sir Purr and three Top Cat cheerleaders celebrated the school's victory in the 2006 Harris Teeter Together In Education Milk Challenge, sponsored by Harris Teeter, the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association and the Panthers.

Students collected and turned in milk caps, each worth 5 cents, to earn money for their schools. St. Mark School came in first by collecting 9,510 caps.

Conquering chess



Courtesy Photo

Joyce Koch, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, assists third-grader Philippe Lian and fifth-grader William Johnson at St. Pius X School with a chess game.

The school's weekly chess club is moderated by Joyce; her husband, Jim; and parishioner Joan Workman, who work with more than 20 students every Tuesday after school.

The club, which began this year after strong student interest, is open to students in third- through eighth-grades.

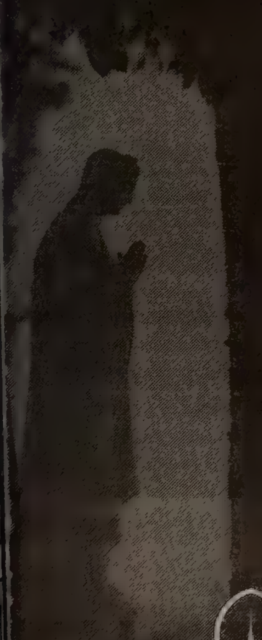
got monks?

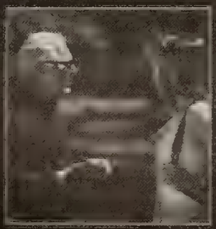
Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

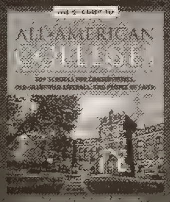




Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED



This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

A Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

How can one face a life of aloneness?

Uncertainty is gate to new discoveries, better future

Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

We have been in the season of joy, rejoicing in the wondrous story of the Nativity. At this time most of us think of big family gatherings, lots of fun and laughter and conversation.

But this year I was reminded several times, in a way I never expected, that this is not the scene for many people.

It had to do with a new book I wrote on divorce for Catholics.

I expected I would get calls from people seeking help, perhaps on how to contact marriage tribunals or what the impact of divorce would be on their Catholic faith. Instead, the majority of responses dealt with something else very human — their pain in facing a future life "alone."

Some of my callers who had been told their marriage had been valid and that they did not qualify for an annulment said they still were determined to remain in communion with the Catholic Church.

Yet, they spoke of such incredible loneliness and a kind of fear that they would not be able to go on in that state.

While I never applied for an annulment because I never intended to remarry, I certainly could relate to their loneliness. I had — and have — been there so many times. I vividly remember some 20 years ago that I could label only as "a new experience."

Coming from a large family and being the single parent of seven children, all my years until that day had been spent in the midst of people. Now I was alone when I came home from work. It was a new experience for me to be in an empty, noiseless house.

I wandered from room to room, somewhat disoriented, unable to cope with the quiet or to decide how to spend my time, even though I had much to do and there were many choices I could make.

Worst of all, I suddenly visualized my coming years as an endless stream of bleak, boring, lonely days, and I was asking God, "How can I live the rest of my life alone?"

The answer, of course, is that I couldn't. No one can. Each of us needs relationships, commitments, interactions, friendships and closeness with others.

Without relationships, life seems sterile and we put ourselves in danger of pathological loneliness. The need for relationships is universal.

The challenge of finding them is one that must be met not only by divorced persons, but also by the widowed, the young, the old and, yes, even the married.

We can see this position as a trap or as an unusual setting for a new kind of self-growth.

On the positive side, we can accept this as an opportunity to make a conscious choice to be individuals capable of standing alone and taking responsibility for our lives, while buttressed by the experiences and support of the church — and wise others — to help us find greater meaning in our lives.

I benefited when I heard a speaker say that "uncertainty is the gate to new discoveries," and "self-doubt is an invitation to put on a new hat."

That is upbeat advice, good to think about as a new year begins. I hope it brings each of us a new determination to stay in charge of where we are going despite our loneliness.

Letters to the Editor

Global warming not a major issue

It's highly unfortunate so many clergy and laypeople have been influenced by alleged dangers of "global warming" ("Turning up the heat," Dec. 8).

The correlation between solar magnetism, cosmic radiation and cloud formation affects warming. It's known that clouds reflect more than 20 percent of the sun's radiation back into space.

Without the "techno" speak, less cosmic radiation would mean less cloud formation and warmer temperatures. Cosmic radiation changes on a regular basis. Recently, the Danish Center for Climate Change reported verification of the physics of cloud formation by varying degrees of that cosmic radiation.

Scientists agree that average global temperature is only 0.6 degree Celsius warmer than 100 years ago. There is no scientific consensus that global warming will cause damaging climate change, or the precise extent of man's effect.

It turns out that the wheels of God have already set in motion how climate will change, but not by man's actions. The initiative to change man's effect on climate is very likely misplaced, especially after knowing that the eventual end of the world will be God's doing — not man's.

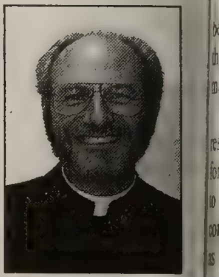
— Kevin Roeten
Asheville

Christmas giving can save the world

Creative gifts can put Christ back in Christmas

Economy & the Marketplace

GLENMARY FATHER JOHN RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST



Cliché No. 1: "Christmas is becoming too commercial."

Cliché No. 2: "Put Christ back in 'Christmas."

Non-cliché: "Christians, through our hyper-consumption, are destroying the world Christ came to save."

Consumer expectations about Christmas bait the trap that catches many of us. The credit card industry estimates that Americans will use plastic to charge around $100 billion for gifts at Christmastime.

The average middle class family already owes about $8,000 in credit card debt, but an estimated 115 million consumers survive by paying at least the minimum monthly balance and carrying the rest with cripplingly-high interest rates.

With more than two credit cards in circulation for each person living in America, the plastic card represents the opiate of the consumer, separating the psychological high of the purchase from the depressing low of financial consequences.

Christmas expectations have woven themselves into our social fabric and become ingrained in many of us. For example, we don't feel guilt if we neglect to buy a gift for someone who gifts us. We feel embarrassment.

Guilt means by justice we owed something and did not give it. Embarrassment means by social conventions, the other bested us.

So the cashier swipes our credit card and we buy the person something to tie the score. Consumption becomes defensive, compulsive and mindless.

The goods we consume provide information, while they communicate our social status and values. A $40 shirt with "Tommy Hilfiger" printed up one arm trumpets that the wearer participates in the global economy — the one-third economy, since two-thirds of the world's population cannot afford a $40 shirt.

We consume pricy things less because we need them to survive and more because we need them to participate in our social class.

Consumerism also shifts the economic emphasis away from the common good to individuals and their freedom. The market promotes happiness, good health and education through the exercise of individual choice — providing a person has the dollar power to choose.

As a result, CEOs and members of Congress have gold-plated health care plans, while the blue-collar diabetic down the road has free clinics and emergency rooms.

Frivolous consumption is destroying the planet. Scientists estimate it would take more than five earths to sustain the world's current population at U.S. consumption levels. With only 4 percent of the world's population, America consumes 25 percent of all resources, uses 43 percent of all gasoline and produces 25 percent of all greenhouse gases.

Without a change in lifestyle, global warming will significantly alter life on this planet.

"Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle," wrote Pope John Paul II in his World Day of Peace address Jan. 1, 1990.

In concluding his message, he said, "I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue."

Because consumerism has an orientation of "having" rather than "being," the challenge remains to create a lifestyle valuing consumer choices that deepen the human experience and highlight healthy relationships.

Appalachian Sustainabl Development, a non-profit group i Abingdon, Va., suggests a few creativ ideas along those lines for Christmas. Fo example, help a child become curiou about the natural world by giving a tree th family plants together, cook or bake a gift make a photo album filled with memorie or give a socially conscious gift.

The cliché about "Put Christ back i Christmas" must mean something abou his gift giving, because if we gave th same way, we would probably be helpin to saving the world.

Father Rausch is director of peace an justice for the Diocese of Lexington, Ky.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words o less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number o the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholi News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse; in whole or in part, in print electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

New Year's resolutions

God can help you keep promises, improve yourself

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Making New Year's resolutions can be a daunting experience, especially for those who have in the past broken so many of them in the month of January.

It seems to me that our good resolutions only stay fresh in our minds for a short time, and then they begin to dissolve. We seem to be much more comfortable returning to our old ways, as we accept our failure to be perfect without a whimper.

Dare we make any new resolutions this year when we have so little confidence in our wn moral perfection? It is a puzzlement, as he King of Siam once said.

However, before you get down n yourself too unkindly, permit me o reacquaint you with a few biblical igures. Comparisons are odious, but this ittle exercise may help you to realize hat, all things considered, you're not uch a bad egg after all.

A longtime Jesuit friend, Father Bill 'Malley, whose writing is known to the eaders of America magazine, has written n the topic.

In a homily based on the Gospel f Mark 10:35-45, he reminds us how ames and John failed to live up to the igh ideals of an apostle by making heir position in the kingdom their main oncern.

These brothers, who had been allowed to hear the actual Sermon on the Mount, who were with Jesus constantly for the three years of his public ministry and even witnessed the triumph of the Transfiguration, fell back into a state of raw ambition.

They began promoting themselves, as Father O'Malley puts it, "to see who would become a cardinal and who would remain just a priest in the kingdom to come."

Jesus reproached them both gently. The Lord always seemed to hope for the best and expect the worst.

He knew that even the great heroes of the Bible were just human beings. These biblical icons, "so sanitized and heroicized by homilists, often yielded to temptations far more monstrous than most of us would even dare to consider."

Father O'Malley continues: "The great Abraham, our father in faith, pimped his wife Sarah into rich men's harems to save his own skin (Gn 12:10-20). And Moses, the greatest figure in Hebrew Scripture, tried to stammer his way out of his mission.

"Even King David, the reputed writer of the Psalms, became an adulterer and a murderer."

In light of such hypocrisies, who are you to get on your high horse about expecting to achieve perfection? Ponder the impact of original sin on all human beings.

The purpose of this exercise is not to stress your weakness so much as to see better the urgency of turning to God for help.

If you want to make a good resolution for the coming new year, why not decide to pray deeply at least once a week? Get inside yourself, and face your weaknesses as best you can, remembering that they are merely human defects you share with every saint who ever lived.

Then pray for the grace of God to overcome what you do not like.

Just looking at yourself honestly and asking God for help once a week will be a good resolution for you to make for the year 2007.

---

s yours a 'holy' family?

vercoming common problems is possible

Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS

Every family has its holy moments. ven yours. Surely, at one time or nother, you've said a version of these ommon parental phrases:

— "Holy, moley, what were you inking?!"

— "Holey socks! That's what you're oing to wear? Those are the only clean nes you have? Do you see what happens hen you don't put your dirty clothes in e hamper?"

— "Wholly unacceptable! Whatever ssessed you to ..."

Holy and spiritual? Well, yes, you ve those times too: "Holy God, give e patience right now!"

It can almost seem like a cruel trick t the church has chosen the Sunday tween Christmas and New Year's (the st of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of d) to focus on the Holy Family.

Yes, every family — in theory would be on its best behavior during is liturgical season, but families have eir moments — between the shopping ayhem, the sugar buzzes, the sleep privation, the visiting relatives.

Take comfort in the fact that even e Holy Family had its moments. The angelist Luke tells us that when Jesus s 12 and they went to Jerusalem for the st of the Passover, Mary and Joseph ... splaced him (2:41-52).

It took them three days to find him. Three days during which, in Mary's words, "Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

Every family — even the Holy Family — has its anxious moments. Your family has had, and will have in 2007, its share.

Apparently then, holiness and fear are not mutually exclusive. You know that parenting is scary but how can you, in the upcoming year, increase the holiness in your heart and in your home?

A few suggestions:

— Do something for another family. (Drop off those items at the food bank or donate some clothing and household goods to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.)

— Apologize when you hurt another person. (And forgive those who have hurt you.)

— Eat dinner with the television off. (Really. At the table. Visit with one another. This can take some practice if it's been awhile.)

— Thank God every day for your family and pray for each of its members.

Does "holy" mean stuffy?

It's easy to be more than a little leery of the word "holy" because so often we equate it with "sanctimonious." One advantage of reading about the lives of the saints — their real lives, not a watered-down or fluffed-up version — is that it becomes apparent:

1. There never has been a sanctimonious saint.

2. Some saints were very specific about how annoying sanctimonious people can be.

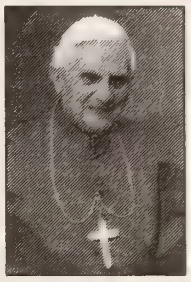
Perhaps St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) summed that up best: "May God deliver me from gloomy saints." (Some translations of that quote use "sullen" or "long-faced" saints. But there's just something about "gloomy," especially in the dark of winter.)

On that same topic, St. Francis of Assisi (1181/1182-1226) advised: "Let the brothers ever avoid appearing gloomy, sad and clouded like the hypocrites; but let one ever be found joyous in the Lord."

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine.

Pope says birth of Jesus offers peace to world

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even if many people do not realize they are looking for the Savior, humanity yearns for the peace and renewal that will save each person and the whole world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Born in the poverty of the manger, Jesus comes to offer everyone that joy and that peace that alone can fill the yearning of the human soul," he said Dec. 20 at his last general audience before Christmas.

The pope said that as believers prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, it is legitimate to ask: "Does humanity today still await the Savior?"

"One has the feeling that many consider God to be extraneous to their own interests. Apparently, they do not need him; they live as if he did not exist or, worse, as if he were an obstacle to be removed for their self-realization," the pope said.

Yet, he said, people continue to seek "a path of renewal and salvation, to seek a savior and await, sometimes unaware, the coming that will renew our world and our lives."

It is the task of believing Christians to tell the world and demonstrate with their lives the truth that salvation and peace come through belief in Jesus.

Here is the Vatican text of the pope's remarks in English.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In these last days of Advent, the liturgy invites us to draw close to the stable of Bethlehem contemplating in awe the birth of the Redeemer. Full of joy and thanksgiving we recall how the creator of the universe, out of love, came to dwell among us.

For many centuries Israel had awaited the Messiah, imagining him as a powerful and victorious leader. Instead, the Savior was born in absolute poverty, and the true light who enlightens all people was not accepted by his own (cf. Jn. 1:9-12).

Do we still await the Savior? Today many consider God irrelevant, an obstacle to success. Even believers sometimes seek tempting but illusory shortcuts to happiness.

And yet, perhaps even because of this confusion, humanity seeks a savior and awaits the coming of Christ, the one true redeemer.

We Christians, through our witness against those who offer a 'cheap salvation,' defend the truth of Christmas which Christ brings to every person of good will.

Let us then with Mary and Joseph prepare to open our hearts to the Lord who is at hand. Do not be distracted by the trappings! Be watchful and pray! In this way our homes will welcome Jesus with faith and love.

A labor of love

Part-time Christmas tree business becomes family tradition for many

BY JOE BOLLIG
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY JOE BOLLIG, THE LEAVEN

Duane Olberding stands next to a Christmas tree on his farm in Leavenworth, Kan., Dec. 7. Olberding, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Leavenworth, has been growing Christmas trees on his 40-acre farm since 1978.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — The question made Duane Olberding laugh: Are you as jolly as Old St. Nick?

"I don't know about being as jolly as Old St. Nick, but I do enjoy helping people get a nice Christmas tree," said Olberding, a member of St. Joseph Church in Leavenworth.

Olberding, who recently retired as a guidance counselor at Immaculata High School in Leavenworth, has played a key role in making Christmas merry for Leavenworth families since 1984. He's watched families grow up as they have come back year after year.

Olberding is a Christmas tree farmer. Getting a tree for a family makes him feel like he's part of their Christmas celebration.

"It's probably why I've done this for so many years," he said. "If I thought about all the work I have to do with the trees in June, I would have probably quit a long time ago.

"But at this time of the year the people come out, the kids are laughing, and they're happy with their tree. It's something I can add to their family tradition, and I do enjoy that," he said.

Olberding's trees are in city residents' homes, and in the homes of American and foreign military officers who study and train at Fort Leavenworth. One of his trees can be found at City Hall this year, and others are at the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth motherhouse.

And, of course, Olberding has two of his trees in his own home.

Most people only think about Christmas trees in December, but Olberding thinks about them all the time — understandable, since a small forest of 1,000 pines and a few spruces practically adjoins his house.

Olberding grew up on a farm near Sabetha, but decided on a career in education. After teaching at St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays (now Thomas More Prep-Marian), he moved to Leavenworth in 1973 to teach and counsel students at Immaculata.

He and his wife, Betty, decided to buy 40 acres about three miles southwest of town and farm part-time.

"We had some land near a pond on our property that was kind of useless, a grassy area with some brush," he said. "The water table was good there, so we thought we'd experiment with trees. We'd seen other Christmas tree farms and we thought this would be educational and fun."

The tree farm was to be a family project. He convinced his four children (then in grade school) that they should invest some of their own money in the venture and work at it to grow their own college fund.

Over the years, the children got a percentage of the sales.

The first trees were planted in 1978, and the first harvest was in December 1984. At the height of the business during the 1990s, the 40-acre farm had a 3,000-tree forest, and the Olberdings were planting 500 seedlings a year.

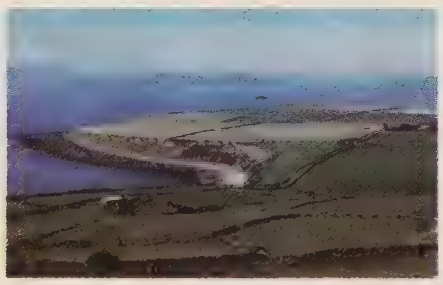
There were some years when they sold an average of 300 trees, but now they generally sell 150 to 200 trees annually.

Christmas tree farming is definitel a long-term proposition, as it takes abou eight years to grow a 6-foot tree.

Most of the work of growin Christmas trees takes place during th summer. Every spring Olberding spray for bugs and culls out any trees infecte with blight. In June, Olberding begins t shape the trees, and he does it the old fashioned way: with hand-held shears.

Other than the bugs eating his tree and the inevitable rogue deer strippin out a few branches, there is only on thing that truly bothers Olberding: seein Christmas trees discarded by the side the road the day after Christmas.

"I do not like that," he said. "Th Christmas season is actually fro Christmas through Epiphany. Peopl have missed the whole thing if they thro their tree out the day after Christmas."



Save $100 before February 2nd!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

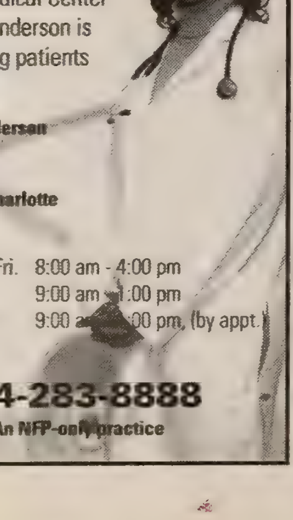
Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.



www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family Medicine

...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - [illegible]:00 pm, (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.
THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don have time to research even a fraction of them.

Call to learn more about:

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMEN
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/dava

citigroup
SMITH BARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 20 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a divis and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates an used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbr Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affilia and are used and registered throughout the world.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JANUARY 5, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 12

Perspectives

David Hains examines misusing God's Word; Tony Magliano exposes the big picture of human rights

| PAGES 14-15

Shepherding a new year

CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses pilgrims from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25. The pope has a busy schedule for 2007, with hundreds of papal meetings, liturgies, trips and other events planned.

2007 promises a world of busyness for Pope Benedict

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — A new Vatican calendar features photos of Pope Benedict XVI relaxing, but the pope's own agenda for 2007 leaves little time for repose.

The Vatican will be a busy place throughout the year, with hundreds of papal meetings, liturgies and other events already scheduled and several documents in the pipeline.

The pope will make at least two foreign trips, including his first intercontinental journey, and sometime during the year is likely to name another group of new cardinals.

The year begins with a spate of traditional papal Masses and meetings, including a "state of the world" address to the world's diplomatic corps in mid-January.

The diplomats speech is prominently covered by the

See 2007, page 13

In the spirit of Christmas

Parishes serve thousands at Christmas

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE—Catholics and non-Catholics alike across the Diocese of Charlotte recently came together to help spread the spirit of Christmas.

Christmas dinners and events for the parishes and their communities were held in Catholic churches across the 46-county diocese on or near Christmas Day.

Nearly 3,000 meals were served to members of the community during the annual Christmas dinner at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Dec. 25.

Of the 2,856 meals served by the parish, 1,125 were served in the St. Patrick School cafeteria while 1,740 meals were picked up or delivered. It

See CHRISTMAS, page 7

Having served with distinction

President Gerald R. Ford brought healing to wounded nation

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In his brief, unelected tenure, President Gerald R. Ford restored integrity and character to the White House and brought a measure of healing to a country badly ounded and divided by the Watergate scandal.

Ford, who had a bout with pneumonia last January and two heart treatments in August, died Dec. 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He was 93.

In a Dec. 27 statement, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called Ford "a great and good man who served his country with distinction."

"As a healing presence for the nation at a time when it was much needed, President Ford earned his country's lasting

See FORD, page 12

CNS PHOTO BY JOE SKIPPER, REUTERS

Former U.S. President Gerald R. Ford and wife Betty acknowledge cheers from the crowd following a tribute in his honor at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia Aug. 1, 2000. Ford died Dec. 26 at the age of 93.

Choosing life over death

Death penalty support wanes as life without parole gains public favor

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — As 2006 came to an end, capital punishment was making headlines for what it is not doing: overall declining use, waning support and recent challenges at the state levels about how it is conducted.

Shifting public support

See DEATH, page 5

XHPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
20836#
8 P-1
: COLLECTION
LSON LIBRARY CB 3930
IC
APEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Around the Diocese
Faith for pre-teens; grants to nonprofits
| PAGE 4

Defining marriage
Massachusetts bishops laud Legislature
| PAGE 6

Culture Watch
Maryknoll mag marks 100; Catholic actor Boyle dies
| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SEEING WITH A NEW PERSPECTIVE

CNS photo by Kathleen Ogle, Catholic Spirit

Karmen, the Seeing Eye puppy that Meredith Kollmer is training, peeks out from among the pews at St. Matthias Church in Somerset, N.J. Kollmer, 18, has raised eight Seeing Eye puppies since she was 10 years old.

For Catholic teen, raising Seeing Eye pups a way to serve others

SOMERSET, N.J. (CNS) — It is not often that one sees a dog in church.

But Karmen isn't just any dog. Escorted to St. Matthias Church in Somerset by Meredith Kollmer, Karmen is in training to become a Seeing Eye dog.

And Kollmer, 18, isn't just any Seeing Eye puppy-raiser. She has raised eight Seeing Eye puppies since she was 10 years old.

"Church provides another form of experience for the puppies," Kollmer said. "As a puppy-raiser, we're supposed to give them the opportunity to experience many different environments."

In church, the puppies get used to all kinds of people, noises, activities and sounds. When the gospel choir sings, "there's the music and clapping," she explained, and "the sitting and standing" throughout the Mass "teaches them patience."

Father Douglas Haefner, pastor, said he was impressed with Kollmer's willingness to share her time and talent to assist people who live with blindness.

"Think of how many times in the Gospels Jesus refers to blindness and sight and how he opened peoples' eyes to their own limited vision and the vision of the kingdom he proclaimed by his witness and ministry," he said.

"Meredith truly practices the kingdom in her ministry of training Seeing Eye dogs," Father Haefner added.

Kollmer learned about raising Seeing Eye puppies while visiting the Somerset County 4-H Fair.

Seeing Eye puppy-raisers typically care for the puppies from the time they are about 8 weeks old until they are 16 months old.

In addition to church, Kollmer brings the puppies to stores and malls. Her puppies do not go to school with her ("too much going on"), nor do they go to supermarkets or restaurants during their initial training.

After the puppies return to Seeing Eye Inc. in Morristown, they are evaluated. Once the dog goes back, the trainer is forbidden contact with the dog. If the puppies are found to have no physical or behavioral problems, they continue to the next training phase.

Kollmer sees raising puppies for Seeing Eye as an extension of her faith.

"A big part of being Catholic is service to help people in the community," she said.

At the same time, she says she has gained personally from raising the puppies.

"The puppies help me become a better person; they teach me patience," she said.

Giving them up once they are trained is difficult but it's made easier by knowing that the dog will be given "to people who don't have everything that I do to help them live a better life," she explained.

"They go on to become something special and great," she said.

Migration week theme is 'Welcoming Christ in the Migrant'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Welcoming Christ in the Migrant" is the theme of the U.S. Catholic Church's National Migration Week Jan. 7-13.

"I invite you to welcome Christ in the migrant through prayer, education and parish outreach," said Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration.

He said Jesus' biblical admonition that what one does to a stranger is done to him "is particularly timely" in the current immigration debate.

"Our nation's legitimate security concerns have been distorted by some who would foment anxiety, fear and a distrust of migrants," he wrote in a letter accompanying parish educational materials for this year's migration week.

"The present immigration reform debate has lost much of its reason and is often being fueled by raw emotions," he added.

He urged Catholics to become involved in the Catholic immigration reform initiative described on the Web site www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

The National Migration Week poster distributed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops features an icon of the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt alongside a photo of a young Latino couple with a baby riding on a bus or train.

"Scriptures and Catholic social teaching call upon all of us to examine the issues and respond to the strangers among us as we would to Jesus himself," Bishop Barnes wrote.

"The Holy Family found safety and new lives in Egypt during their time of great need," he said. "Many migrants today follow similar paths as they embark on their journey of hope."

Offering aid and comfort to America's newcomers "is not only our Christian duty but a privilege," he said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, 564 Long Shoals Rd. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, at (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Jan. 6, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center Father Timothy Reid will be speaking at the Coffeehouse on the theme "The Battle Has Been Won, But the War is Not Over." Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to become reacquainted with the basics of their religion and to get answers to any questions that they may have. For more information call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Office and the Levine Jewish Community Center will host a screening of the documentary *"Lost Boys of Sudan"* Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Rd. One of the original "Lost Boys" resettled by the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office will be available for questions after the film. For more information call Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3283 or e-mail mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE — The *Notre Dame Folk Choir* will perform a free concert at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Elizabeth Davis at (262) 227-0376 or emdavis@charlottecatholic.com.

CHARLOTTE — Join area Catholics in the *March for Life* and pray for an end to abortion Jan. 12. Participants will gather in the parking lot across from the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1123 South Church St., at 11 a.m. and then march to Trade and Tryon Streets and to the courthouse. For more information, call Tina Witt at (704) 846-7361.

—THE— CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JANUARY 5, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 12

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope receives Iranian delegation, letter from president

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI met briefly Dec. 27 with ranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, who gave him a letter from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The Vatican press office confirmed he receipt of the letter, but did not omment on its contents.

Pope Benedict met Mottaki and a four-member delegation in one of the eception rooms of the Vatican audience hall immediately after the pope's weekly general audience.

"During the course of the meeting, he Iranian representatives expressed heir best wishes to the pope and their pleasure for 50 years of diplomatic elations between Iran and the Holy See," aid a Vatican statement.

"For his part, the Holy Father also offered them best wishes and reaffirmed he role the Holy See intends to exercise for peace in the world, not as a political authority, but religious and moral, appealing to consciences so that the problems of peoples always are resolved through dialogue in mutual understanding and peace," the statement said.

The press officers at the Iranian Embassy to the Holy See and at the Iranian Embassy to Italy were unavailable for comment.

Ehsan Jahandideh, a spokesman for Ahmadinejad, told reporters in Tehran, Iran, that the president's letter did not deal with political concerns, but "on the need to find a way for putting an end to the sufferings of mankind and for promoting human relations based on common religious teachings."

The spokesman said the president wrote the pope that dialogue and cooperation among religious believers could help promote greater justice among individuals and nations.

Vatican says more than 3.2 million attended papal events in 2006

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With two public events still to go in 2006, the Vatican reported Dec. 28 that more than 3.2 million people attended papal audiences and liturgies during the past year.

Almost 1.3 million people joined Pope Benedict XVI for the recitation of the Angelus on Sundays and feast days at the Vatican and at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, the Vatican reported.

The faithful still had one more opportunity — Dec. 31 — to raise the number for reciting the midday Marian prayer with the pope in 2006.

The statistics, compiled by the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household, do not include figures from Pope Benedict's four trips abroad in 2006, or from his trips to different Italian cities.

With a Dec. 31 evening prayer of thanksgiving still on the schedule, the Vatican said 539,200 people had attended papal liturgies at the Vatican and at Castel Gandolfo during the year.

Another 357,120 people took part in special audiences for particular groups.

In addition, the Vatican said a total of just over 1 million people attended one of the pope's weekly general audiences on Wednesdays at the Vatican or Castel Gandolfo.

According to the statistics, the biggest crowds were registered during June, when more than 556,000 people attended the pope's general audiences, special audiences, liturgies and Angelus prayers.

The low point came in July, when the pope spent 18 days in the Italian Alps. At the beginning and end of the month, the general audience attendance added up to 20,000 people; 100 more were part of special audiences and 35,000 participated in the Sunday Angelus.

Pope Benedict held no public liturgies in July or September.

In August, an estimated 500 people joined him inside and outside the tiny parish Church of St. Thomas in Castel Gandolfo for the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope ohn Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on ex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays, Jan. -Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex t St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Babysitting will be provided. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 48-3356.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* will ost an inquiry formation session Jan. 20, 10 .m.-12 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life re invited to attend. For more information, call om O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235 or Kathleen uckerman at (704) 455-7954.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 . Main St., will host a *Faith Formation Series* on he place for the biblical ethic and lifestyle in our 1st-century consumer society, Jan. 9 and 16, 7:30- p.m. No fees or pre-registration needed. For more nformation, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of aith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail eallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will host a covered-dish luncheon t St. Paul the Apostle Church, Jan. 24 (snow date s Jan. 31) 12-2p.m. The program will be "Famous People of Guilford County" presented by Betty Gale ikes of the Greensboro Historical Museum. Please bring your favorite dish to share with friends. For more information, please call Carmen Wood at 336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — *Chris Skinner*, a nationally known speaker whose life was changed forever after a near-fatal car accident several years ago, will share he lessons he learned and give his message of hope nd determination at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. This program is for parents and youth, grades 6-12. For more information, visit www.chrisskinner.org or call Terry Aiken at (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church 4145 Johnson St. will offer a *free Spanish course* on Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 18. For more information or to register call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Larry Kwan at hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Seniors ages 55 and up are invited to St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., the second Saturday of each month following the 5:30 p.m. Mass for *Senior Games Night*, featuring games and a potluck dinner. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9752 for details.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Loretta Bedner will speak about "The Gift of Human Sexuality" Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — *The Fraternity of St. Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order* will host two open houses for new inquirers: Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy School media center, 1730 Link Rd.; and Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at The Spirit of Assisi (below Our Lady of Fatima Chapel), 211 W. 3rd St. Secular Franciscans are a community of lay Catholic men and women who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information, call Mary Ellen Humphrey at (336) 722-2293 or e-mail donaldbh@aol.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 7-12
Bishops' Annual Retreat

Jan. 13
Pro-Life Rally
Raleigh

Jan. 16 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Jan. 18 — 7 p.m.
Mass for Life
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

For the survivors

CNS PHOTO BY ANTO AKKARA

Archbishop Mario Zenari, the apostolic nuncio to Sri Lanka, inaugurates a house Dec. 20 in a village built by Caritas Sri Lanka for tsunami survivors. The village near Galle houses 76 Buddhist and Muslim families. Caritas Sri Lanka is the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, an international network of Catholic relief, development and social service agencies.

The dedication's joyous atmosphere turned somber when the participants stood and remembered in silence the more than 31,000 Sri Lankans killed by the Dec. 26, 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami. Tears could be seen in the eyes of the participants. Galle, a port city south of Colombo, lost more than 5,000 lives from the devastating waves.

Keeping the faith

Faith formation re-geared for middle schoolers

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Catholic youths of middle-school age in the Hendersonville area will now have a faith-based program just for them.

The faith formation program at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville currently teaches more than 200 children in kindergarten through eighth-grade.

But the catechists noticed the older children were being drawn to other local churches that offered programs geared toward pre-teens.

"The middle-school years seem to be the time when we lose our children, and we want something that will help them stay in the church," said Sandy Donecho, director of religious education at Immaculate Conception Church.

As such, Donecho has created a new faith-based program designed to keep the students involved and growing in the Catholic religion.

The program will be geared toward the pre-teens and encourage them to take active leadership in the group.

"Parents are welcome, but the kids run it," said Donecho.

The students will set the agendas and pace for the meetings, with assignments given each month to encourage a fuller faith experience.

> "The middle school years seem to be the time when we lose our children, and we want something that will help them stay in the church."
>
> — Sandy Donecho,
> religious education director,
> Immaculate Conception Church

The students will examine the tenets of Catholicism, delve into Scripture, cook meals together and spend time developing friendships in a safe and Catholic-centered environment.

"The goal is to develop fellowship and teach the lesson: 'I can depend on my fellow Catholic,'" said Donecho.

Meetings will be held the last Wednesday of each month, beginning Jan. 31.

Activities planned for the coming months include a Super Bowl party, a Valentine's Day excursion to a local coffee shop and an outing to play billiards.

WANT MORE INFO?
Contact Sandy Donecho at Immaculate Conception Church at (828) 693-6901.

Sisters of Mercy foundation awards grants

Funds total more than $1 million to 25 nonprofits in N.C., S.C.

CHARLOTTE — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation recently announced grant awards totaling more than $1 million to 25 nonprofit organizations in North and South Carolina.

The grant funds will be used for a variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include affordable housing, children's services, crisis assistance, food distribution, health care, immigration assistance and legal and social services.

Recipient organizations within the Diocese of Charlotte include Affordable Housing Coalition in Asheville, Community Care Clinic of Rowan in Salisbury, Disability Rights and Resources in Charlotte, Guilford Adult Health Inc in Greensboro, Heart Society of Gaston County in Gastonia and Second Harves Food Bank in Winston-Salem.

Since first receiving applications in October 1996, the foundation has awarded 685 grants totaling nearly $33 million to organizations serving unserved or underserved people.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information on the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, call (704) 366-0087 or visit www.somncfnd.org.

Join us in the March For Life
Washington, D.C.

January 21-22, 2007

Theme: "Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each innocent human in existence at fertilization. No exception! No compromise!"

CSS
Catholic Social Service
Diocese of Charlotte

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 21 - 8 PM — Mass at Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Monday, January 22 - 10:30 AM — Mass for North Carolina pilgrims, Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.
Celebrants: Bishops Jugis and Burbidge and priests of the Dioceses of Charlotte and Raleigh.

Rally begins promptly at noon, on Monday, January 22.

If your parish or school has a group attending the March for Life, please call the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 704-370-3229 or e-mail mnadol@charlottediocese.org.

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Para Celebrar la Unida
Presente en la Comunidad
La Universidad Belmont Abbey College
Invita a la comunidad Latina
A una misa que se celebrara en Español
en la Basilica de Belmont Abbey

El coro Alegría Hispana
(de la Iglesia de San Gabriel)
nos deleitar con su musica

2 de Febrero del 2007
a las 8:00 de la noche
Seguido por una Recepción

To Celebrate Unity within the Community
Belmont Abbey College invites
the local Hispanic Community to a
Spanish Mass at the Abbey Basilica

Music by Alegría Hispana Choir
(from St. Gabriel Catholic Church)

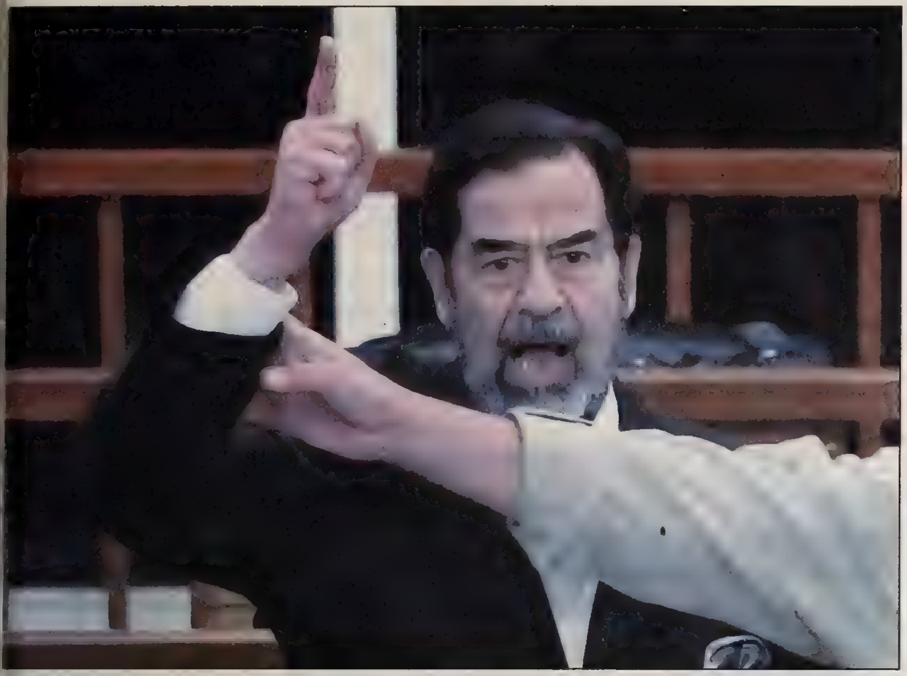
Friday, February 2, 2007, at 8 PM
Reception Following

Belmont Abbey is off exit 26 on I-85 — only 10 minutes from the Charlotte airport!

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church



CNS PHOTO BY POOL VIA REUTERS

A court officer attempts to silence Saddam Hussein as the former Iraqi president receives his verdict in Baghdad Nov. 5. A visibly shaken Saddam was found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death by hanging. The head of the Vatican's justice and peace office responded to the verdict, saying it would be wrong to carry out the death penalty.

After Saddam hangs, Vatican says execution not way to justice

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Executing someone guilty of a crime "is not the way to restore justice and reconcile society," the Vatican spokesman said after Saddam Hussein was hanged Dec. 30.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said, "A capital execution is always tragic news, a motive for sadness, even when it involves a person found guilty of serious crimes."

In a formal statement issued shortly after Hussein's death was announced, Father Lombardi said, "The position of the Catholic Church against the death penalty has been reaffirmed many times."

The death penalty not only will not restore justice in Iraq, but also can "increase the spirit of vengeance and sow new violence," he said.

"In this dark time in the life of the Iraqi people one can only hope that all leaders will make every effort so that in such a dramatic situation spaces will open for reconciliation and peace," he said.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, who earlier had expressed hope that the execution would not be carried out, told Vatican Radio Dec. 30, "I hope and pray that this act will not contribute to aggravating the already critical situation in Iraq, a country already so harshly tried by divisions and fratricidal struggles."

The cardinal said the Catholic Church's opposition to the death penalty is based on its recognition of every human life as a gift of God that must be defended from conception to natural death.

"That position excludes abortion, experimentation on embryos, euthanasia and the death penalty, which are denials of the transcendent dignity of the human person created in the image of God," he said.

Latin-rite Archbishop Jean Sleiman of Baghdad told Vatican Radio justice was not served by hanging Hussein. Although he hoped it would not worsen the situation in the country, he said "it could."

"We already are in a situation that is more than tragic on the level of security, relations among populations and also the economy of the country," he said.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Death penalty support wanes in United States

DEATH, *from page 1*

for capital punishment is a "ray of good news" for Frank McNeirney, co-founder of Catholics Against Capital Punishment, who said he hopes the trend continues.

Death penalty statistics in a year-end report from the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington offered reasons for optimism among opponents of capital punishment.

For starters, the group noted the results of a newly released Gallup Poll showing that more Americans support alternative sentences of life without parole over the death penalty as punishment for murder.

The center also reported that U.S. death sentences are the lowest they have been in 30 years; executions have sharply declined and the number of people on death row has decreased.

During 2006, 53 people were executed, down from 60 in 2005 and 98 in 1999, the report said.

Shifting opinions

McNeirney, who founded Catholics Against Capital Punishment with his wife, Ellen, 14 years ago in their Maryland home, said the change in attitude against the death penalty has been developing over recent years as more people, and jury members in particular, have become aware of the availability of life without parole sentences.

Only Alaska and New Mexico currently do not have life without parole sentences, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

The 2006 Gallup Poll shows that two-thirds of Americans still support the death penalty, but for the first time in two decades it found that Americans by a 1 percent margin — 48 percent to 47 percent — prefer life without parole over capital punishment.

The slim difference in opinion is more of a shift when compared with figures from the 2005 Gallup Poll which showed that 56 percent of Americans preferred the death penalty and only 39 percent supported life without parole.

The overall change in attitude toward capital punishment also reflects a shift that has occurred in recent years among Catholics, McNeirney told Catholic News Service Dec. 21.

In 2005, a poll conducted by Zogby International for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops found Catholics almost equally divided on the issue, with 48 percent favoring it and 47 percent opposing it. The shift was a marked difference from 1994, when about 80 percent of Americans supported the death penalty, with Catholics favoring it by about the same margin.

McNeirney attributes the change in part to Pope John Paul II's clear message against the death penalty during his 1999 visit to St. Louis when he described capital punishment as "both cruel and unnecessary" and noted that "modern society has the means of protecting itself without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform."

McNeirney also noted that the anti-death penalty stance has recently gained new support from pro-life groups that had previously focused primarily on anti-abortion measures and from politicians on both ends of the political spectrum.

But it's not only political and religious leaders who are raising questions about capital punishment.

Currently, a number of court rulings and several state challenges to the death penalty's lethal-injection procedure are holding up executions in several states, including California, Maryland, Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota and Florida.

Maryland's Court of Appeals ordered a temporary halt in executions Dec. 19, saying the state had improperly followed protocol for lethal injections. The ruling came on the heels of other death penalty controversies across the country.

On Dec. 15, a California federal judge ruled that the state's lethal injection procedure violated the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The same day, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush suspended state executions two days after an execution failed to work within 15 minutes and a second lethal injection was given, prolonging the execution to 34 minutes.

Currently 37 states administer lethal injections as the preferred execution method but the procedure is getting closer scrutiny following concerns that it may cause unnecessary pain and suffering as documented by the April 2006 Human Rights Watch report, "So Long as They Die: Lethal Injections in the United States."

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear four death penalty cases in 2007.

Activists in North Carolina and California have been trying unsuccessfully to promote a moratorium on state executions while legislative studies examine death penalty procedures.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte issued a pastoral letter in May 2005, supporting a moratorium in North Carolina and reiterating the Catholic Church's teachings.

That year, New Jersey became the first jurisdiction to enact such a moratorium that is in place until January 2007.

Celeste Fitzgerald, founder and director of New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, said she hopes the commission's findings on the fairness and accuracy of capital punishment are released before the state's moratorium expires.

During a recent death penalty program sponsored by the Metuchen Diocese, she told participants that faith organizations across the country are "watching what happens in New Jersey very closely."

"This is a moment in New Jersey," she added. "I ask that you help us seize it."

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

Defining the institution of marriage

Bay State bishops laud Legislature's approval of marriage amendment

BOSTON (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Massachusetts thanked state legislators Jan. 2 "for living up to their oath of office" by voting on a constitutional marriage amendment initiative before ending their legislative session.

On its last day in its 2005-06 session, a reluctant Legislature narrowly approved the initiative, which would amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriages.

Then it voted to reconsider. Then it voted again — also narrowly — to approve the measure.

The state's bishops, strong advocates of the initiative, said, "Today the constitutional rights of the citizens of the commonwealth have been upheld. The democratic process and the right of the people to have their voices heard were affirmed."

If the 2007-08 Legislature gives the amendment its second approval this year, it would appear on the November 2008 ballot.

Same-sex marriages have been legal in Massachusetts since May 2004 as a result of a ruling by its Supreme Judicial Court in 2003 that the state constitution required equal treatment for same-sex couples.

It is the only U.S. state that recognizes such unions as marriages.

Ironically, it was a scolding of the Legislature by the same court that led the legislators to vote on the marriage initiative on the final day of their 2005-06 session instead of adjourning without a vote, as they had done when faced with a similar initiative in 2002.

With the House and Senate meeting jointly as a constitutional convention, 61 legislators voted for the amendment and 132 voted against it.

Because the amendment was introduced by a citizens' petition, only 50 affirmative votes — one-fourth of the 200-member constitutional convention — were needed for approval.

The convention recessed for an hour, reconvened and voted 117-75 to reconsider their earlier vote. After another recess, as the day was drawing to a close it reconvened and voted 62-134 to approve the amendment.

The state's procedures for a constitutional amendment by popular initiative require such an initiative to be affirmed by at least one-fourth of the constitutional convention of two successive Legislatures before it can be placed on the ballot in a general election.

Edward F. Saunders Jr., executive director of the Massachusetts Catholic Conference, told Catholic News Service Jan. 3 that the conference had counted 57 sure votes for the amendment in the 2005-06 Legislature before its final-day action.

He said it counts at least 54 sure votes in the 2007-08 Legislature, which was elected last November and took office Jan. 3.

When the Legislature recessed last November without voting on the marriage amendment initiative, the state's bishops said they were "profoundly disappointed" that the elected officials "are obstructing the constitutional right of the people to be heard."

Outgoing Gov. Mitt Romney and other advocates of the amendment filed suit against the Legislature, asking the Supreme Judicial Court to order it to bring the initiative to a vote as a constitutional obligation.

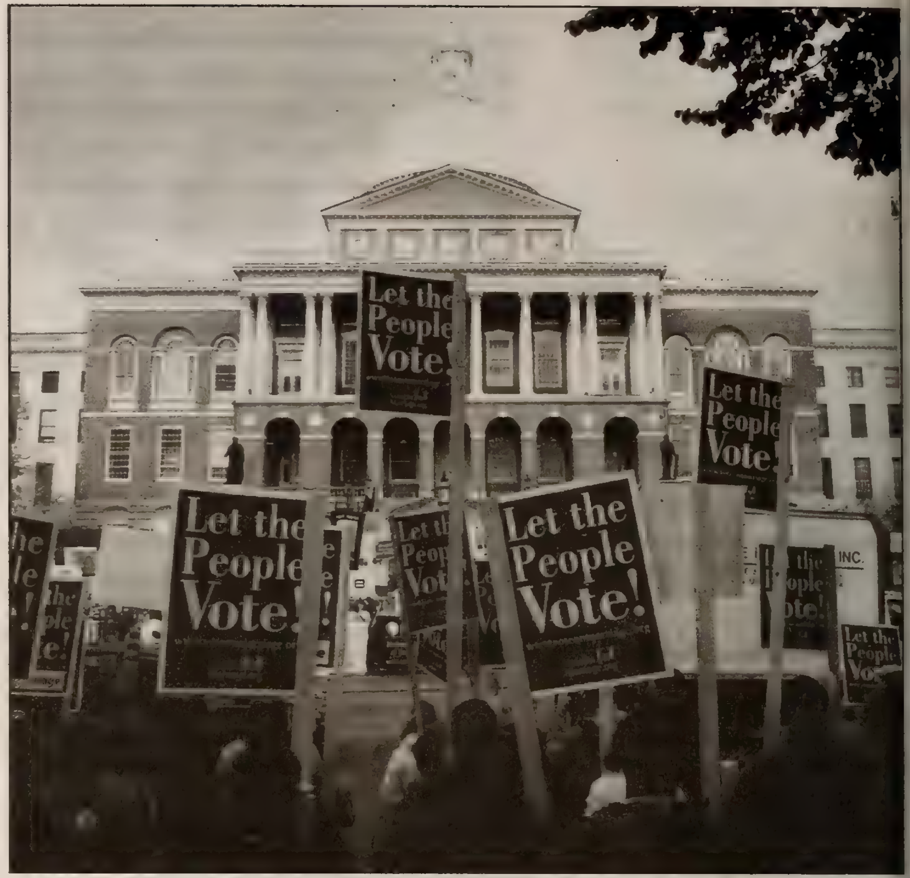
The court ruled Dec. 27 that it did not have the authority to order the Legislature to act, but in its opinion it said, "The members of the joint session have a constitutional duty to vote, by the yeas and nays, on the merits of all pending initiative amendments before recessing."

"There is no presently articulated judicial remedy for the Legislature's indifference to, or defiance of, its constitutional duties," the court said.

But it urged the legislators not to "avoid their lawful obligations."

If the joint session of the Legislature had recessed without taking a vote on the amendment, it would have killed the initiative procedurally and only a new signature drive could have revived it for consideration by the 2007-08 Legislature.

The petition for the current initiative gained about 170,000 signatures, more than double the number needed to initiate the process of moving it to a popular referendum.


Let the People Vote!
Let the People Vote!
Let the People Vote!
Let the People Vote!

CNS photo by Gregory L. Tracy, The Pilot

Demonstrators on both sides of the same-sex marriage debate line the street in front of the Massachusetts Statehouse Nov. 9 in Boston. Legislators debated a proposed amendment that would restrict future marriages to heterosexual couples and leave existing same-sex marriages intact, but they adjourned before voting on the measure.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

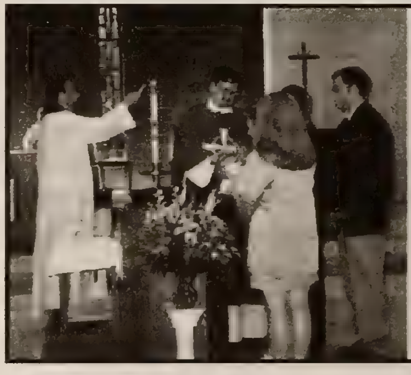
McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291



Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

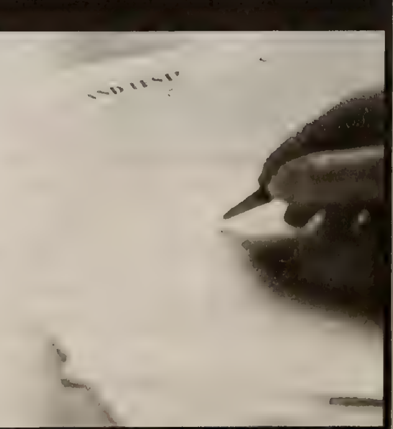
Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



Making your will?

Request a free Wills Kit from Catholic Relief Services.

It will help you practice good stewardship and create a lasting legacy to help the poor overseas.

1-800-235-2772 ext.7318

'I can't imagine spending Christmas any other way.'

Parishes serve thousands at Christmas this year

CHRISTMAS, *from page 1*

was the largest amount served since the event began 27 years ago.

Meals of turkey, rice, vegetables and dessert were offered, and the school gym was full of clothes, toys and toiletries from which the guests could choose personal gifts.

The gifts were donated by parishioners and community members, Catholic school students, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and members of the confirmation class at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, who collect gifts throughout the year.

"Our intent was to provide a meal and gifts to those who otherwise would not have Christmas," said Jerry Jones, a parishioner who has volunteered with the annual event for 26 years.

More than 1,000 poinsettias were delivered to shut-ins, many of whom had no holiday decorations, said Jones.

"We work with the homeless shelters, housing authority facilities for the elderly and numerous agencies that provide services to the needy and shut-ins," said Jones.

Parishioner Pete Brehmer has organized the event for all 27 years. He and countless volunteers, both Catholic and non-Catholic, make the event possible, and a huge success.

"We have heard so many stories over the years about how much recipients appreciate the event," said Jones. "The level of appreciation is one of the reasons that brings so many of our volunteers back year after year."

That so many volunteers were willing to give up their holiday to help others was a testimony to the spirit of Christmas, said Jones.

"I personally have not put up a tree in many years, but would rather give so that others can enjoy the day of Jesus' birth," he said.

Many volunteers felt the same way. Approximately 600 people volunteered with Bounty of Bethlehem, the annual Christmas Day dinner held in the gymnasium of Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

"I can't imagine spending Christmas any other way," said Pat Newell, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church and fundraising chair for the dinner, which is an ecumenical, community effort that began in 1983.

Despite bad weather, the volunteers served approximately 3,000 meals to residents of Henderson County — approximately 1,000 served in the gym, 1,200 delivered to the homebound and almost 750 meals carried out.

The event also included entertainment, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus. Every child received at least one gift, said Newell.

"It's a massive project," she said, but an important one. The dinner serves not only those poor financially, but often people who are "poor in spirit," said Newell.

"It's a wonderful thing to be able to bring them in (at Christmastime)," she said.

None of it would be possible, Newell said, without the dedicated volunteers and the grace of God.

"Everyone does his or her bit and miraculously it comes together," she said. "The Lord is on our side, and it works."

COURTESY PHOTO

The gymnasium at St. Patrick School in Charlotte is filled with clothes, toys and other gifts for guests of St. Patrick Cathedral's annual Christmas dinner Dec. 25.

MORE COVERAGE
For more Christmas coverage from around the Diocese of Charlotte, see pages 8-9.

March for Life 2007

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Join Belmont Abbey College students and faculty on their annual trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC.

Buses will leave Belmont Abbey College at **7:30am on Sunday, January 21st** and return on Monday, January 22nd around midnight.

Cost for the travel is $50 and space is limited.

Contact Donella Haywood at DonellaHaywood@bac.edu or (704) 825-6777 to reserve a space and/or for more details.

Everything you need for a great meeting!

The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

Youths helping youths at Christmas

COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro and parent Sandy Sherwood are pictured Dec. 9 with new and gently-used toys collected by the school for the Greensboro Youth Council's Santa's Workshop, which provides holiday gifts for needy children in Guilford County. Sherwood has coordinated the school's efforts for the last six years. Pictured are: Caroline Sherwood, Sandy Sherwood, Ross Diachenko, Brook Diachenko and Sofia Milan.

Courtesy Photo

Children in costume are pictured during the Christmas pageant at St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet Dec. 24.

Christmas pageant highlights Nativity story

HAMLET — The children of St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet brought the Nativity to life this past Christmas Eve.

The children in the parish faith formation program put on a bilingual Christmas pageant between the English- and Spanish-language Masses Dec. 24, 2006.

The pageant featured children and parents in costumes re-enacting the birth of Jesus.

While some read passages foretelling the birth of Christ in the Old Testament, others acted out the passages with puppets. The event also featured the English- and Spanish-language choirs performing songs for Advent, Christmas and the Mexican tradition of Las Posadas, which recreates Mary and Joseph's search for lodgings.

"The objective was to make holy the fourth Sunday of Advent while at the same time leading the congregation toward the celebration of Christmas," said Benedictine Father David Draim, parochial vicar.

The pageant concluded with the arrival of the Three Kings, traditionally celebrated in the Hispanic community on Jan. 6.

The pageant was the creative idea of Franciscan Sister Johanna Orlett, director of religious education at the parish.

"Sister Johanna wanted to create unity out of the Christian community's observance of Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany," said Father Draim.

"She hopes that this type of pageant will instill in the children and adults the holiness of not just one day but of the days leading up to Christmas as well as the days that follow," he said.

Courtesy Photo

Oblate of St. Frances de Sales Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, is pictured with young parishioners during a bilingual Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Prior to Mass, children re-enacted the Nativity while the Hispanic choir performed Christmas carols. Afterward, the children enjoyed a birthday cake and sang "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

Sharing Christmas

Courtesy Photo

First-graders are pictured with the Panther, the team mascot at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, before Christmas break in December. The new school mascot visited classes to help celebrate the Christmas holiday and break. The Panther was introduced during a pep rally kicking off the school's basketball season Nov. 16, 2006. The school plans to have a "name the Panther" contest in January.

Courtesy Photo

Fourth-grader Tessa Johnston, first-grader Tatiana Manzella and seventh-grader Hannah Howell are pictured during the prayer partner Christmas party at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point Dec. 18. The students exchanged snacks, cards and gifts with their prayer partners in the school gymnasium.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097

Iconography Retreat

Wednesday, February 7 – Sunday, February 11

Fr. Damian Higgins – Ukranian Rite

Students will pray, study and learn the traditional method of egg-tempra icon writing/painting as they prepare their own icons to take home. All materials are included in the tuition. The schedule is flexible.

A **non-refundable** deposit of $150 is required and deducted from the total due.

Cost: $325 tuition
$180 room & board
$ 30 commuter meals

Enlightening Nativity

Courtesy Photo

Matthew Shoener (second from left), a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Newton, participates in an annual neighborhood Nativity display in Conover Dec. 9. The Nativity and luminaries that line the surrounding streets are a neighborhood effort to promote Christmas and, this year, help raise donations for a local four-year-old diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a type of cancer common in children and teens.

Recreating the birth of Jesus

Courtesy Photo

Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, is pictured with Grace Mathias (left) and Clint Fowler, who portrayed Mary and Joseph during the Christmas Eve children's Mass Dec. 24. Also pictured is Sara Asinger, holding a the star that appeared during the Nativity. During the Mass, children also participated as lectors, angels, shepherds and the Magi.

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and
inspiration about
the Diocese of Charlotte!

Learn about Cursillo.

Subscribe today
— it's FREE!

Check it out at
www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Courtesy Photo

A Nativity displaying paintings restored and assembled by youths is pictured at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Dec. 22.

Youths add new color to Nativity display

HICKORY — Hispanic youths at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory recently restored a unique Nativity display for Christmas.

Under the director of Father Julio Dominguez, parochial vicar, the youths assembled paintings of the Nativity and other Christmas-related images, which were displayed around a painting of the birth of Jesus in the parish hall.

The concept of Nativity paintings by young parishioners came to Father Dominguez when he served as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury a few years ago.

"I had to present them with something to keep them busy and active within the parish," he said. "My purpose was to introduce the youths to the main scenes of the Old Testament, which spoke of the arrival of the Messiah, and some of the prominent mysteries of his arrival."

The youths put a lot of work into those paintings, said Father Dominguez.

"My great happiness was to see all those youths so full of life and emotion doing something great for God," he said.

When he became the parochial vicar of St. Aloysius Church in July 2006, Father Dominquez organized the youths to recreate the Nativity display.

"I told them about this project and that if they wanted I could get the paintings (from Sacred Heart Church), but they had to restore them," he said. "After three years, I imagined the condition the paintings would be in; they courageously said yes."

Some youths restored the paintings, while others helped put together the elaborate display. Though charged with different tasks, they all had the same purpose, said Father Dominguez: to do great things for the Lord.

"In this way, the display was not only a project, but it was something made for the glory of God, the service of the community and the sanctification of the youth," said Father Dominguez.

The Nativity display will remain until Feb. 2.

www.andersonfamilymed.com

Anderson Family
Medicine

...Healthcare with a heart.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson is available to help with all of your family's healthcare needs. A graduate of the Yale University School of Medicine and the residency program at Carolinas Medical Center - Union, Dr. Anderson is now accepting patients of all ages.

Dr. E. Kelly Anderson
Parishoner
Our Lady of
Consolation, Charlotte

HOURS:
Mon, Tue, Th, Fri. 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am [illegible]:00 pm, (by appt.)

704-283-8888
An NFP-only practice

CFCC

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYKNOLL

Nuns are pictured working on an issue of The Field Afar in this undated photo. The publication was the predecessor to Maryknoll magazine, which is marking its 100th anniversary in 2007. Maryknoll magazine, with a circulation of 500,000, reports on the work of missionaries in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Maryknoll magazine marks 100 years of telling missionaries' stories

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — In an age of e-mail, digital photography and computerized layout, Father James Walsh might not recognize the mission publication he founded 100 years ago as The Field Afar.

But Father Walsh, who went on to become a bishop and to co-found the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, also known as Maryknoll, "would undoubtedly be overjoyed that the magazine not only reaches more than 500,000 readers but also involves them," said Maryknoll Father Joseph Veneroso, current publisher.

Now called Maryknoll, the monthly magazine reports on the work of Maryknoll missionaries in Africa, Latin America and Asia and has a bilingual sister publication, Revista Maryknoll.

"Many of our missioners say their vocation was inspired by the magazine; many more readers have become our partners in mission by their prayers, their financial support and by reaching out to the needy in their neighborhoods," Father Veneroso said.

The magazine that began Jan. 1, 1907, actually predates the founding of the Maryknoll society by four years.

Editor Frank Maurovich said the magazine "focuses on the heroic work that Maryknoll missioners — priests, brothers, sisters, lay missioners and volunteers — are doing overseas, mainly with the poor and suffering."

"The missioners report that the resilience, the courage and even the joy they find in the poor in the face of extreme conditions have a profound impact on them," he added. "'We receive,' the missioners often say, 'much more than we give.'"

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?

A Lifeline for Marriage

January 19 - 21 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "re-tro-vye"). Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.

Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaillenc@msn.com. Visit our Web site: HelpOurMarriage.com

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 14, 2007

Jan. 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
2) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
3) Gospel: John 2:1-11

Discipleship means being filled with, by Christ

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When word came down that my favorite teacher of freshman year was being transferred, I was outraged.

Who else would "get" me the way he had? Who else could have a passion for books that fueled my own? Who else was up to the impossible task of making Latin, if not exactly exciting, at least bearable?

The answer was, "nobody."

My mother listened sympathetically, commiserating with my angry disappointment. Tentatively, because of my voluble fury, she invited me to consider a possibility.

Could I imagine, she asked, a future in which I would like the new teacher even more than the one leaving?

It was a preposterous notion. I shook my head in mute dismissal.

Turns out she was right. The new guy was a younger, hipper, funnier version of his predecessor. His classes were livelier, his discipline more relaxed.

The progress I'd made my first year was nothing compared to the leaps and bounds I grew in the second.

In Sunday's Gospel we hear the familiar story of the Wedding Feast at Cana. When the wine runs out and his mother calls his attention to the needs of the newlyweds and their guests, Jesus more than replaces what's missing.

He turns the water into not the inexpensive wine that's run out, but a wine of distinction. He doesn't simply refill the wine jugs. Six large water jars, more than 100 gallons, create a superabundance for the enjoyment of all the guests.

Discipleship in Christ often demands letting go of familiar comforts and pleasures, things that are, in themselves, good. That's the bad news.

The good news is that, unfailingly, even if sometimes beyond our immediate awareness, what fills the empty places is richer and deeper and more valuable. For in the end, everything lost is replaced with Christ himself.

Questions:

What's one time I remember something good in my life being replaced by something dramatically better? On whom can I rely for good advice about the needs of others?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"But you have kept the good wine until now" (John 2:10).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 7–13

Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord), Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday (Baptism of the Lord),** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday,** Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday,** Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday,** Hebrews 4:1-5, 11, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday (St. Hilary),** Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 14-20

Sunday (Second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-11; **Monday,** Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday (St. Anthony),** Hebrews 7:1-3, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday,** Hebrews 7:25 - 8:6, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday,** Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; **Saturday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian),** Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21.

Pilgrimage to Italy

Fr. Mark Lawlor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte and parishioner, Dr. Joseph Di Pietro are working on plans for a 14-day pilgrimage to Italy. Our group will leave on April 16 and will visit such interesting and exciting places as Rome, Montecassino (site of St. Benedict's first abbey), San Giovanni Rotondo (tomb of St. Padre Pio), historic Pompeii and Subiaco. The trip may be called A Mosaic of Italy. The proposed itinerary may be viewed at our parish web page www.stvincentdepaulchurch.com under the tab: news.

Our goal is to have 30 pilgrims. Tour package (based on double occupancy) should be just under $3,000. There will be an informational meeting in the reception room at St. Vincent de Paul on Wednesday, January 10, at 4 pm. If you are interested but unable to attend the meeting, please contact Fr. Mark: MLawlor@stvincentdepaulchurch.com or (704)554-7088, ext, 215.

(This pilgrimage is not sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Catholic actor Peter Boyle dies at age 71

Former Christian Brother remembered for memorable roles

NEW YORK (CNS) — Peter Boyle, who was once a Christian Brother before he pursued a career in acting, died Dec. 12 at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

Boyle, 71, had been suffering from multiple myeloma and heart disease.

Boyle became familiar to U.S. television audiences as perpetually cranky Frank Barone, the father of Ray Barone, on the sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond" (1996-2005). The show lasted nine seasons, filming 201 episodes.

But Boyle had a fine career in movies, breaking out into stardom as the title character of the drama "Joe" (1970), and reaching a zenith playing the singing, dancing monster in "Young Frankenstein" (1974).

He also had major roles in the movies "Taxi Driver," "The Candidate," "F.I.S.T.," "The Brink's Job," "Turk 182!" "Honeymoon in Vegas," "While You Were Sleeping" and "Monster's Ball," and played Father Time in all three "Santa Clause" films.

On television, Boyle specialized in playing historical figures in made-for-TV movies, including Sen. Joseph McCarthy in "Tail Gunner Joe," Adm. John Poindexter in "Guts and Glory: The Rise and Fall of Oliver North" and David Dellinger in "Conspiracy: The Trial of he Chicago 8."

He portrayed Howard Hanssen in "Master Spy: The Robert Hanssen Story." He also was featured in the TV miniseries version of "From Here to Eternity."

After seeing how audiences cheered when his character in "Joe" went on a violent rampage, he turned down he role of Popeye Doyle in "The French Connection" and other films that glamorized violence.

In a 2005 interview, Boyle, a Christian Brother for five years — he went by the name Brother Francis de Sales, the same name as the Philadelphia parish of his boyhood — Boyle said he was lax in the practice of his Catholic faith for much of his adult life until 1999.

That year, he said, "I had a heart attack ... and after that, I decided I wasn't going to fool around anymore, and got myself back to Mass."

A 1957 graduate of LaSalle College — now University — in Philadelphia, the school's communications department gave him its Shining Star award in 2005. Boyle's first stage experience was in a parish Christmas pageant.

"Theater and religious ritual are very connected," he said. "It's the using of an inner process to express an outer reality, or something mysterious."

As a young actor, Boyle joked that his Christian Brothers experience was an asset.

"It prepared me for a life as a struggling actor," he said. "When I first went to New York, I wasn't starving but I really got into that vow of poverty."

Boyle met his wife, Loraine Alterman, when as a reporter for Rolling Stone magazine she visited the "Young Frankenstein" set for a story. Through Alterman's friendship with Yoko Ono, Boyle became best friends with her husband, John Lennon, who was the best man at their 1977 wedding.

Survivors include his wife and two daughters, Lucy and Amy.

A private funeral was to be held in New York, and plans also called for a memorial service.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

'Children' is dark, disturbing thriller

CNS PHOTO BY UNIVERSAL

Michael Caine (left) and Clive Owen star in "Children of Men," a bleak futuristic political thriller in which a mysterious infertility has stopped the birth of babies, and a disillusioned London bureaucrat (an excellent Owen) races to carry the world's only pregnant woman (Clare-Hope Ashitey) to safety, while dodging refugee terrorists, the authorities, explosions and bullets at every turn.

The adaptation of a P.D. James novel is intentionally dark and disturbing, if exciting in its chase sequences, and though the first-rate cast includes Julianne Moore and others, some appearances are virtual cameos. The somber palette and relentlessly downbeat milieu may not be for every taste, though some may discern biblical parallels in the "miraculous" birth of the child.

Pervasive rough and crude language and some mild profanity, crude expressions, heavy but not graphic violence including explosions and shootings, a childbirth sequence, brief partial nudity and drug use.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Over 11,201 babies killed in Mecklenburg County alone last year!!

Come and save our children today...
Join the March for Life Charlotte and pray!!!
Friday, January 12 - 11 am

Be a witness for the sanctity of human life and act of reparation for an end to abortion

Gather at 11am at the parking lot on the corner of W. Palmer and S. Church St. (across from the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center) and march at noon to Trade & Tryon St. Then continue on to the courthouse at 401 W. Trade St. to pray the Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Signs will be available at the staging area parking lot; if you bring a sign, it must meet picketing law regulations. If you work uptown, join us on your lunch hour for part of the march!!

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation

OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM
(828)687-7714 **or call for appointment**
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

President Ford brought healing to wounded nation

FORD, *from page 1*

gratitude," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash.

During his 30-month presidency, South Vietnam fell to the communist forces of the North, high Nixon administration officials were found guilty of Watergate crimes, a blue-ribbon commission found the CIA was engaged in illegal activities, the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, the United States took in more than 140,000 South Vietnamese refugees and the country celebrated its bicentennial.

He contributed to better relations between Israel and Egypt, increased U.S. food aid abroad and reached a new nuclear arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union. With the nation facing energy shortages in the wake of the 1973 gas crisis, he negotiated a fine line between high inflation and recession.

He described himself as "a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs."

In his 1979 autobiography, "A Time to Heal," he said he regarded healing the country after Watergate as his greatest accomplishment.

The single most important act in that effort, taken a month after he was sworn in, was to pardon his disgraced predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, of any crimes he may have committed in the Watergate cover-up.

It was an action that provoked far wider and deeper anger than he had expected, but it prevented a lengthy trial that almost surely would have mired the nation in deeper divisions and bitterness.

CNS PHOTO BY KNA

Former U.S. President Gerald Ford is pictured with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican in this 1975 file photo. Ford died Dec. 26 at the age of 93.

He said he pardoned Nixon for the nation's sake, not Nixon's.

The first president to take office after the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions requiring states to allow abortion virtually on demand, Ford favored a constitutional amendment that would restore to the states the right to regulate abortions.

The U.S. Catholic bishops opposed his approach, arguing that an amendment prohibiting abortion on the federal level was needed so that all states would have to ban the practice.

Ford, an Episcopalian, won some favor from Catholic officials because of his support of federal aid to parochial schools, his increase of U.S. food aid in the face of widespread famine in 1975, his welcoming of Vietnamese refugees, his support for immigration reform and his efforts at detente with the Soviet Union.

But the bishops opposed his domestic policies of reducing the food stamp program and other areas of social welfare.

He was criticized by religious leaders for vetoing a public works program that would have created 600,000 new jobs and for supporting covert CIA operations that involved using missionaries as information sources — a policy seen as undermining missionary activity.

Against arguments from church leaders that in vetoing several social welfare bills he was not sensitive to the needs of the poor and unemployed, he said in a 1976 interview, "If I approved every bill that Congress enacted, we would impose the cruelest tax of all on all our people, which is inflation."

In fact, he lowered the rate of inflation from about 9 percent at the start of his term to less than 6 percent by the end; under his successor, President Jimmy Carter, inflation zoomed into double digits, peaking at 13.5 percent in 1980 and contributing significantly to a long-term rise in conservative influence in U.S. politics.

In a speech at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, held in Philadelphia in 1976, Ford expressed concern about the "growing irreverence for life" in the United States. A month later, in a letter to a delegation of U.S. bishops that was released following an hourlong meeting with them in the White House, he spelled out his convictions on a number of issues of concern to the bishops, including abortion.

"Abortion on demand is wrong," he said, adding that every state should have a constitutional right to control abortion and expressing his belief that such laws need to "recognize and provide for exceptional cases."

After the Vietnam War ended, he established a Clemency Board that included two nationally known priests — the Notre Dame University president, Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, and the U.S. bishops' secretary for social development and world peace, Msgr. Francis Lally — to deal on a case-by-case basis with Vietnam War opponents who had resisted the draft or deserted the military for reasons of conscience.

He met with Catholic leaders on several occasions to discuss issues the country faced, including abortion, domestic health and welfare policies, Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees, immigration law reform and issues of humanitarian aid and human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

In 1975 during a trip to Europe he met with Pope Paul VI.

In August 1975, as thousands of refugees from Indochina were pouring into the country, he visited the resettlement offices of the U.S. Catholic Conference (now U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) at Fort Chaffee, Ark., to pay tribute to the contributions of the USCC, which was then resettling well over half the refugees.

Gerald Rudolph Ford was born July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Neb. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1935 and Yale Law School in 1941.

Carter narrowly beat Ford in the 1976 presidential race. Upon his return to private life, Ford and his wife, Betty, moved to Rancho Mirage. He is survived by her and their four children, Michael, Jack, Steven and Susan, and their families.

Accounting Manager

St. Matthew Catholic Church — Southeast Charlotte

Responsible for preparation and oversight of all Parish accounting functions. Requirements include: Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field, strong organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills, strong business acumen and the ability to communicate in a clear and concise manner. PT position 25 hours, exempt. Send resume to: St. Matthew Catholic Church,
Attn. HR Dept., PO Box 49349, Charlotte, NC 28277

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, located in beautiful Winston-Salem, N.C., is searching for a youth minister to continue an established Life Teen program. We are seeking an enthusiastic, passionate, faith-filled individual, to direct young people toward a meaningful, life-affirming journey with Christ. If you are a Catholic with a college degree, have a strong spiritual, faith-based background, are passionate about working with youth, and have at least two years or more of practical experience as a youth minister, preferably in a Life Teen environment, please consider this opportunity.

St. Leo parish has an established Life Teen program centered on the Eucharist. The Life Teen Mass is held every Sunday at 5pm during the school year. We have a dedicated Core Team made up of singles and couples along with many committed parent volunteers. Most important, however, are the 150 (and growing) young people who participate in our Edge Nights (jr. youth), Life Nights (sr. youth), Coffee Houses, activities and retreats. In addition, our Family Life Center features a room dedicated to our youth, a Youth Minister's office, kitchenette and entertainment center. Check us out at www.foolishoftheworld.com.

The position's starting salary is competitive and negotiable depending on education and/or experience. We also offer an attractive benefit package. If interested, please contact Youth Minister Search Committee at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church,
335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104. Phone: 336-724-9596. Fax: 336-724-7036. Email: youthminister@stleocatholic.com.

Classifieds

SERVICES

COUNSELING: Individuals. Couples. Family. Lucille Moses, BSN, M.Ed., Licensed Professional Counselor. 1801 East 5th Street, 108-B, Charlotte. 704-366-6507 or 704-942-4334.

FOR RENT

Isles of Palms, SC (Charleston area): 3 BD, 3BA. Resort Community villa. Walk to beach, pool, golf, tennis. Tropical, upscale décor. Extended stay discounts available. 703-2555-0572

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Administrative Assistant

Responsible, articulate, detail-oriented person needed to handle day-to-day management of a financial planning office. Responsibilities include: client service, activity follow-up, filing, scheduling appointments and maintaining contact management database. College education and experience with Microsoft Office programs preferred. Flexible scheduling from 24 – 40 hours per week during regular office hours. Close to Charlotte Catholic High. Fax resume including education and work history to 704-540-7763.

2007 promises a world of busyness for Pope Benedict

2007, from page 1

international media. That is not true of more routine papal meetings that also gear up in January, including "ad limina" visits by groups of bishops from around the globe.

The "ad limina" visits have undergone a quiet revolution in recent years, and it's evident in the pope's 2007 schedule. Canon law says the visits, by heads of dioceses to report on the status of their dioceses, should take place every five years, but that interval is now anywhere from six to nine years; many of the bishops coming in 2007 made their last visits eight years ago. There are several reasons for the change, one being that the number of the world's bishops has approximately doubled over the last 50 years.

Another is that when Pope John Paul II was ill during the last years of his pontificate, he was unable to keep up the pace of "ad limina" meetings, and a backlog developed.

Today, even with a healthy pope, it's doubtful the Vatican can get back to the five-year schedule, one Vatican source said. The pope would have to meet with 540 bishops a year; last year, he met with 360.

The year 2007 will see "ad limina" visits by bishops from places on four continents, including Italy, Ukraine, Slovakia, Portugal, Serbia, Kenya, Togo, Benin, Gabon, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Japan, Korea and Laos.

Pope Benedict plans to travel to Brazil in mid-May to open a meeting of the Latin American bishops' council, or CELAM, and to Austria in September for a Marian pilgrimage. The Brazil trip is his first across an ocean, and Vatican planners are doing all they can to keep it short and sweet.

There's also a chance the pope may visit the United Nations. An informal invitation has been floated and the pope is said to be considering it — the most likely hypothesis would be a visit in late September to address the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

"The door is open, and the idea is circulating, but nothing's been decided yet," one Vatican official said.

The pope's native Germany also wants him back for another visit, this time in the capital Berlin. Other invitations have come from the Middle East and Africa, but trips there are considered less probable.

He'll make several trips in Italy, including a pilgrimage in June to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis.

The pope, who turns 80 in May, plans sometime in the spring to publish his book, "Jesus of Nazareth: From His Baptism to His Transfiguration," a work aimed at bringing a vivid portrait of Jesus to a wide audience.

Before then, other papal documents are expected to arrive; they include a post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the Eucharist and, according to Vatican sources, a document issued "motu proprio" (on his own initiative) that would expand permission to use the pre-Vatican II Tridentine Mass.

Sometime early in the year will appear a preparatory document for the 2008 Synod of Bishops on "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church."

The pope has indicated he may name new cardinals on a more frequent basis than his predecessor, and he'll have an opportunity to do so again this year. By the end of February, he'll have at least 10 vacancies among the 120 cardinal-electors, and by June he'll have at least 14 openings.

Candidates for the red hat include heads of major archdioceses like Dublin, Paris, Washington, Toronto and Warsaw, as well as a handful of Vatican officials.

But some believe the pope may look particularly to Africa, in an effort for more geographical balance, and to Brazil — the country with the world's largest Catholic population but with only three cardinal-electors.

The pope recently approved decrees on sainthood causes, paving the way for the canonization of four new saints, probably sometime during 2007.

By the end of the year, Vatican sources said, an important dossier may also land on the pope's desk.

Following preliminary approval by commissions of historians and theologians, the cardinal and bishop members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes are expected to examine the cause of Pope Pius XII, whose role during World War II has long been hotly debated between church officials and some Jewish groups.

After sifting through the documentation, the congregation will offer its definitive opinion, sending it on to the pope for a final decision.

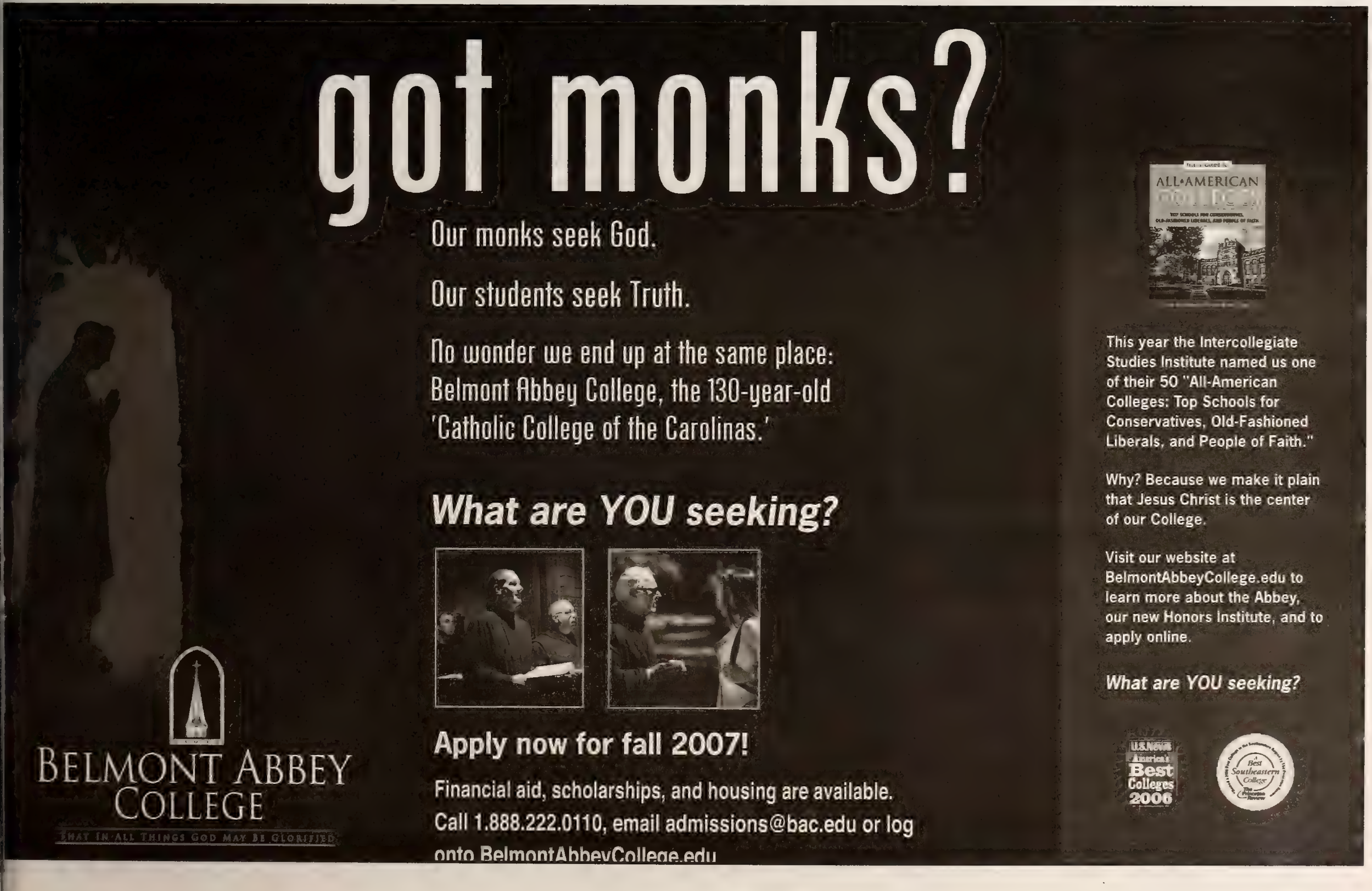
Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

Fr. Patrick Winslow (pastor, St. John the Baptist Church) and Fr. Timothy Reid (parochial vicar, St. Matthew Church) cordially invite you to join them on an 11-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain May 7-17, 2007.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compastella, Avila & Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid. Price from Charlotte: $2689 ($2589 before January 27, 2007).

For more information contact Pentecost Tours at 1-800-713-9800.

(This is not a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage.)



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place: Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old 'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available. Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

ALL-AMERICAN COLLEGES
U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006
Best Southeastern College
The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The Bible brand

Examining the misuses of God's Word for commercial gain

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

I once worked for a large bank that was intensely protective of its brand image.

The company had a group of employees who were nicknamed the "brand police." They patrolled meeting rooms, checked advertising pamphlets and scanned employee communications looking for misuse of the corporate logo.

Their most renowned case came when a company division celebrated a victory of some sort with a large cake shaped in the form of the brand. This was a big no-no in "logo land" as bite marks on the brand were not considered appetizing to the corporate image.

As employees were cutting and eating the logo, the brand police swept in, took the cake, crumbs and all, to an undisclosed dumpster.

Sometimes I think we Christians need something like the brand police. Too often words of Scripture are twisted and used for commercial gain of one kind or another.

I recently came across a promotional TV spot for the NBA and a Web page for a company that promotes dieting — the Genesis way. Each made me want to call a brand cop.

The diet company, Hallelujah Acres, offers something called the Hallelujah Diet. Based on a single verse from Genesis, the company promotes a strict vegan diet. Adherents don't eat meat, seafood, sugar or cheese, but rely on raw vegetables, nuts and smoothies for nutrition.

Proponents claim health benefits and a feeling of well-being. Others point out that the hallelujah dieters undoubtedly spend a lot of time in the bathroom.

Hallelujah Acres bases the company philosophy on Genesis 1:29 — "And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.'"

Conveniently overlooked is Genesis 1:28, which tells us that we have dominion over fish, birds and all the creatures of the earth. Most people see that passage as a divine OK for fried chicken and cheeseburgers.

At the Hallelujah Acres Web site, a banner on the home page says it "teaches God's original plan for health and healing." Did I miss something? Was Jesus a vegan? I seem to recall he ate bread, fish and wine in the New Testament.

The company sells books, exercise equipment, dietary supplements and, oddly enough, cleaning products. Hallelujah Acres markets its products and philosophy through Christian churches, and promotes the hallelujah lifestyle with evangelical fervor.

At least Hallelujah Acres is consistent in integrating what it sees as biblical truth throughout its business. The NBA (no, it doesn't stand for National Bible Association) recently aired a promotional television spot that used a Scripture verse.

In it, a basketball player for the Seattle Supersonics makes a dramatic game-winning shot. Then part of a verse of Scripture appears on the screen: "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul." (Proverbs 13:19).

How poignant, how touching, how ... Madison Avenue. Professional basketball is speed, grace and bling with a measure of hip-hop thrown in. And although everyone benefits from exposure to the Word of God found in Scripture, it is a bit of a stretch to think that observing one lay-up connects us to the Almighty.

Maybe I'm a cynic; maybe the NBA is too. A league spokesman said the commercial was one of several that used quotes from literature that brought the essence of basketball to life.

Never mind that the Bible shouldn't be considered with other works of literature; the commercial sounded like a message from the marketing bullpen intent on dressing up its product in every conceivable outfit, just so it can touch the largest potential audience.

Alas, the only "cop" we can call about Scripture being co-opted for commercial use is the one who is available 24/7 through prayer.

Call it Bible branding and file it under skeptical, because anything that quotes Scripture does a good thing in giving glory to God. However, the truth found in the Bible isn't trendy; it is eternal.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org.

What are people in heaven like?

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. Recently a co-worker asked about our belief in the Communion of Saints, specifically Scripture references about our having a relationship with the ones who have died and are in heaven.

Do those in heaven retain their own identities? Are they aware of others in eternity? Or of people on earth? Or do they exist as part of the entire consciousness that is the Creator? (Virginia)

A. First, we must admit that there is much we do not know, and could not possibly know, about the nature of eternal life with God. Even in heaven, while we somehow will be absorbed into the divine life of love, we will not be God.

The divine nature will forever be beyond our ability to comprehend totally.

On the other hand, there is much we do know from God's revelation. Christian belief on the subject comes directly or indirectly from the Scriptures, especially from the New Testament, and most particularly from the actions of Jesus after the resurrection.

For St. Paul, the risen Christ is the model of what our own resurrection will be like. The Father who raised Jesus will also raise us to be with him (2 Cor 4:14).

Paul's most elaborate discussion of this theme is in 1 Corinthians 15. The resurrection of the Christian is proof of our liberation from sin. Christ is the first to rise; we rise in him. Our resurrection fulfills our Lord's victory over sin and death.

So, what was Jesus like after the resurrection? First, he kept his identity. He was still their friend Jesus who lived among them and died.

Yet he was different. He moved and acted in ways he could not — or did not — before then. He appeared from nowhere and disappeared the same. His closest friends did not know him, and then did recognize him.

Without going further, this tells us much about our own resurrected future. We keep our identities. We can know and relate to each other, though on some different level than here. We are aware of ourselves and each other.

These conclusions from the words and actions of Jesus we find in the Bible underlie Christian tradition about what our risen life with each other will be like. They are not novelties dreamed up centuries later. They are part of Christian literature and belief from the beginning of Christianity.

To offer just one example, one of the most beautiful descriptions of the heavenly kingdom we receive from the early fathers of the church is in a homily by a giant of early Christianity, Bishop Cyprian of Carthage, North Africa.

Before his martyrdom under the Roman emperor in the year 259, he encouraged his people to be strong and not afraid to die for the faith they had received from the Christian past.

Here on earth we are exiles, he reminded them; death is a homecoming we should welcome.

"We look on paradise as our country," he said, "and a great crowd of our loved ones awaits us there, a countless throng of parents, brothers and children long for us to join them. Assured though they are of their own salvation, they are still concerned about ours. What joy both for them and for us to see one another and embrace!

"There the merciful are rewarded, those who fulfilled the demands of justice by providing for the poor. In obedience to the Lord's command, they turned their earthly possessions into heavenly treasures.

"Let all our longing be to join them as soon as we may."

Some Christians may disagree with Cyprian and with us. But at least we can speak confidently that our belief in this aspect of the Communion of Saints is one that derives from Jesus himself, and from the first great leaders of our faith who walked in his steps.

A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The big picture on human rights and peace

Bridges needed between allies and enemies for better world

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

With his World Day of Peace theme, "The Human Person, the Heart of Peace," Pope Benedict XVI builds his New Year's Day message around the idea that respect for all persons, at all times, in every situation, promotes peace.

"As one created in the image of God, each individual human being has the dignity of a person; he or she is not just something, but someone," writes the pope.

He explains that humanity's dignity must consistently be acknowledged with the protection of each person's human rights. Those with greater political, technical or economic power may not violate the rights of others who are less fortunate, says the pope. "Peace is based on respect for the rights of all."

Pope Benedict firmly upholds the right to life, not just the right to exist but to live with dignity. He connects the victims of armed conflicts, terrorism and various forms of violence with those who suffer "silent deaths" caused by hunger, abortion, embryonic experimentation and euthanasia.

He asks: "How can we fail to see in all this an attack on peace?"

In his efforts to promote human rights, Pope Benedict does not single out any one particular issue. Instead, he writes that fellow human beings are suffering and dying not only from abortion, not only from armed conflicts, not only from hunger and not only from terrorism, but from all of these — and many more — injustices against humanity.

The pope is emphasizing that a concern about protecting all human rights is essential for peace. Unfortunately, many Catholics insist that only "their" issues really matter.

For 25 years I have been active in the Catholic pro-life movement, as well as the Catholic peace movement. With few exceptions, I have experienced that each camp shows little interest in the concerns of the other.

Though abortion, infanticide, embryonic stem-cell research, cloning and euthanasia all make war upon human persons, the Catholic peace movement continues largely to ignore these violent attacks against humanity.

And though the arms trade, extravagant military budgets, nuclear weapons, space weapons, land mines, pre-emptive attacks and war itself all constitute assaults upon life, the Catholic pro-life movement continues largely to ignore these life issues.

As Catholics we need to keep before us the "big picture" of human rights. Everyone deserves the protection of his or her God-given rights. When these rights are denied, peace becomes unreachable.

In his efforts to emphasize the "essential equality of human persons," Pope Benedict explains that unjust inequalities like the lack of food, water, shelter, health care and sexism are among the root-causes of violence.

Domestic and foreign policy shifts strongly centered on human rights — with far more funds for poverty-focused aid — are the path to peace. We need to build bridges, not blow them up.

Let's resolve in 2007 to construct bridges between pro-life and pro-peace groups, between the haves and have-nots, and between allies and enemies.

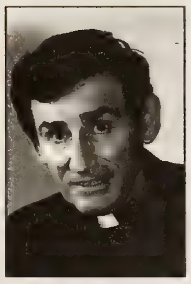
Quoting St. Augustine, Pope Benedict writes, "God created us without our aid; but he did not choose to save us without our aid." God expects us to do our part.

With his help, let's commit ourselves to working harder than ever this new year for world peace based on universal human rights.

Women: teachers of religion in the church

Faith they impart resonates in next generation of Catholics

The Human Side



FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Eighty percent of all lay ecclesial ministers, 65 percent of parish music ministers and 88 percent of parish religious educators are women, according to the latest statistics from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington.

Anyone following statistics knows that women always have been the primary teachers of religion in the church. What most people don't realize is how much of their religious thinking has been formed by women.

It wasn't long ago that our church had a larger parochial school system, and every child that went to a Catholic school was taught by sisters.

Women religious orders were the backbone of our Catholic tradition. They prepared us for our first confession, our first Communion and for confirmation, and religion was a daily part of their curriculum.

As I pondered the role women played in forming my own religious thinking, I couldn't help but remember my mother's and grandmother's role in this.

Regularly, my grandmother and I would catch the streetcar in Chicago to the basilica to attend its weekly novena. My mother often took me back to the old Italian neighborhood where we would visit the Our Lady of Pompeii or Notre Dame de Chicago churches.

She also liked to visit the hospital named for Mother Cabrini where a beautiful statute of the saint adorned the entrance. Mom liked Mother Cabrini because she represented liberated womanhood.

In our home, we practiced several traditions that complemented our Catholic tradition. On Easter eve we made hot cross buns and learned that they represented the cross Christ died on to save us. Lamb was a must for Easter Sunday's meal because Christ had died as a sacrificial lamb.

Mom and my grandmother taught us a number of unforgettable, homespun moral lessons. Mom would always say, "There is no fool like an old fool."

She wasn't against old age but old people acting like children, those perhaps who were neglecting their role as wise elders.

We also had a motto, "Don't do anything in the dark you wouldn't want seen in the light."

My grandmother forever was exclaiming in Italian, "O Dio mio!" that is, "Oh my God!" It was her favorite prayer when she was looking for strength to overcome a problem.

I can honestly say that when I preach, teach and write, I may be speaking for the church, but the spirit behind the words is that of Mom and Grandma. Their strong faith rang through me and now rings out to others.

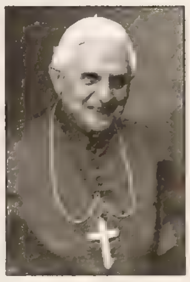
In the past, mothers were usually housekeepers. Today, most go off to work. The days of women being housekeepers solely is all but gone.

As much as this is true, women cannot lose sight of the fact that traditionally they have been the foremost teachers of religion.

We often say that our children are the hope of the future. Equally true is that the future hope of our children's religious tradition is in the hands of the women who bore them.

Pope says secret to living full life lies in opening up to baby Jesus

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The secret to living a life full of peace, joy and love lies in opening up one's heart to the baby Jesus, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Everyone discovers in the baby of Bethlehem (that he or she) is freely loved by God" and sees "God's infinite goodness," the pope said in his first general audience of 2007.

With his birth, Jesus "abundantly spread among all people the gifts of goodness, mercy and love," the pope said.

"Only the baby that lies in the crib holds the true secret of life," the pope said, and the Christ Child wants everyone to welcome him and "make room for him in our homes, our cities and our society."

The pope dedicated his weekly catechesis to the First Letter of St. John the Apostle. God's love for humanity is so great, he said, that not only did God send his only Son to redeem the sins of mankind, he also has called people to be his own children.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 3.

Dear brother and sisters,

At this first audience of the new year, we continue our joyful reflection on the birth of our Redeemer. Gazing upon the helpless infant in the crib, alongside Mary and Joseph, we share their sense of wonder at God's infinite goodness and gratuitous love.

In the words of St. John's first letter, "We love because he first loved us" (1 Jn 4:19). Jesus has pitched his tent among us and revealed to us the true face of the Father, drawing us ever more deeply into the mystery of his kingdom.

Sadly, the light of Christ is not always accepted. In our own day, there are many who reject him or reduce him to a mere "teacher of wisdom," stripped of his divinity.

But Jesus is truly God and truly man, tirelessly proclaiming the Gospel to all people and challenging us to open our hearts to him. "To all who received him, he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1:12).

What is our response to him? Let us follow the example of so many holy men and women throughout the history of the church who have welcomed Emmanuel into their lives, becoming beacons of light and hope.

At the start of this new year, let us once more open our hearts and minds to him, so as to spread the joy of discipleship to those around us.

Faith rising from the ashes

Lithuanian Catholics restoring Hill of Crosses damaged by fire

BY JONATHAN LUXMORE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

OXFORD, England — Lithuanian Catholics have started to restore the country's historic Hill of Crosses after a fire damaged some of the smaller crosses.

"People have already begun praying and placing new crosses in the damaged area so it won't look empty and desolate for long," Meilute Pozemeckaite, a local council official, told Catholic News Service Jan. 3 in a telephone interview.

Bishop Eugenijus Bartulis of Siauliai said most of the damage was done to small crosses that can be replaced, but some of the large crosses were charred.

"Fortunately the most valuable crosses were spared, so the damage is more moral than material," the bishop told CNS Jan. 3 by phone.

Lithuanian church sources estimated that at least 200,000 crosses of various sizes were standing on the hill at the time of the Dec. 28 fire. A crucifix donated in September by Pope Benedict XVI was undamaged, they said.

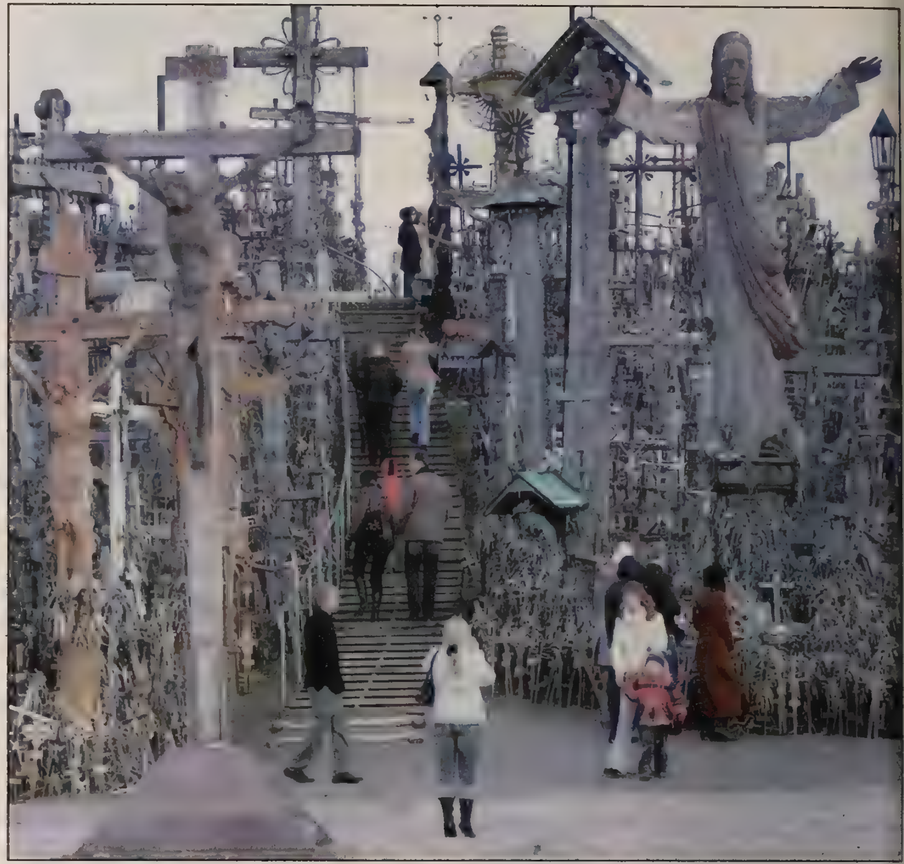
Four fire brigades extinguished the blaze, which burned approximately 60 square yards, according to an Interior Ministry statement Dec. 30.

> "This is by far the most cultural place ... a symbol of hope for the living rather than the dead."
>
> — Meilute Pozemeckaite

Pozemeckaite said it was believed the fire was started by candles, which are not permitted on the hill.

"This is by far the most cultural place in this part of Lithuania — a symbol of hope for the living rather than the dead," he said.

The Hill of Crosses, seven miles north of Siauliai, is believed to mark the site of a pagan massacre and contains crosses, statues and rosaries commemorating sufferings from the communist rule and the war in Iraq.



CNS PHOTO BY INTS KALNINS, REUTERS

People visit the Hill of Crosses near Siauliai, Lithuania, Jan. 3. A Dec. 28 fire damaged some of the crosses, but people have begun restoring the famous site by bringing new crosses to burnt areas.

The stationing of crosses, dating from the 14th century, began on a mass scale after an 1831 uprising against Russian rule and was revived in the 1950s by Catholics returning from Siberian exile.

The Soviet government bulldozed the site multiple times and considered flooding the area. However, the Soviets failed to deter the placing of crosses.

Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass at the hill during his 1993 pilgrimage to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and he donated a large crucifix a year later.

Newly married couples traditionally leave a cross on the hill, visited annually by more than a million tourists and pilgrims from around the world.

Save $100 before February 2nd!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8 - 18, 2007

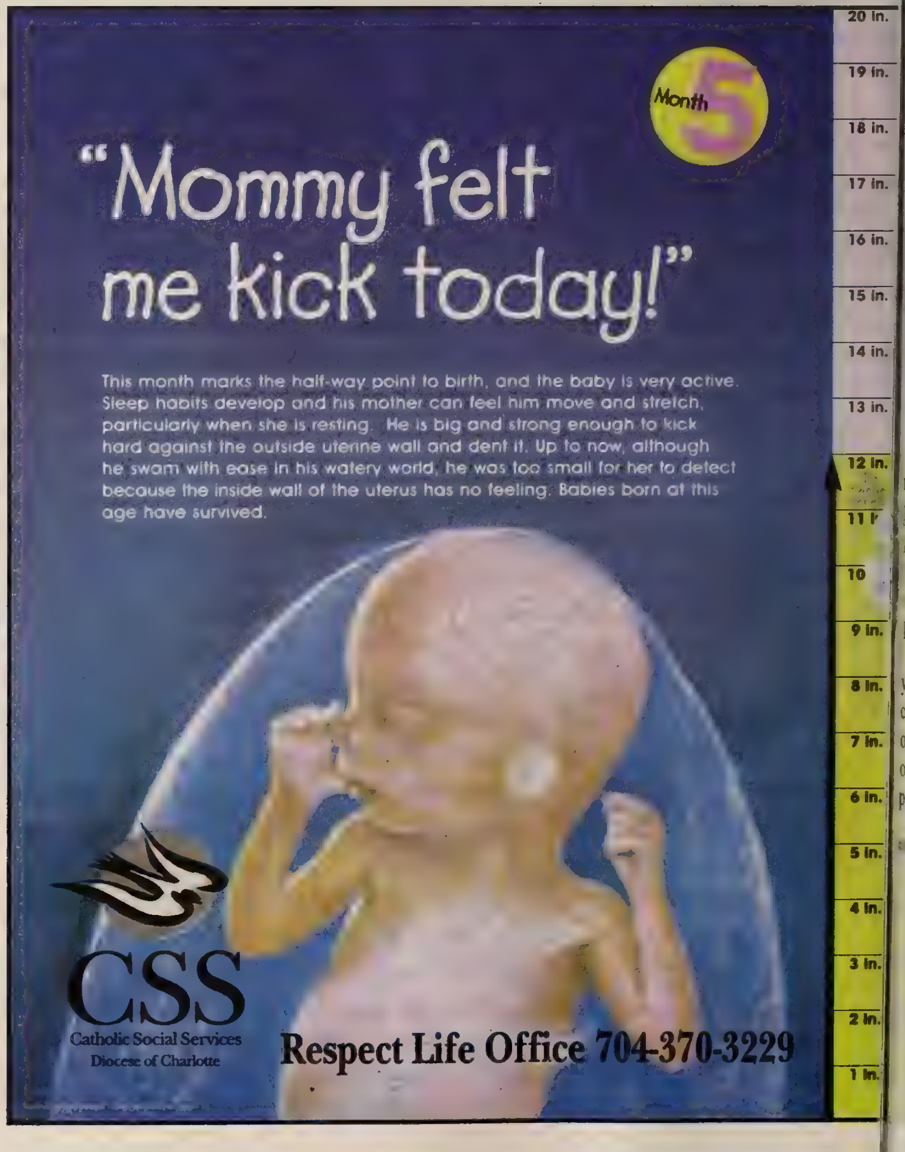
Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.



Month 5
20 in.
19 in.
18 in.
17 in.
16 in.
15 in.
14 in.
13 in.
12 in.
11 in.
10
9 in.
8 in.
7 in.
6 in.
5 in.
4 in.
3 in.
2 in.
1 in.

"Mommy felt me kick today!"

This month marks the half-way point to birth, and the baby is very active. Sleep habits develop and his mother can feel him move and stretch, particularly when she is resting. He is big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside uterine wall and dent it. Up to now, although he swam with ease in his watery world, he was too small for her to detect because the inside wall of the uterus has no feeling. Babies born at this age have survived.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

FC 282

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JANUARY 12, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 13

Perspectives

Father Dietzen answers questions about canonization;
Father Byron reflects on Saddam's execution

| PAGES 14-15

Serving the poor in perpetuity

Bishop Curlin endowment set up for poor of diocese

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — During his 50 years as a priest, including 18 years as a bishop, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin worked to alleviate the suffering of the poor, sick and disenfranchised in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and the Diocese of Charlotte.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Bishop Curlin's work for the poor in the Diocese of Charlotte will continue for years to come. The donor has committed $60,000 to establish the Bishop William G. Curlin

See CURLIN, page 6

35 years a diocese

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Bishop Michael J. Begley (center, sitting) is pictured during his ordination and installation as bishop of Charlotte at St. Patrick Cathedral in 1972. This month, the Diocese of Charlotte celebrates its 35th anniversary.

Diocese of Charlotte celebrates anniversary with book

BY DAVID HAINS
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

CHARLOTTE — With a cathedral full of priests and the faithful, a local television news station watched as Bishop Michael J. Begley was ordained and installed as the first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

That historic event took place at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Jan. 12, 1972.

To commemorate its 35th anniversary, the diocese has published a book, "Voices and Places of the People of God — The Diocese of Charlotte." More than just a historic record, the 160-page coffee table book includes colorful photographs, graphics and spiritual reflections on Catholic life in the 46-county diocese.

"The story of our diocese is a blend of the voices from those

See BOOK, page 8

Tomorrow's sisters today

Women considering lives as women religious

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When many young girls picture themselves as adults, they probably imagine having a husband, 2.5 kids, a dog and a house with a white picket fence.

But over the past 2,000 years, millions of women have chosen a very different life: one of poverty, chastity and obedience. Days filled with prayer and work with the poorest of the poorest, the sickest of the sick.

Evenintoday'sincreasingly secular world, women of all ages continue to answer God's call to the religious life, serving as sisters and nuns.

In the past 40 years, the number of women religious in the United States has decreased dramatically — from 179,954 in 1965 to 66,608 in 2006, according to the Center for

See SISTERS, page 5

COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Jill Weber, who is also a physical therapist, works with a resident of Holy Angels in Belmont. Like Sister Weber, many sisters contradict the traditional image of women religious — serving as Web site designers and radio broadcasters for their orders, writing Internet blogs on their daily lives, rollerblading and playing volleyball for recreation.

Marching for life

Local, national events planned to mark 34th anniversary of Roe

BY CATHOLIC NEWS
SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will take part in the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 22, which marks the 34th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

The event will begin with a

See MARCH, page 12

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Culture Watch

'Spiritual ecumenism' booklet; Stallone's Catholicism

| PAGES 10-11

Madame Speaker

Anticipating how Pelosi will run the House

| PAGE 12

Day of Kings

Mexicans converge for annual celebration

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

ON THE GO

CNS PHOTO BY MARY CHALUPSKY, CATHOLIC TRANSCRIPT

Mike Mele, who celebrated his 100th birthday Dec. 16, 2006, poses by his sporty, candy-apple-red Ford Probe in the parking lot of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Hamden, Conn. Mele is a catechist, lector, altar server and extraordinary minister of holy Communion at his church.

Catholic centenarian stays on the move with multiple parish duties

HAMDEN, Conn. (CNS) — Mike Mele, a dapper, diminutive and downright engaging centenarian who works out three times a week at a local health club and just gave up riding his horse, Coco, celebrated his 100th birthday Dec. 16, 2006.

"I can't believe it myself," he said at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Hamden, where he serves as a lector, catechist for fourth-graders, altar server and extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

He also has been the parish's choir director and, years ago, directed parish variety shows.

"You've got to keep active mentally and physically," said Mele.

The New Haven native was working in manufacturing when he met the woman who was to become his wife of 38 years, Carmel.

Complimented by various people on his great singing voice, he quit his job to pursue a career in the theater. But being married with a child, he later enlisted in the Army's 102nd Regiment, singing with a band.

After his Army stint, he worked as a dental technician and research technician before retiring at age 65.

After his wife died in 1980, Mele, who still drives a sporty, candy-apple-red Ford Probe, took up horseback riding. He rode, sometimes as often as three times a week, until mid-October, when he gave it up.

"I wanted to quit while I was ahead," he said.

Mele also enjoys creating models.

"I love to make things," he said. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd be a schoolteacher ... study piano, and work for Walt Disney making models for their villages."

In his home is a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes that he made, complete with a triple waterfall that flows down about 8 or 9 feet. He also made an ornate table that sits on the altar in church.

"Mike lives what he teaches," said Mercy Sister Ann O'Neill, parish religious education director. "He's an inspiration to everyone."

As far as his own health regimen, he said he eats "whatever I want," works out and sees his doctor twice a year. He also enjoys a glass of red wine.

"Jesus would not have turned water into wine if it wasn't good for you," he quipped.

"He has an exuberance for life that is contagious," said Michael Mele, who is amazed by his father's energy, longevity and the fact that he takes no medications. "And it all starts with his faith."

Catholic agencies distribute holiday aid packages in Gaza Strip

Blankets, food given to thousands of families

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Three Catholic aid agencies distributed blankets and food to several thousand families in the Gaza Strip as the new year began.

The aid packages included 12 food items plus two blankets, said Omar Shaban, Gaza field manager for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international aid and relief agency.

"The winter is colder than normal this year, and the people felt we were really thinking about them," Shaban said. "Coming at the time of the holiday and during the cold winter, people received these packages like a gift."

CRS partnered with two other Catholic organizations — Trocaire, the overseas development agency of the Irish bishops, and Caritas France, part of the international Catholic aid network of Caritas Internationalis — to implement the holiday-season distribution to the more needy areas of the Gaza Strip, such as sites of heavy fighting between Israeli and Palestinian forces in early November.

The distribution, which began Dec. 30, was designed to deliver about 6,000 locally produced blankets for the holidays, but the large demand and a four-day Islamic holiday caused a delay.

"The factories have to produce about 250 blankets a day each," Shaban said. "Six thousand blankets is a huge number of blankets. Even in Tel Aviv (Israel) you can't find 6,000 blankets in storage."

Some blankets were imported from Turkey to help fill the order, he added.

The aid agencies targeted single-parent households, especially those headed by women; families with members with disabilities; and families who have had lengthy periods with little or no income.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage, meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for Jan. 20 will be "Myths of Contraception vs. God's Methodology." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays, through Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to become reacquainted with the basics of their religion and to get answers to any questions that they may have. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope John Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on Sex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays, through Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Babysitting will be provided. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* will host an inquiry formation session Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235 or Kathleen Zuckerman at (704) 455-7954.

CHARLOTTE — Sign-ups for *Why Catholic?* will be offered at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at all Masses Jan. 27-28. Why Catholic? consists of small groups meeting in homes to pray and discuss Scripture, the Catholic catechism and how our Catholic faith affects our everyday lives. For more information, call (704) 543-7677 ext. 1056.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will conclude its *Faith Formation Series* on the place for the biblical ethic and lifestyle in our 21st-century consumer society, Jan. 16, 7:30-9 p.m. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming, director of faith formation, at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will host a covered-dish luncheon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Jan. 24 (snow date is Jan. 31) 12-2p.m. The program will be "Famous People of Guilford County" presented by Betty Gale Sikes of the Greensboro Historical Museum. Please bring your favorite dish to share with friends. For more information, please call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — *Chris Skinner*, a nationally known speaker whose life was changed forever after a near-fatal car accident several years ago, will share the lessons he learned and give his message of hope and determination at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. This program is for parents and

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JAN 12, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 13

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope to diplomats: Respect for rights, desires is only path to peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Condemning continuing bloodshed in Iraq and Afghanistan, renewed fighting in Somalia and Sri Lanka and the ongoing holding of hostages in Colombia, Pope Benedict XVI said respect for the human rights and legitimate aspirations of peoples is the only path to peace.

"The Holy See will never tire of reiterating that armed solutions achieve nothing, as we saw in Lebanon last summer," the pope said Jan. 8 in his annual address to ambassadors serving at the Vatican.

Pope Benedict also condemned increased attacks on human life, particularly through abortion, and attempts to redefine marriage.

"It is by respecting the human person that peace can be promoted," he told the ambassadors and representatives from 175 countries. "Yes, the future can be serene if we work together for humanity. Man, created in the image of God, has an incomparable dignity; man, who is so worthy of love in the eyes of his creator that God did not hesitate to give his own Son for him."

Pope Benedict told the ambassadors that in situations of tension and conflict, dialogue and negotiation hold the only hope for a lasting solution.

In the Middle East, he said, "it is no longer possible to be satisfied with partial or unilateral solutions," but it is time for negotiations aimed at involving each of the communities and finding a way to respond to their legitimate hopes.

With the Iranian ambassador to the Holy See in attendance, Pope Benedict called on Iran to contribute to a growth of trust in the region by offering a "satisfactory response" to the international community's concerns over its nuclear program, cooperating with inspectors to prove the program is for civilian energy production and not weapons development.

Warsaw archbishop's resignation prompts Vatican embarrassment, relief

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The resignation of Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus of Warsaw has prompted embarrassment and disappointment in the Vatican, along with a sense of relief that Pope Benedict XVI did not allow the awkward drama to continue a single day longer.

In a statement, the Vatican praised the "humility" of Archbishop Wielgus, who resigned Jan. 7, two days after formally taking office and admitting he had once cooperated with the secret police of Poland's former communist regime.

Privately, however, several Vatican officials expressed irritation that the archbishop had apparently not been fully frank about his past from the beginning. They also questioned how the Vatican's normally exhaustive vetting process broke down in one of Eastern Europe's most important episcopal appointments.

"When Msgr. Wielgus was nominated, we knew nothing about his collaboration with the secret police," Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, head of the Vatican's Congregation for Bishops, told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said Archbishop Wielgus' resignation was "appropriate" because his authority as bishop had been compromised.

"The behavior of (Archbishop) Wielgus during the years of the communist regime in Poland seriously compromised his authority, even with the faithful," Father Lombardi said Jan. 7.

"Therefore, despite his humble and moving request for forgiveness, his resignation from the Warsaw see and the Holy Father's quick acceptance of it appears as an appropriate solution to the situation of disorientation that has been created in that nation," the spokesman said.

In a Jan. 5 statement to Catholics, Archbishop Wielgus said he had presented the pope and relevant Vatican agencies with "that part of my life which was entangled in contacts with secret intelligence, acting in the conditions of a totalitarian state, hostile to the church."

"Today, I state with full conviction that I didn't inform on or try to harm anyone. But through the fact of this entanglement, I harmed the church," he said.

youths, grades 6-12. For more information, visit www.chrisskinner.org or call Terry Aiken at (336) 869-7739.

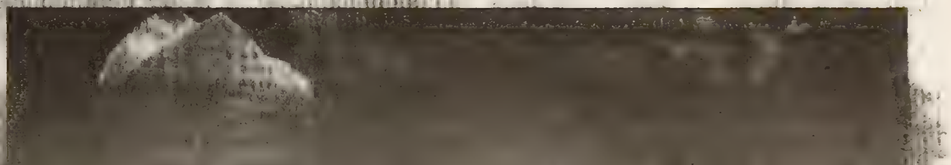
HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will have an *Open House* Jan. 31, for anyone who have questions about the Catholic faith or to any "former" Catholics. The program will include a brief presentation on our Catholic inquiry classes, inactive Catholic program and continuing adult faith formation education. A tour of the church and refreshments will follow. For more information, please call Larry Kwan @336-688-1220.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

A lasting invitation



Living the consecrated life

Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Sister Sheila Richardson makes her profession of perpetual vows as an eremitic of St. Augustine for the Diocese of Charlotte to Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Dec. 31.

Sister Richardson professes vows as eremitic for diocese

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Sister Sheila Richardson, promoter of justice and assessor with the diocesan tribunal, recently made her final profession of vows as an eremitic of St. Augustine for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Richardson made her vows during a Mass of religious profession celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Dec. 31.

"The Gospel puts forward the idea of the consecration of the person in the person's exclusive dedication to God by virtue of the evangelical counsels — chastity, poverty and obedience — not a mere 'no' but a profound 'yes' in the spousal order; the gift of self for love in a total and undivided manner," said Sister Richardson.

Having fulfilled a period of probation, Sister Richardson made her perpetual profession of the evangelical counsels.

An eremite, or hermit, is one who lives a life of religious consecration in solitude. Eremites are recognized by canon law as people dedicated to God in the consecrated life when they publicly profess in the hands of the diocesan bishop the three evangelical counsels, are confirmed by vow or other sacred bond, and observe a proper program of living under the bishop's direction.

Eremitic life was a standard form of religious consecration in the early centuries of Christianity. In the West it has been largely obscured by the communal forms of monasticism, apart from the minor hermitic revivals in the 11th, 13th and 14th centuries.

Canon law says anyone taking religious vows as an eremite should be under the direction of the local bishop.

A convert to Catholicism, Sister Richardson serves on the diocesan tribunal, which examines cases of marriage when couples petition for a marriage annulment, necessary in order to remarry in the Catholic Church.

Sister Richardson graduated from Whittier College School of Law and practiced civil law for a major corporation more than 10 years. She studied theology at Mt. Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Ore., and received her degree in canon law from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario.

Sister Richardson retired from the practice of law to study theology and to pursue a vocation in the consecrated life.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097

27th Cardinal Newman Lecture

9:30 am – 4 pm — Saturday, February 24

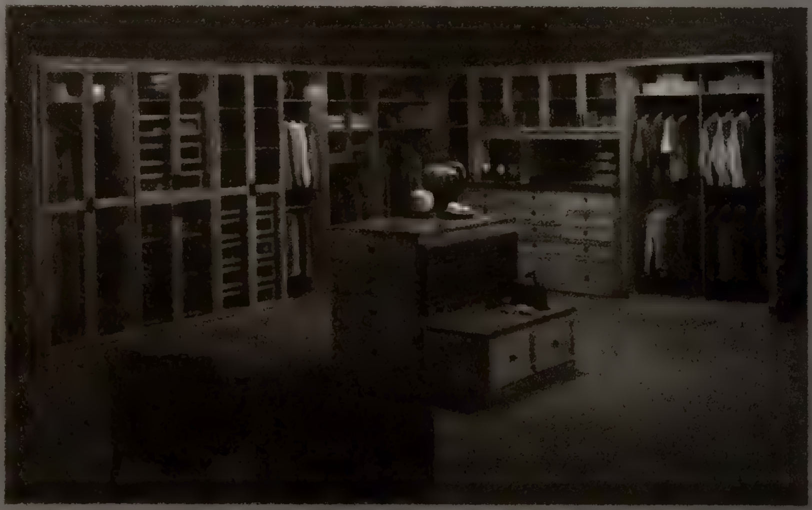
Sr. Maria Riley, O.P.

A long-time member of the Center for Concern staff, Dr. Riley has been a witness for justice in prophetic areas of global economics, labor and women's rights.

The Newman Lecture is an annual gift to the regional church to celebrate the life and ministry of Cardinal John Henry Newman. The schedule includes noon Eucharist and a chamber music concert.

It is open to the all without charge or pre-registration.

For more information, please contact:
The Oratory: Center for Spirituality, PO Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.



YOUR CLOSET.
ONLY BETTER.

Custom storage solutions for every room in your house.

- Closets, offices, garages, entertainment centers etc.
- Handcrafted designs that fit your needs and style
- Professionally trained designers and installers

25% OFF With This Ad
FREE INSTALLATION
We Will Beat Any Competitor's Offer!

Call for a FREE design consultation
704.676.5000

closetfactory

www.closetfactory.com

CNH-

Women consider vocations

SISTERS, *from page 1*

Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

"We know the Catholic Church will persevere, and whatever is needed will be provided," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry.

Although the data confirms that there has been a drop in vocations, the past five years have seen some reversal in that trend.

According to a recent article in Time magazine, convents in Ann Arbor, Mich.; Nashville and New York City have welcomed more than 15 candidates each in the past 12 months.

"Religious orders have always been on the forefront of discerning and meeting the needs of the times for the Catholic Church and society," Sister Inkrott said.

The National Coalition for Church Vocations sponsored National Vocation Awareness Week Jan. 8-12.

A key to raising awareness of and encouraging vocations seems to be visibility. Although every parish and mission has a priest celebrating Mass each weekend, some even every day, seeing a sister — especially one in habit — is becoming more and more rare.

Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, diocesan vicar for women religious, suggested several ways to encourage the religious life including "Come and See" weekends, where possible candidates spend time at a convent; and individual contact with sisters and sisters sharing their ministry work with young women.

An abundance of choices

With hundreds of orders to choose from — 19 are represented in the Diocese of Charlotte — finding the "right fit" can be a tedious process.

But for a woman considering becoming a sister, the research process has gotten much easier, thanks to the Internet. Many communities have their own Web sites, outlining their missions, daily life and histories.

A few sisters even have their own blogs, or Internet journal. One such blog is A Nun's Life written by Sister Julie Viera, a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"Mostly, A Nun's Life is my story — what it is like for me to be Catholic nun," Sister Viera writes on her blog. "It's also about nuns and sisters in general, how we are portrayed in the media, and who we are 'for real.'"

Vocation Match, provided by of the Vision Vocation Network, serves as a sort of "dating service" for vocations. The Web site features overviews of various communities, a book list for seekers, vocation-related links, quizzes, blogs and a listing for discernment events.

A serious inquirer can fill out a survey and be matched to religious communities that share her preferences for community and prayer life.

Who are tomorrow's sisters?

Miriam Stella is one of several students at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont considering life as a woman religious.

The sophomore grew up in Hanceville, Ala., near Mother Angelica's vibrant Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration community.

Seeing nuns so often helped Stella to realize "they're regular women, just like me."

"If God is calling me to the religious life, I'll be happy, because it will be the only way I will be happy," said Stella.

Kara Hansen is another young woman considering the religious life. A recent convert to Catholicism, she described herself as "open to the idea" of the religious life.

"It's stepping away from the world and making a huge commitment to the Lord," said Hansen, a junior at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

More than a job

Becoming a religious begins with a desire to deepen one's relationship with God, said Sister Angela Perez. Sister Perez is a member of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina Leadership Team.

"I have experienced the presence of God in my life. I've been able to help people and contribute to the betterment of their lives," said Sister Perez.

The religious life is not a career, Sister Perez stressed. Rather, it is a vocation, as are marriage and the single life.

In years past, it may have seemed as if women religious had few choices: teacher, nurse, contemplative. Today, women religious serve in a wide variety of areas. Among the Sisters of Mercy are a physician, a physical therapist, a police chaplain and a member of the adjunct faculty at the Divinity School at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem.

With so many choices, there is certainly a place for any woman wanting to live the religious life.

"God's call to young women to serve as vowed religious is steady and persistent," said Sister Warren.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mercy Sister Erencia Saipweirik is seen with several students from Saramen Chuuk Academy in Guam, where she ministers as the vice principal. Women religious serve throughout the world, often in isolated, impoverished areas.

MORE COVERAGE
Read Kathy Repass' column, "The heart: following destiny's path," on page 15.

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Para Celebrar la Unida
Presente en la Comunidad
La Universidad Belmont Abbey College
Invita a la comunidad Latina
A una misa que se celebrara en Español
en la Basilica de Belmont Abbey

El coro Alegría Hispana
(de la Iglesia de San Gabriel)
nos deleitar con su musica

2 de Febrero del 2007
a las 8:00 de la noche
Seguido por una Recepción

To Celebrate Unity within the Community
Belmont Abbey College invites
the local Hispanic Community to a
Spanish Mass at the Abbey Basilica

Music by Alegría Hispana Choir
(from St. Gabriel Catholic Church)

Friday, February 2, 2007, at 8 PM
Reception Following

Belmont Abbey is off exit 26 on I-85 — only 10 minutes from the
Charlotte airport!

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?
A Lifeline for Marriage
January 19 - 21 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "re-tro-vye"). Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.

Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaillenc@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: HelpOurMarriage.com

Bishop William G. Curlin endowment to help poor

CURLIN, *from page 1*

Endowment Fund for the Poor.

According to Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office, the donor has "great respect for Bishop Curlin" and wants to show his gratitude for the bishop's work with the poor.

"When I scrutinized my own stewardship, I realized I hadn't done anything specifically for the poor," the donor said. "Bishop Curlin always worked for the poor; I set up the endowment to honor him and his charism."

One of 149 endowments provided by the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, the Bishop Curlin fund is the only endowment established to directly benefit the poor.

The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the donor's estate plan or in an endowment agreement, according to Kelley.

A committee of three-to-five members is set up for each endowment to determine how funds will be distributed.

A history of service

Throughout his life, Bishop Curlin was committed to serving the poor and ill.

"We had sickness in my family, so I was raised in an environment that always had compassion for people," he said in November 2002, shortly after his retirement.

"I remember on a Thanksgiving, my grandparents gave away the turkey at the back door to a woman with children who were hungry and had no food," the bishop said.

During his 13-year pastorate at St. Mary Church in Washington, he helped open many shelters and soup kitchens. He also converted the former convent into a shelter for homeless women and children.

Bishop Curlin was the president of the board of the directors of Catholic Charities in Washington.

Bishop Curlin also had a long working relationship and friendship with Blessed Mother Teresa. In July 1995, she visited Charlotte as the keynote speaker for an ecumenical prayer service.

While in the diocese, Mother Teresa established a convent and left four of her sisters here to continue in ministry to the poor.

"I am honored to have this endowment established in my name," Bishop Curlin said in a recent interview. "When I came to the Diocese of Charlotte, the first thing I asked was, 'What are we doing for the poor?'"

Thanks to Bishop Curlin's spirit of charity and a generous donor's gift, the Diocese of Charlotte will be able to serve the poor through numerous ministries for many years to come.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The diocesan foundation was incorporated in 1994 to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, agencies and organizations. An endowment is a permanent fund in which the principal is never touched. The income may be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor organization or individual. Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund. Over the past 11 years, more than $2 million has been distributed by the foundation to parishes, schools and agencies.

Bishops, Catholic Charities call for minimum wage increase

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops and Catholic Charities USA have called for an increase in the federal minimum wage.

"The minimum wage needs to be raised not just for the goods and services a person can buy but for the self-esteem and self-worth it affords," said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, in a Jan. 8 letter to members of Congress.

In a Jan. 9 statement, Catholic Charities USA joined in the call for increasing the minimum wage, as it prepared to unveil a plan Jan. 10 called the Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America, with a specific target for reducing the poverty rate over time.

The House was expected to vote Jan. 10 on a bill to raise minimum wage from $5.15 an hour to $7.25 an hour by 2009.

"As pastors, bishops see the tragic human and social consequences on individuals, their families and society when workers cannot support themselves and their families by their own labor," Bishop DiMarzio said in his letter.

At $5.15 an hour, a person working full time would make $10,700 a year, "nearly $6,000 below the poverty level for a family of three," he said.

"Raising the minimum wage is only one step needed to address the larger, more pressing problem of poverty in America. In our shelters and soup kitchens, in our parishes and schools, we see working families who can't make ends meet. We serve too many families where men and women work full time and still live in destitution," he added.

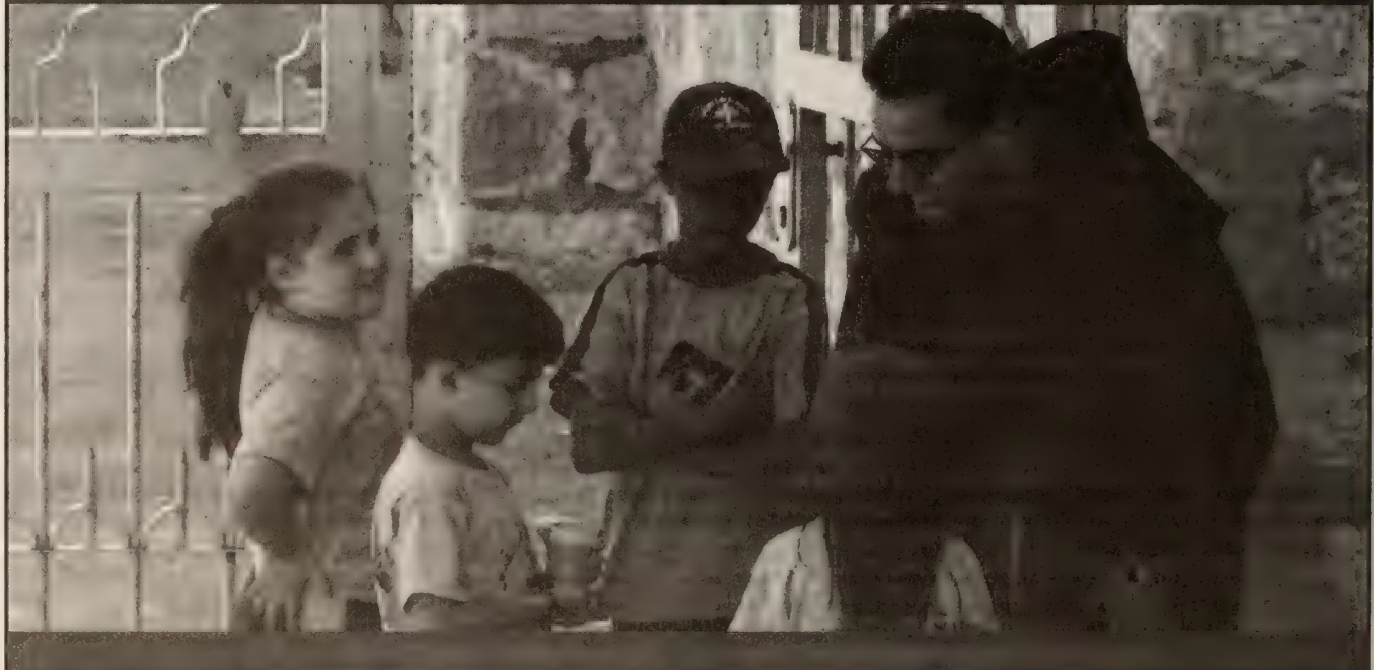
"Our nation needs a persistent and determined effort to overcome poverty," Bishop DiMarzio told Congress. "We hope you will work together across partisan and ideological lines to shape a comprehensive strategy and common commitment to lift all of our brothers and sisters out of poverty."

Catholic Charities said the minimum wage should be indexed to account for inflation. The current $5.15 minimum wage is equivalent to only $3.95 in 1995 dollars, lower than the $4.25 minimum wage level before the last increase in 1997.

"Over the last several years, our agencies have been coping with steady double-digit increases each year in requests for emergency assistance because low-wage workers simply cannot earn enough to cover rent, child care, food, utilities and clothing for their families," said Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities USA's president.

"Many people served by Catholic Charities agencies are poor despite full-time employment at the bottom of the labor market," he said in the statement. "People who work full time should not live in poverty."

IS GOD CALLING YOU...



THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS
OF THE HOLY LAND
1400 Quincy St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
www.myfrancisan.org

Phone 202-526-6800 ext. 334
vocation@myfranciscan.com

To follow Christ in the style of St. Francis by living and working for Gospel values in the Lord's Holy Places?

To perform charitable, educational and social works for the welfare of all who live in or come to the Holy Land?

If so, please contact the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land.

In loving service

Serve the poor to better know God, pope says at soup kitchen

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Visiting a shelter and soup kitchen operated by the Rome diocesan Caritas organization, Pope Benedict XVI said offering loving service to others is a way to better know God.

"Here one can experience the fact that when we love our neighbor we know God better: In the grotto of Bethlehem, he revealed himself to us in the poverty of a newborn needing everything," the pope said Jan. 4.

When the pope arrived at the Caritas complex, it was named for the neighborhood, Colle Oppio, where it is located. But before he left, he had officially renamed it in memory of Pope John Paul II.

The pope greeted hundreds of people who had gathered outside the complex before touring the reception center, the kitchen, the dining room and the Nativity scene set up by the center's clients and volunteers.

In the courtyard of the soup kitchen, he spoke to some of the 120 volunteers who regularly staff the center and to several hundred of its regular guests.

The Nativity scene, he said, speaks of the love of God.

"In its simplicity, the creche tells us that love and poverty go together," he said.

"Jesus, 'the bread come down from [illegible] the bread of life [illegible]

> "Here one can experience the fact that when we love our neighbor we know God better: In the grotto of Bethlehem, he revealed himself to us in the poverty of a newborn needing everything."
>
> — Pope Benedict XVI

every Nativity scene, there spreads a proclamation that is for everyone: Jesus loves us and teaches us how to love," he said.

In serving others, he said, the volunteers "experience the beauty of this love; they can feel the depths of the joy that derives from it, a joy that certainly is different from that illusory joy claimed in advertising."

[illegible]

CNS photos by L'Osservatore Romano

Above: Pope Benedict XVI greets workers at the Caritas soup kitchen and shelter in Rome Jan. 4. The pontiff renamed the center after his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. It has served an estimated 9 million meals since opening in 1983. Below: Pope Benedict greets a man outside the Caritas shelter and soup kitchen.

In return, the pope gave the shelter 10,000 blankets and 2,000 winter coats and wished everyone "a good day and a good lunch."

In his speech to the group, the pope offered his best wishes to the center's clients and to all of their friends who, "coming from almost all the countries of the world," are present in Rome.

The Diocese of Rome reported that the center had served more than 9 million meals since it opened in 1983 and that

Diocese celebrates 35

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Bishop Michael J. Begley talks with coal miners during one of his many trips to Appalachia in this undated archive photo.

> "What you have to realize is that you don't run the Church — the Holy Spirit runs the Church. Now, what you have to do is step aside and let Him get on with it."
>
> — Bishop Michael J. Begley, to then-Bishop John F. Donoghue

FUTURE SITE
SAINT MATTHEW
CATHOLIC CHURCH

ARCHIVE PHOTO

Msgr. Joseph Kerin and then-Bishop John F. Donoghue stand on the site of the future St. Matthew Church in Charlotte in this archive photo taken in the late 1980s.

BOOK, *from page 1*

people who can trace their ancestries to nearby towns as well as those who have come to western North Carolina from the other side of the world," wrote Bishop Peter J. Jugis in his introductory letter in the book.

"I hope this book will inspire all of us to continue together to play a part in advancing the kingdom of God in the 21st century," he wrote.

The book contains photographs of all 92 parishes and missions in the diocese as well as a trove of historical photos, facts and important dates in diocesan history. The centerpiece of the book features 49 spiritual reflections, poems and essays submitted by lay people, religious, priests and two former bishops of the diocese.

Copies of the book were purchased by the parishes and missions to be sold to parishioners. Additional copies will be available through the diocesan Web site in March.

Reflections of a diocese

The reflections in the book are diverse and informative.

Retired Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta served as bishop of Charlotte from 1984 until 1993. His humorous reflection describes the personal upheaval he experienced when, after serving the Archdiocese of Washington for more than 20 years, he was appointed bishop of the small mission Diocese of Charlotte.

Nearly overwhelmed by the many issues he faced as bishop, he recalled a visit from Bishop Begley.

"He looked me straight in the eye and said: 'Young man,' — I was 56 at the time — 'young man, what you have to realize is that you don't run the Church — the Holy Spirit runs the Church. Now, what you have to do is step aside and let Him get on with it."

A reflection by Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, who served as bishop from 1993 until 2003, is taken from his memorial Mass for Blessed Mother Teresa in 1997.

Bishop Curlin and Mother Teresa, who established a convent in the diocese in 1995, were longtime friends. Bishop Curlin sums up her life as well as his own in the closing sentence of his essay: "One person filled with faith and love can make a difference."

"Voices and Places of the People of God" includes photos pulled from diocesan archives as well as little-known facts about churches and schools of the diocese.

For example, St. Patrick Cathedral was paid for by Texas oilman John Henry Phelan, who donated the funds in honor of his parents who were native Charlotteans. On another page, Bishop Begley is pictured speaking with Appalachian coal miners in the 1970s.

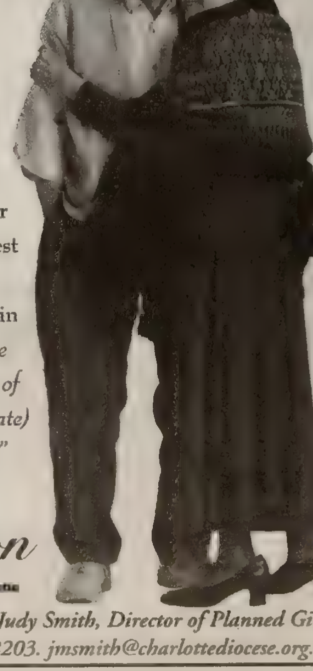
Bishop Begley authored a 1973 pastoral letter, "This Land is Home to Me," that deepened the solidarity of the church with the poor in Appalachia. A reflection in the book by Joseph Purello, director of Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte, explains the letter's lasting impact.

"The letter inspired many religious and laity to go to Appalachia and assist in works of charity and justice," wrote Purello.

Then and now

The history of the Catholic Church in North Carolina dates back to the 1830s, when priests on horseback roamed the countryside, celebrating the sacraments and bringing the Gospel to the few Catholics scattered around the state.

The Diocese of Raleigh would eventually encompass all of North Carolina. When Pope Paul VI established the Diocese of Charlotte in 1972,



Remember God's Will In Yours

You can take care of your family and your church through your will. You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will: *"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or__________ parish, city) the sum of $_____ (or_____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."*

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

rs with new book

> "I hope this book will inspire all of us to continue together to play a part in advancing the kingdom of God in the 21st century."
>
> — Bishop Peter J. Jugis

proximately 34,000 Catholics lived in e western 46-county region.

Under the guidance of Bishop egley, Bishop (now Archbishop) onoghue, Bishop Curlin and shop Jugis, the diocese has grown include approximately 300,000 ople worshipping in 92 parishes d missions.

The diocese currently has 18 schools, luding two high schools — Charlotte tholic High School and Bishop Guinness Catholic High School in rnersville — with a total enrollment 7,561 students.

In September 1991, the diocese ablished its own newspaper, The tholic News & Herald. Mailed times a year to every parish and istered parishioner in the diocese, the plication's current circulation is more n 51,000 households.

The diocese celebrated its 25th iversary in January 1997 with a Mass St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. ring the Mass attended by 500 ple, then-Bishop Curlin paid tribute he diocese's founding bishop, Bishop gley.

Building a parish is no easy task, hop Curlin said, but the task of ablishing a diocese is monumental.

"It takes great faith, love, much patience and many gifts. And these gifts were richly evident when Bishop Begley established this diocese," said Bishop Curlin.

Bishop Begley died in High Point Feb. 9, 2002. He was 92.

At St. Ann Church in Charlotte, Bishop Begley had baptized an infant who was to become the fourth bishop of Charlotte — Bishop Jugis.

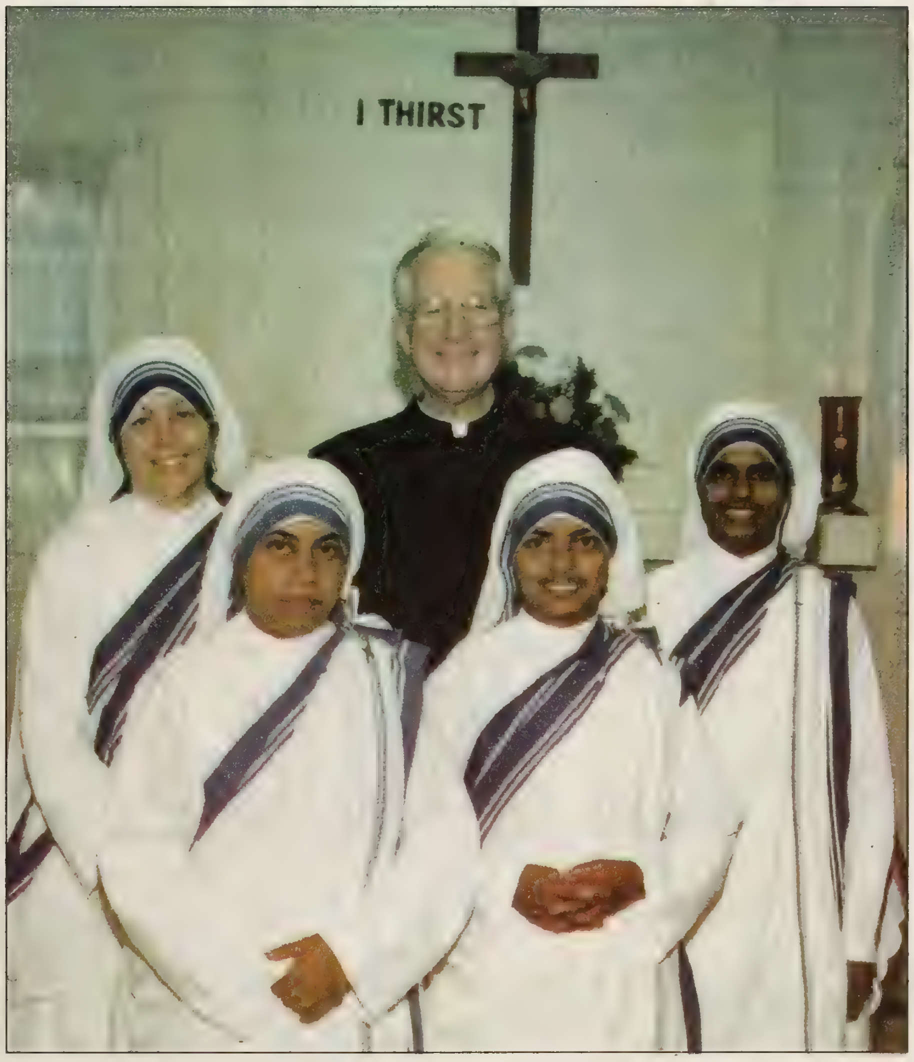
"The strength of our church comes from the grace of God to the people who serve him," wrote Bishop Jugis in "Voices and Places of the People of God."

"We may speak different languages and celebrate different customs, but we are united in our worship and service to the Lord and his Church here in North Carolina," he wrote.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

MORE COVERAGE
Read David Hains' column on page 14.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin is pictured with the Missionaries of Charity at their convent in Charlotte, established by Blessed Mother Teresa in 1995.

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden
A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation
OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM
328)687-7714 or call for appointment
ww.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Support Our Troops Day January 14, 2007
Uncle Sonny's NEW YORK ICES
HOT DOGS • ITALIAN ICES • GELATO • FROZEN YOGURT • COFFEE
aturday is FREE MOVIE DAY 2pm
popcorn during movie!
serving [illegible] cheese, candy, & energy drinks!
Hours of Operation:
nday & Tuesday: 11am-5pm
dnesday: 11am-5:30pm
rsday: 11am-6:30pm
Friday: 11am-7pm
Saturday: 11am-7pm
Sunday: 11am-7pm
Support our Troops Day
Sunday January 14th
All Donations accepted
[illegible]
Authentic Italian Ices shipped directly from New York
Monday- Buy 4 Wings get 4 FREE
Two 4 Tuesday- Buy any special Get 2nd special FREE
Wednesday- Buy one Italian Ice Get 2nd Ice for FREE
Thursday- FREE Italian Ice with any Hot Dog Special
Friday- Bump Up Friday! Buy any size Italian Ice and automatically get BUMPED up to next size for FREE!
chael Romano and his father, Ed "Sonny" Romano, offer a taste of New York with their authentic Brooklyn Italian Ices, Gelato, rozen Yogurt, Nathan's Hot Dogs & Sausages, and great coffee & drinks. "Uncle Sonny" was raised in Brooklyn, NY and is excited to share a little of his home with the Waxhaw community. Son and partner, Michael is originally from Babylon, NY.
201 South Main Street Waxhaw 704-243-7336

March for Life 2007
BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
Join Belmont Abbey College students and faculty on their annual trip to the March for Life in Washington, DC.
Buses will leave Belmont Abbey College at **7:30am on Sunday, January 21st** and return on Monday, January 22nd around midnight.
Cost for the travel is $50 and space is limited.
Contact Donella Haywood at DonellaHaywood@bac.edu or (704) 825-6777 to reserve a space and/or for more details.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Ways to work together

Vatican booklet cites 'spiritual ecumenism' as route to unity

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Every time Christians of different communities pray together, witness to the Gospel and help people in need, they promote Christian unity, said the Vatican's top ecumenist.

Joint prayer and Bible study, attendance at a major event of another denomination and working together for justice and peace are the components of "spiritual ecumenism" suggested by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

The cardinal is the author of "A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism," a booklet published in English late in 2006; the Italian edition will be released at the Vatican in time for the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In fact, participating in ecumenical prayer services and discussions during the Christian unity week is encouraged throughout the booklet.

In the intro, Cardinal Kasper said the booklet was the result of a discussion by pontifical council members focusing on the need for prayer and conversion in the [illegible] for Christ [illegible] ask forgiveness," it said.

One of the practical suggestions in the booklet is that, during Lent, divided Christians gather for "a common service based on biblical readings on forgiveness and mercy in preparation for approaching a minister of one's own church for personal confession of sins and absolution."

The booklet also urges special attention to young people, who will inherit "the burden of past division."

"It is of paramount importance that young Christians be given the opportunity to make friends with Christians of other traditions, to read the Gospel and to pray with them, to grow in understanding and appreciation," it said.

Cardinal Kasper's booklet encourages bishops and priests also to give special attention to husbands and wives from different Christian communities, not simply because of the difficulties they face in continuing to practice their faith, but also because they can be a resource in bringing members of their denominations closer together.

As people who "feel intensely the pain of division between the communities to which they belong," the couples can help organize ecumenical [illegible]

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 21, 2007

Jan. 21, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Psalms 19:8-10, 15
2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
3) Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Keeping holy the Lord's day is for our benefit

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

An acquaintance and I were discussing the relative merits of parishes in our part of the city. We compared music ministries, hospitality, size of the assembly and other characteristics.

Ultimately, though, he decided that for Sunday Mass he liked "Parish X" the best "because the pastor there gives the shortest homilies."

He certainly wouldn't have liked the Liturgy of the Word described in this week's first reading. Ezra was leading the people of Israel in a celebration of covenant renewal with Yahweh, which required the reading of the entire Law so that those who had not been present with Moses at Sinai could commit to it anew.

But "from daybreak to midday?" With children? I can't fathom all of those people sitting still that long, much less [illegible] with tears, worship and joyful feasting, considering the day as holy, as time well spent.

The Gospel gives us another Liturgy of the Word, this time in a synagogue in Galilee. It was on a "Sabbath," the day they were commanded to set aside for the Lord.

From the scroll of Isaiah, Jesus read aloud a prophetic promise of incredibly good news — prisoners set free, sight restored, oppression ceasing. Then he claimed that this promise already had been fulfilled in their hearing.

Not your ordinary Sabbath service in the local synagogue!

But the truth is, every Sabbath celebration, every "Lord's Day," is extraordinary, whether the homily is long or short, the music sublime or simply tolerable. It's extraordinary because it is the opportunity for us to reflect as a people on the great things our God has done for us.

It is a time to renew our covenant relationship with the Lord who committed himself to us at creation, at Sinai, at Calvary — and who commits himself to us anew in every eucharistic celebration.

While it is tempting to check our watches and think about how many obligations we have that day, it is important to remember that even God rested on the seventh day of creation. The third commandment is to "keep holy the Lord's day." God did not ordain a Sabbath for his benefit, but for ours.

In our hectic, demanding lives, let [illegible]

‘reedom worth writing about

CNS PHOTO BY PARAMOUNT

e Hernandez (left) and Hilary Swank star in “Freedom Writers,” a classroom ama about the efforts of an idealistic, novice high school English teacher (Swank) transform a racially divided class of troubled teens into model students by inspiring em to believe in themselves and break the cycle of gang violence in which they feel pped.

a way of empowering them, she has them record their personal stories, experiences d feelings in journals, which they eventually get published.

rector Richard LaGravenese overcomes a predictable and, at times, message-heavy ipt with emotionally powerful performances by the young ensemble and redemptive emes of self-worth, the efficacy of education and empathy to overcome intolerance, d the ability of one person to make a difference.

me graphic violence, including shootings, beatings and brief but disturbing images of nestic abuse, a divorce subplot, one instance of the f-word, recurring crude language d a few racial slurs, limiting its appropriateness to older adolescents and up.

e USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and olescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents ongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

get
ignited!
Featuring these great Catholic Speakers
Mark Shea
Peter Kreeft
Steve Wood
February 16-17, 2007
Raleigh, North Carolina
Cardinal Gibbons
Catholic High School
Bringing to light the truth of the
teachings of the Catholic Church and igniting
in our hearts a love for our faith
For complete details and online registration, visit:
www.IgnitedByTruth.com

The Catholic Stallion

Stallone back in church, back in theaters as ‘Rocky Balboa’

CNS PHOTO BY TIM SHAFFER, REUTERS

Actor Sylvester Stallone makes a fist at the premiere of “Rocky Balboa” in Philadelphia Dec. 18, 2006.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sylvester Stallone grew up Catholic, stopped going to church after he tasted fame and fortune, but now considers himself a churchgoing Catholic again.

Stallone’s shift back to church started when his daughter Sophia was “born sick,” Stallone told Catholic News Service in a December telephone interview to promote his new movie, “Rocky Balboa.”

In November 1996, at age 2 months, Sophia underwent open-heart surgery.

The operation went well, and Sophia, now 10, is doing “great,” Stallone said. “She’s the No. 1 athlete in her class.”

Stallone tried to find the words to describe what brought about his self-imposed exile from Catholicism.

“I don’t know. Life,” he said. “Your career is going, you’re not communicating with your family.”

The weight of celebrity was “very heavy,” he added. “I didn’t have any strong foundation behind me of people that would keep my feet on the ground. I was extremely seduced by the newfound freedom.”

Things started turning around for Stallone, he said, before his marriage in 1997 to his third and current wife.

“When I got married everything changed,” he said. “When my daughter was born sick, and I realized I really needed some help here, I started putting everything in God’s hands, his omnipotence, his all-forgivingness.”

Stallone added that being Catholic “puts me where I should be. I was alone in the world. I thought I would have to handle things in my own way.” But then “I thought if I put myself in Jesus’ hands and asked for insight and guidance, I am basically taking the yoke off of me and using his intelligence and wisdom to make the proper decision.”

It’s a process Stallone uses not only in life, but in his profession.

“I really feel that in the writing of (the first) ‘Rocky.’ I felt my hand was truly guided,” he said.

And so it is for “Rocky Balboa,” which opened Dec. 20, 2006.

“He’s coming in there this way, buoyant, being pushed by a different kind of energy — Jesus energy. At the end of the movie, he points his finger up and shows respect (to Jesus),” he said.

If you’re rolling your eyes at the prospect of a 60-year-old Stallone playing an aging boxer, that’s OK with him.

“I rolled my eyes when I thought of it,” Stallone said. “You can’t judge anything until you see it. When you see the film, it’s about actually being able to listen to your heart and not so much your mind, following the guidance of someone much more powerful than you: Jesus.”

“In ‘Rocky I,’ the first person we saw was Jesus,” he said, referring to an opening scene of the boxing club where there is a big mural of Jesus on a wall.

And if a sixth “Rocky” movie isn’t enough, there’s “Rambo IV: Pearl of the Cobra” in the works.

“It’s also a Christian movie,” Stallone said, describing the plot to “Rambo IV,” now in pre-production:

“Rambo is a borderline atheist. He doesn’t believe in anything anymore. His job is to bring a group of Christians upriver into a very hostile territory, and they’re there to bring the word of God and medicine and dentistry to these natives.

“He has conversations with some of these Christians and he doesn’t see it their way. They get captured, and ... he starts getting influenced by their faith in the face of such incredible odds.

“I think it may work,” he added.

Hard rock in hell: Monsignor makes ‘Divine Comedy’ a musical

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Rome monsignor has composed an extravagant musical version of “The Divine Comedy,” featuring symphonic music in heaven, Gregorian chant in purgatory and hard rock in hell.

That’s not a value judgment on rock music — it just seemd to fit the spirit of rebellion in Dante’s description of the inferno, Msgr. Marco Frisina said.

Msgr. Frisina, a liturgy official for the Diocese of Rome and a well-known composer of religious music, said “The Divine Comedy: The Opera,” will use a 100-piece orchestra and 50 dancers and singers. The set will be one of the biggest ever used for an operatic work and will be designed to allow audience interaction in some of the scenes.

The priest has dedicated the opera’s musical score to Pope Benedict XVI and said he hopes the pontiff will attend the premiere in Rome next fall. The production is expected to tour Europe.

Dante Alighieri’s medieval poem, considered one of the masterpieces of world literature, imagines a journey through the three realms of the dead.

Madame Speaker

Anticipating how Pelosi will run the House

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rep. Nancy Pelosi's ascent to the post of speaker of the House of Representatives puts her in the spotlight for a variety of "firsts." She's the first woman, the first Italian-American and the first Californian to hold the post.

At a Jan. 3 Mass at Trinity University in Washington, Pelosi's alma mater, Jesuit Father Robert Drinan, a former member of Congress, noted that she's the first mother in the seat.

But beyond the firsts, Pelosi is a well-known player in Washington with a reputation for effectively leading House Democrats and for being willing to listen to people on all sides of issues.

Her selection as speaker of the House is considered a good sign for the chance to pass some legislation on the church's agenda. But Pelosi, a Catholic, also is eyed cautiously because of her record of support for legal abortion.

George Wesolek, director of public policy and social concerns for the Archdiocese of San Francisco, has worked with Pelosi and her staff for 21 years. Pelosi's congressional district encompasses most of the city of San Francisco.

"She's been very, very helpful on many issues and we disagree strongly on others," Wesolek said. "And I talk with her very frankly about those."

Pelosi, 64, was raised around politics and politicians in Baltimore — her father, Thomas D'Alesandro, was mayor there for 12 years and a member of Congress for five terms.

Growing up in Baltimore's Little Italy, Pelosi attended Catholic elementary and high schools and went on to Trinity College, a Catholic women's school. After graduating in 1962, she married California investment banker Paul Pelosi and moved with him to San Francisco.

The family now belongs to St. Vincent de Paul Church in San Francisco.

Though Pelosi was involved in party politics while raising five children, it wasn't until they were nearly grown that she took a high-profile position as chairwoman of the California Democratic Party in the early 1980s.

She first ran for office in a special election at the age of 47, winning the congressional seat left vacant by the death of Rep. Sala Burton in 1987. Pelosi has been comfortably re-elected in every election since then.

She was chosen as House minority leader by the Democrats in 2002, the first woman from either party in that position. Her ability to pull Democrats together on key legislation got her re-elected to the post and put her in line to take over as speaker when the Democrats regained majority control of the House in the November 2006 elections.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, said he has known Pelosi in his role as a member of the bishops' Committee on International Policy since she first came to Washington. He said he's always found her to be "a very thoughtful and committed defender of human rights."

CNS PHOTO BY JONATHAN ERNST, REUTERS

New U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi makes the sign of the cross as Father Michael Salerno gives a blessing at a Jan. 5 ceremony naming a Baltimore street in Pelosi's honor.

"We don't always agree — on life and education issues especially — but my experience has been that you can always talk to her," said Cardinal McCarrick.

He said Pelosi is "a very bright lady who understands politics more than most people in Washington do."

In his capacity as chairman of a bishops' task force on Catholic politicians, Cardinal McCarrick also met with congressional Democrats after Pelosi and others asked to begin a dialogue about the role of their religious beliefs and political responsibilities.

Pelosi has long pushed for sanctions against China for its human rights record. She opposed most-favored-nation trade status for China in the 1990s when it had broad support in Congress, in the Clinton administration and in her own party.

Wesolek said Pelosi was also among those who opposed the first Gulf War in 1991. He recalled marching with her down Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco, "arm in arm, leading 5,000 people."

More recently, she's been a supporter of a comprehensive approach to immigration reform and of increasing the minimum wage.

But Pelosi's voting record on abortion, stem-cell research and other life issues is less than encouraging even to some members of her party — those who belong to Democrats for Life.

Kristen Day, executive director of Democrats for Life, said she's disappointed Pelosi includes reinstating federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research among her top priorities for the 110th Congress.

She said she would like to see Pelosi support with equal enthusiasm funding to preserve umbilical-cord blood for stem-cell research. The program was passed into law in 2005 but so far has not been funded, Day said.

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment said that since Pelosi took office, she has voted with the group's position just once. That was considered a procedural maneuver aimed at defeating a ban on partial-birth abortion.

Wesolek said Pelosi understands and agrees with the church's teaching on many fundamental policy issues, but that doesn't go far enough.

"I think she gets half of Catholic social teaching," Wesolek said. "The half she gets she does well."

Local, national events to mark Roe

MARCH, *from page 1*

noon rally on the National Mall followed by a march along Constitution Avenue that will end at the U.S. Supreme Court. From there, participants are encouraged to meet with members of Congress to lobby on anti-abortion issues.

The theme of this year's march is "Thou Shalt Protect the Equal Right to Life of Each Innocent Human in Existence at Fertilization. No Exception! No Compromise!"

Several other events will take place both in Washington and around the country to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, a march organized by pro-life Catholics took place from the diocesan Pastoral Center to the courthouse in uptown Charlotte Jan. 12.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place Jan. 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington with an 8 p.m. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, who is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The vigil also includes a rosary for life, night prayer, Holy Hours, morning prayer and the opportunity for confession. It ends at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 22 with a Mass celebrated by Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl.

Bishop Jugis will be the homilist at 10:30 a.m. Mass at the basilica Jan. 22.

Also on the morning of the annua March for Life, the Washingto Archdiocese expects more than 20,00 Catholic teens and young adults to atten its youth rally and Mass at the Verizo Center, Washington's largest sports arena

Because so many young peopl have attended in previous years, ther will be a second, smaller rally and Mas at Constitution Hall to accommodat the crowds. Doors open at both venue at 7 a.m. Priests will be available fo reconciliation at 8 a.m. and the rally wi begin at 8:45 followed by Mass at 10.

Archbishop Wuerl will be the mai celebrant of the Mass at the Verizo Center, and Cardinal Rigali will celebrat the Mass at Constitution Hall.

Chicago Cardinal Francis E. Georg will join Chicago youths in Washingto to participate in the annual march an rally for lunch and a brief address Jan. 2 Afterward, he will be joined by Fath Frank Pavone, director of Priests f Life, for a question-and-answer session

Father Pavone also will preach i the Dirksen Senate Office Building at Jan. 22 prayer service called the Nation Memorial for the Preborn and The Mothers and Fathers.

Contributing to this article w Editor Kevin E. Murray.

Classifieds

SERVICES

COUNSELING SERVICES: Individuals. Couples. Family. Lucille Moses, BSN, M.Ed., Licensed Professional Counselor. 1801 East 5th Street, 108-B, Charlotte. 704-366-6507 or 704-942-4334.

COUNSELING: The Cedar Institute. Professiona Christian Counseling. Healing individuals, couples and families. All ages. Lara Miller, MA, NCC, LPC (828) 446-5514.

FOR RENT

VILLA: Isles of Palms, SC (Charleston area 3 BD, 3BA. Resort community. Walk to beach, poo golf, tennis. Tropical, upscale décor. Extended sta discounts available. 703-255-0572.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, located in beautiful Winston-Salem, N.C., is searching for a youth minister to continue an established Life Teen program. We are seeking an enthusiastic, passionate, faith-filled individual, to direct young people toward a meaningful, life-affirming journey with Christ. If you are a Catholic with a college degree, have a strong spiritual, faith-based background, are passionate about working with youth, and have at least two years or more of practical experience as a youth minister, preferably in a Life Teen environment, please consider this opportunity.

St. Leo parish has an established Life Teen program centered on the Eucharist. The Life Teen Mass is held every Sunday at 5pm during the school year. We have a dedicated Core Team made up of singles and couples along with many committed parent volunteers. Most important, however, are the 150 (and growing) young people who participate in our Edge Nights (jr. youth), Life Nights (sr. youth), Coffee Houses, activities and retreats. In addition, our Family Life Center features a room dedicated to our youth, a Youth Minister's office, kitchenette and entertainment center. Check us out at www.foolishoftheworld.com.

The position's starting salary is competitive and negotiable depending on education and/or experience. We also offer an attractive benefit package. If interested, please contact Youth Minister Search Committee at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104. Phone: 336-724-9596. Fax: 336-724-7036. Email: youthminister@stleocatholic.com.

Past, present, future

Annual Martin Luther King Jr. event xamines AIDS pandemic, issues facing frican-Americans

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

> "If Rev. King were alive today, one of his main concerns would be how to halt the pandemic of AIDS and what would be the methods to stop it."
>
> — Sandra Murdock

CHARLOTTE — African-American atholics gathered recently to celebrate heir past and embrace their future.

Approximately 60 people attended he diocesan Martin Luther King Jr. elebration at the Doubletree Guest uites hotel in Charlotte Jan. 6.

"I was very pleased with how it vent," said Sandra Murdock, director of he diocesan African American Affairs inistry, which sponsored the annual vent.

Themed "Embracing Our Future, ealing with Our Present, Celebrating ur Past," the event featured speakers nd a program that focused on the lifeltering decisions and consequences ffecting youths and adults locally and round the world.

Because HIV and AIDS are prevalent n the African-American community, uch of the day centered on the pandemic oth in the United States and abroad.

"The speakers explored what can e done and what is being done," said urdock.

"If Rev. King were alive today, one f his main concerns would be how to alt the pandemic of AIDS and what would be the methods to stop it," she said.

The attendees broke into groups for table discussions, which revealed the need for more education and awareness on the subject, said Murdock.

"It's not being addressed, but being pushed under the carpet. It needs to be addressed to remove the stigma of having HIV and AIDS," she said. "You never know who has AIDS … and we need to provide support groups to those who are suffering."

The event also featured a presentation on historic African-American quilts and quilt patterns associated with the 18th- and 19th-century Underground Railroad. Slaves would use different patterns as symbols to communicate in secret.

The diocesan African American Affairs Ministry was established in 1985 to give visibility to the work of black Catholics in the diocese and to educate others to the needs and contributions of black Catholics in the church.

An eloquent preacher and groundbreaking civil rights leader, Rev. King sought to bring peaceful reconciliation among all Americans, urging racial justice and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race.

While in Memphis, Tenn., to support striking black workers in 1968, Rev. King was assassinated April 4 by James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, who was white. After his death, Rev. King became a symbol of protest in the struggle for racial justice.

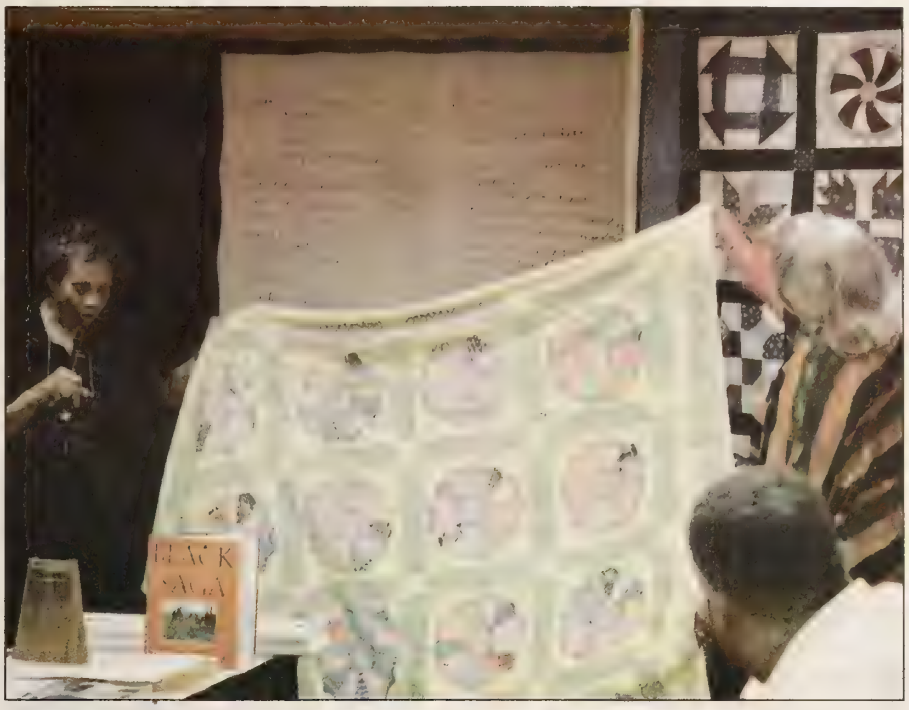


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Barbara Hart (left) gives a presentation on historic African-American quilts and quilt patterns associated with the 18th-century Underground Railroad during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Charlotte Jan. 6.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information on the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, visit www.charlottediocese.org/aaam.html.

got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

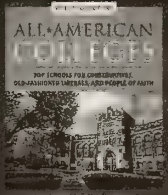
No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE


ALL-AMERICAN
COLLEGES
TOP SCHOOLS FOR CONSERVATIVES, OLD-FASHIONED LIBERALS, AND PEOPLE OF FAITH

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

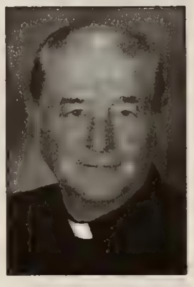
Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Questions about canonization — honorary title or something more?

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Q. We have questions about canonization we hope you will answer. When was the first saint canonized? What does "canonization" mean. Is it just an honorary title or is there more? (New York)

A. Canonization is the process by which the Catholic Church proclaims its conviction that a member of the faithful is in eternal glory with God and may be publicly venerated by Christians.

The word comes from the fact that the saint's name henceforth could be included in the canon (Eucharistic Prayer) of the Mass.

The canonization procedure has gone through numerous stages over the past 2,000 years. For centuries saints were declared by general acclamation of the people or by a variety of processes established by local bishops.

At first only martyrs who died for their faith were so honored. In the fourth century, "confessors," those who valiantly professed their faith even if they were not killed, began to be added, [illegible] eventually [illegible]

which, he said, people can live heroically virtuous lives as they faithfully fulfill their personal Christian vocations.

The other development concerns men and women, religious and lay, who are killed not because of their adherence to particular Catholic doctrines, as the early martyrs were for example, but because they died in retaliation for their love and service of others.

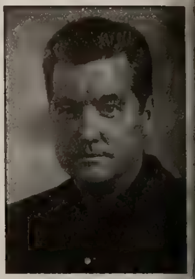
The most pointed example of such a "martyr for charity" is St. Maximilian [illegible] an attempted esc[illegible] concentration ca[illegible]

The diocesan birthday present

Book reflects history, faith of growing diocese

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR



On one end of the communications spectrum is radio, a medium where the program host speaks, usually off the cuff, to a large audience.

Early in my career I worked as a DJ at several radio stations. I usually didn't know what I was going to say, or at least how I was going to form a sentence, until the words were coming out of my mouth. I liked radio.

The opposite of radio is a book. In a well-produced book, every word, comma and phrase has been reviewed; every fact checked and proofed, because once a book comes off the press it can't be changed. The voice on the radio fades as soon as the words are spoken but a book sits around for decades. Books are fun to read, but not as easy as radio to create.

I learned more about books when I served as editor of the recently published "Voices and Places of the People of God — The Diocese of Charlotte." The 35th anniversary coffee table book for the diocese puts our message of salvation through faith into a different medium.

Officially, the diocese turns 35 on Jan. 12.

There are, of course, thousands of excellent books and one Good Book about our faith. So in creating "Voices and Places," we set out to do something that was different from the others. We wanted an attractive book that would capture the diverse voices in our diocese and hold them [illegible] the covers for many years [illegible]

saying, "I didn't know that."

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin's homily from the memorial Mass for Blessed Mother Teresa in 1997 reads exactly like the good bishop sounds. It is full of short anecdotes and the solid-as-a-rock faith that is his trademark.

Archbishop John F. Donoghue wrote, with some humor, about the adjustment he made from his big city home in Washington, D.C. to our mission diocese when he was named bishop of Charlotte in 1984.

Photos from the treasure trove of the diocesan archive give a historical perspective of our Catholic roots. My favorite is of an unnamed infant nestled in a Catholic Social Services file cabine drawer in the 1970s. Apparently the CSS offices were very crowded back then. As far as I know, the child — who is now probably a 30-something-year-old adult — was not filed away.

Catholics in the diocese come from near and far. Our current bishop, Bishop Peter J. Jugis, was born in Charlotte and [illegible]

The heart: following destiny's path

Listening to God's presence helps us follow his call

Guest Column

KATHY REPASS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Fear, confusion and a desire to ollow societal norms.

These three elements were central o my life as both a teen and throughout ny 20s. After all, I'd spent my childhood earning about the "American Dream" of wning a house, having 2.5 children and limbing the corporate ladder without etting the "glass ceiling" get in my way. s a result, I found myself running away rom my destiny rather than embracing it n a manner that would allow me to truly evelop into the person God created.

My running stopped, however, one lew Year's Eve when a priest made the ollowing statement before Mass:

"If there's anything you've always elt you needed to do, it's more important o start that journey now than to go to lass today. There are only 15 hours ft in 2004. But, even if your journey ncludes climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, you leave the church and drive to the irport, you can get onto a flight and egin your trek this year!"

Since I knew I'd been avoiding an nportant journey for a long time, the riest's words hit me hard. In fact, they led to a meeting with him that started the official discernment of my religious vocation.

I work in corporate America and have attended many meetings, but I have to admit that this meeting was the most difficult. It was truly terrifying to walk into the priest's office and lay my feeling of "being called" on his desk.

He explained that we are each called to service through baptism and that we should listen to the Holy Spirit as we uncover our unique vocation. Taking his advice, I braved my fears and surrendered myself to the Lord. I specifically asked God to guide my journey, and through Ignatian exercises, I gradually realized that I am indeed called to religious life.

Through a series of events, the Lord led me to the Sisters of Mercy where, after a lengthy discernment, I entered the convent in August 2006. I'm more at peace with the Mercys than I've ever been before. When I'm at our motherhouse in Belmont, I know I'm exactly where God want me to be.

My fear has turned into excitement. But that's not to say that stress and anxiety aren't also daily occurrences. As with all of our daily lives, it's a long journey. I now see it as a series of hills that I take one day at a time, instead of feeling as if I'm staring Mount Kilimanjaro in the face.

The further I've moved through this process, the more confident I've become in knowing that God has a unique plan in mind for each of us. Whether we're called to be single, married, a priest or a religious, I believe that the most critical element of any life's journey comes from listening to the Holy Spirit's presence within our hearts.

Perhaps this process, rather than automatically following societal norms, is how each of us can realize our true destiny!

Kathy Repass is in her first year as a candidate with the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont.

ustice, vengeance and addam Hussein

ourt could have shown mercy dictator id not

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

"Justice" and "vengeance" are not terchangeable terms. Yet we often say ustice" when we mean "vengeance" and t vengefully in the name of justice.

"Bringing them to justice" too often eans turning them over to a violent end.

Saddam Hussein "got his," as they y, on the gallows just a few days before story closed the books on the year 2006, violent one by any measure in the Middle ast and other parts of the world.

Iraq's Ministry of Justice decided that eath by hanging evened the score for the eaths of 148 men and boys murdered on ders from Hussein in Dujail, Iraq, in 82. Presumably, he was "getting even" r an earlier assassination attempt on his e in that same town.

Not to mention the hundreds of ousands of his own countrymen who st their lives by the will and command this brutal dictator in torture chambers, the wars he started with Iran and uwait, and in acts of vengeance against s political enemies.

Countless lives, not just the 148 for ich he was tried, weighed in on his ilty verdict. He was, by all accounts, evil man.

Is the world a better place without n? Without his brutality and callous sregard for the life, freedom and gnity of countless human beings?

Yes, certainly. But without him, the human being, who might have been contained and controlled by authorities capable of preventing him from harming others, who can say?

Capital punishment is unjustifiable (notice the word "just" in the middle of that term) if the state can contain and control (all the while attempting to correct) an evil, brutal murderer who thus would never be able to harm or kill again.

Whenever a human being, even one who sins against God in whose image he has been created, is involved, there has to be a ray of hope, even for the incorrigible.

When will we ever learn that violence is an unacceptable instrument of social and political change? When will we begin to notice that violence begets violence and that vengeance adds nothing to justice? It simply subtracts from human dignity, the dignity of the vengeful.

We are accustomed to representing justice symbolically as trays in balance on a scale. We are also used to speaking of justice in a building-trades vocabulary of "on the level" or "upright" and in expressions like "fair and square," "up and up" and "even-handed."

Put hundreds of thousands, more likely millions, of murdered lives on the one tray and then put the executed life of Hussein on the other. Does that even-up anything? Is there more justice in the world as a result? Is that action of execution upright?

Set vengeance aside for a moment as unworthy of us humans and shift the context from justice to mercy. We all know that the whole human race landed on the downside tray as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve, yet along came the God-man to offset all that sin by a single act of sacrificial love, and the trays were back in balance.

Justice was born of mercy. The arithmetic of justice cannot be compared with the arithmetic of mercy.

With the birth, life, death and resurrection of one man — the God-man — the Sun of Justice rose. "Blessed are the merciful," said Jesus, "for mercy shall be theirs."

The death by hanging of Saddam Hussein is an occasion to read the mercy meter in your heart and say a prayer for those most in need of mercy.

E-mail Father Byron at wbyron@sjprep.org.

Pope says Christians should embrace persecution as source of blessing

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Christian community and its members always will face persecution and suffering, but they should embrace it as a source of blessing, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Speaking at his Jan. 10 general audience about the ministry and death of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, the pope said the persecution of the early Christian community is what pushed the disciples to leave Jerusalem and bring the Gospel to the world.

"Even in our lives the cross, which is never lacking, becomes a blessing," the pope said.

And by accepting suffering in the knowledge that it will lead to growth and blessings, "we learn the joy of Christianity even in moments of difficulty," Pope Benedict said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 10.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's catechesis we consider St. Stephen, the first martyr. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5), was one of seven men, traditionally considered the first "deacons," appointed by the apostles to assist the Greek-speaking widows in the Jerusalem community.

The apostles then "prayed and laid their hands on them" (6:6) as the sign of handing on a specific office within the community as well as beseeching the grace necessary to fulfill it.

In addition to his ministry of charity, Stephen also preached the Gospel, and his fearless proclamation of Jesus as the fulfillment of the Mosaic law led to his death by stoning. His martyrdom in imitation of Christ unleashed a local persecution which resulted in the preaching of the Gospel beyond Jerusalem and eventually to the pagans.

As we know, Stephen's death was witnessed by the young Saul, who, after his dramatic conversion to Christ, would take up and develop Stephen's preaching of the Gospel as centered on faith in Christ rather than the observance of the law.

Stephen's example shows us the inseparability of faith and charity and reminds us that every persecution can become an opportunity for the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the church. Let us have the courage to take up his example of bold witness.

Faith, curiosity bring Mexicans to lakeside town for Day of the Kings

BY DAVID AGREN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAJITITLAN, Mexico — Salvador Alvarado, a Mexican from Guadalajara, broke his leg in three places while playing recreational soccer seven years ago. The former semiprofessional player feared he would never play again and might even lose his livelihood as a painter.

After being off his feet for more than six months, he asked the "Santos Reyes" — the holy kings, or Wise Men — to intervene, and a family member came to Cajititlan, a lakeside town just south of Guadalajara whose patrons are the Magi, to ask for the same.

A short time later, Alvarado made a complete recovery.

"I had one operation and afterward it was as if nothing had happened," he explained, rolling up his pant leg to show a fading scar. "Everything went well so I came back to give thanks."

Thousands of pilgrims like Alvarado converged on Cajititlan for its "Dia de los Reyes" (Day of the Kings) festivities in early January, giving thanks for past blessings and, in some cases, patiently asking for needed intervention.

The feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, marking when the Wise Men visited Jesus, is celebrated each year Jan. 6, the day Mexicans end the Christmas season with family gatherings that include a traditional "rosca de reyes" — ring of the kings, a sweetbread — and hot chocolate.

Gifts are also exchanged, as the Mexican interpretation of Christmas has the Wise Men, not Santa Claus, bringing presents.

Cajititlan, a fishing village of approximately 8,000 inhabitants, celebrates somewhat differently than the rest of Mexico. Mesquite statues of the kings Melchior, Balthasar and Gaspar are carried through each neighborhood before boarding small fishing boats for a tour of the 5.5-square-mile Lake Cajititlan.

The boat tour, several fishermen said, is to bless the lake, which has not been as bountiful in recent years and has a declining water level.

"The lake's in worse shape than before," said Eliseo Rojo, 70, who has caught charales, fish the size of french fries, and tilapia since he was a teenager. He gave boat tours for 20 pesos (US$1.80) per person during the nine-day festival.

Rojo said local fishermen bring back hauls smaller than in past years, and many of Cajititlan's young men now work in Oregon constructing homes. Pilgrims like Alvarado and the 30 friends and family members who camped with him near the town square now play an important role in boosting the local economy — at least during the winter.

On Jan. 6, revelers and residents watched the indigenous dance performances and strolled through the large indigenous market that wound its way through the town's main streets along with somewhat modern diversions like mechanical rides and banda music.

The tradition of celebrating the kings in Cajititlan dates back to the 18th century, when the local parish was dedicated. The tradition is even older in the central part of Tlajomulco, seat of the regional government.

"Tlajomulco was where the first presentation of a live nativity performance, or 'pastorela,' in ... New Spain took place," said Jose Hernandez Martinez, a folk art historian at a Jesuit university in suburban Guadalajara.

In the first "pastorela" in the New World, which Hernandez said took place in 1587, the kings arrived riding a mule, a donkey and a horse. They each also had differing skin colors, something noted in virtually all Mexican interpretations o the "Santos Reyes."

"The three supposedly represente the various races of the known world unti the discovery of America," Hernande explained. "Tradition has one bein white, one 'moreno' (darker) and th other black."

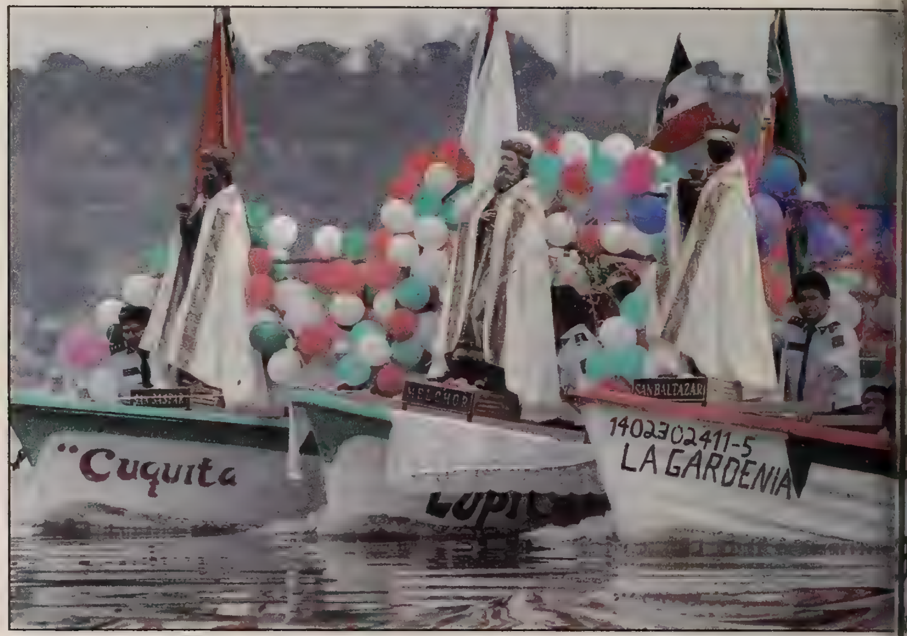
The conquering Spanish introduce the "pastorelas" as part of their missionar work among the indigenous populatio According to Hernandez, the "pastorelas were "pieces of theater for evangelizing, which "have been well received i Mexico since the 16th century."

Perhaps nowhere in the entir republic has the tradition of publicl celebrating "Dia de los Reyes" persiste like it has in Cajititlan, where vestiges precolonial customs remain visible.

"The dances, the music and th marketplace arrangement come fro before the arrival of the Spaniards an the Catholic Church," said Octavi Pescador, an expert in Mexican traditio and a professor at the University California at Los Angeles, who add that in village celebrations, "There's sense of pluralism ... it's a town event.

The novelty of seeing the thr statues of the kings taken out on the la draws the curious to Cajititlan, but f Alvarado, spending "Dia de los Reye in the town is about faith.

"There are other places to go (Jalisco state) ... but I'm here every yea he said. "It's an important tradition."



CNS PHOTO BY STEVEN H. MIL

Statues of the Wise Men are carried by boat on Lake Cajititlan, Mexico, Jan. 8 during a religious festiv honoring the town's patron saints, the Magi. In Mexican tradition, the three kings bring children gifts f Christmas on the Day of the Kings, or "Dia de los Reyes."

Save $100 before February 2nd!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

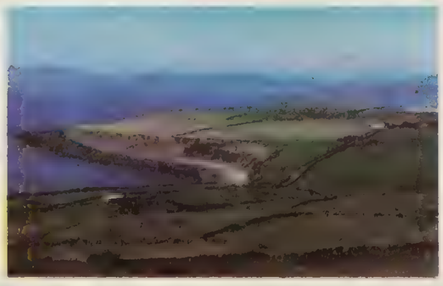
breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping -- PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.
This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.



ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

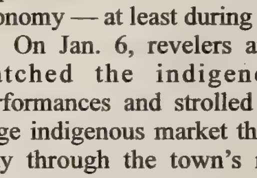
Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com



PC281
C363c

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JANUARY 19, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 14

Perspectives

Greene examines how U.S. blacks perceive Catholic Church; Father Hemrick discusses building walls; letters to the editor

| PAGES 14-15

For awareness and reparation

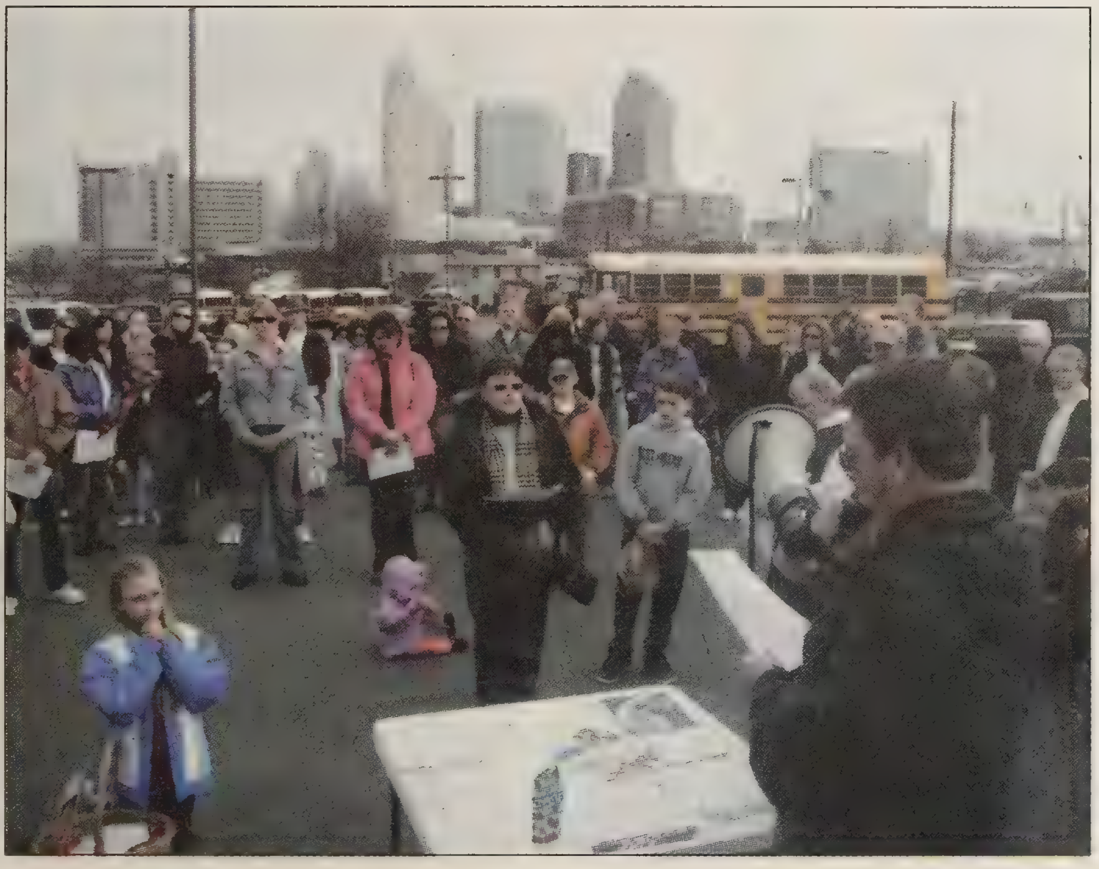


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte, leads more than a hundred pro-life activists in prayer before the first March for Life in Charlotte Jan. 12.

Many participate in Charlotte's first March for Life

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholics recently took to the streets of Charlotte to help promote pro-life issues.

Approximately 180 people from parishes around the diocese participated in Charlotte's first March for Life Jan. 12.

"We are marching for life, but also for reparation for abortion," said Tina Witt, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral and one of the march organizers.

"We pray to be visible to heighten awareness that this (abortion) is truly murder," she said.

With many marchers carrying pro-life signs and photos, they gathered across

See MARCH, page 9

A call to action

Bishop Jugis, Bishop Burbidge call on N.C. Catholics to fight mbryonic stem-cell esearch legislation

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis is asking Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte to learn more about mbryonic stem-cell research nd to join him in defeating pending legislation that likely will recommend state funding.

Both Bishop Jugis and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh have sent joint letters o all pastors in North Carolina urging them to acquaint their

See STEM CELLS, page 8

Catholics in Congress

Congress more religiously diverse; Catholics still well represented

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — With one Muslim and two Buddhist members, the 110th Congress is the most religiously diverse ever.

Catholics remain the largest denominational group in Congress, with 155 members

See CONGRESS, page 7

Courtesy Photo

Ray FitzGerald sits with his 99-year-old cousin, Teresa Duff, during an October 2006 visit. FitzGerald reconnected with Duff after 25 years when he saw a story about her in The Catholic News & Herald.

ACROSS THE MILES

Catholic news story reconnects distant family members

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When Ray FitzGerald picked up the Aug. 11, 2006, issue of The Catholic News & Herald, he skimmed the story about Teresa Duff, a 99-year-old Long Island woman who still drove herself to daily Mass and baked her famous Linzer tortes for church occasions.

FitzGerald's wife, Nora, picked up the paper next, carefully reading the same story her husband had perused.

"She said, 'Don't you have a Teresa Duff in your family?'" said FitzGerald, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

The husband and wife are active genealogists, researching both their families and compiling family trees.

FitzGerald checked his

See RELATIVE, page 5

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Girl Scouts, Knights of Columbus help others
| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Book decries racism; Leno eats veggies for students
| PAGES 10-11

Parish Profile
Sacred Heart — small mission with big heart
| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CHOCOLATE FROM THE HEART

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Franciscan Sister Evelyn Brokish prepares a batch of almond-cherry duo, one of the sweet treats available from Poverello Delights, a candy shop she opened in October in Highland, Ind.

Candy store with nun's special confections aids Franciscan ministries

HIGHLAND, Ind. — If browsers were to peek into the windows of Poverello Delights in Highland, they wouldn't be surprised to find the candy store bustling with activity. What might be surprising is that the proprietor is a nun.

Poverello Delights is the realization of a dream that Franciscan Sister Evelyn Brokish believes to be the result of divine providence.

Sister Brokish has spent most of her 47 years as a religious sister serving as a professional liturgical musician in various parish communities, which often had no budget for the music program.

"We used to collect aluminum cans to finance the music ministries," she said with a laugh. "Our pastor once commented that we needed to find a different means. All we needed was a little imagination."

Imagination was something Sister Brokish had in abundance. Born into a large family, she grew up on a farm where they grew their own produce, made their own clothes and learned how to cook and bake.

"My parents taught us to be creative and imaginative," she said. "If there was a need, you learned to find the solution."

With that wealth of knowledge behind her, Sister Brokish soon developed her signature candy, the ChocoNutty Trio, named for the three layers of chocolate, peanut butter and white chocolate. When she cautiously tested it on staff and choir members, they gave the sweet treat a resounding "thumbs up."

"They told me it was equal to or better than those commercially produced peanut butter and chocolate candies," she proudly recalled.

The dream of a candy business was a natural progression, and she felt the Holy Spirit was guiding her down a new and exciting path.

She currently markets Poverello Delights through local chambers of commerce and word of mouth.

"Everything is homemade and from the heart," she said. "I think customers appreciate that this store is different from any other candy store."

Profits from the candy business are contributed to the ministries of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi with the poor and unprivileged.

One of the first questions customers ask is the meaning behind the name of the store, Poverello.

A slip of paper that accompanies each purchase talks about the word's origins in Italian. St. Francis of Assisi was called "Poverello," or little poor person. The explanation also talks about the Franciscan Sisters and their mission.

"People are usually surprised I'm a nun," Sister Brokish said, "but it leads to all kinds of questions and discussion about God, vocations, morals and even politics."

Bishop Skylstad says Iraqi security, dignity are key to Iraq policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Every U.S. action or policy in Iraq "ought to be evaluated in light of our nation's moral responsibility to help Iraqis to live with security and dignity in the aftermath of U.S. military action," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Skylstad said the new U.S. policies announced by President George W. Bush Jan. 10 or any alternatives to them must be viewed within the framework of "a key moral question that ought to guide our nation's actions in Iraq: How can the U.S. bring about a responsible transition in Iraq?"

He said "benchmarks" for progress toward such a transition include "minimally acceptable levels of security; economic reconstruction to create employment for Iraqis; and political structures and agreements that help overcome divisions, reduce violence, broaden participation and increa respect for religious freedom and bas human rights. Any action or failure to a should be measured by whether it mov toward these benchmarks and contribut to a responsible withdrawal at the earlie time," he added.

Bishop Skylstad, who was travelin in the Holy Land, noted that the U. bishops and the Vatican had expresse "grave moral concerns about the milita intervention in Iraq" and its potential f uncontrollable negative consequences.

"In light of current realities, th Holy See and our conference suppo broader regional and internation engagement to increase security, stabilit and reconstruction in Iraq," he said.

In his Jan. 10 address, Bush outline a plan to boost U.S. troop strength i Iraq and set a series of benchmarks th Iraqi government is expected to meet i coming months to stabilize the countr and promote its economic recovery.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays through Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to become reacquainted with the basics of their religion and to get answers to any questions that they may have. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope John Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on Sex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays through Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Babysitting will be provided. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — Sign-ups for *Why Catholic?* will be offered at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at all Masses Jan. 27-28. Why Catholic? consists of small groups meeting in homes to pray and discuss the scriptures, the Catholic catechism and how our Catholic faith affects our everyday lives. For more information, call (704) 543-7677 ext. 1056.

CHARLOTTE — *Steve Ray*, former fundamentalist and evangelical Protestant who converted to Catholicism, will speak at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Feb. 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. Steve is an author, producer and international speaker who is a frequent guest on EWTN and Catholic Answers Live. Please contact renee@catholicscripturestudy.com to RSVP or call at (866) 887-2774 for mo information.

CHARLOTTE — The *Ancient Order of Hibernian* Sons of Erin Mecklenburg County Division, th oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic me is seeking Irish Catholic men to join them f meetings, community activities and social event Contact Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or e-ma ncaoh@aol.com for more information includin meeting times and location.

HUNTERSVILLE — *New Creation Monaster* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in th presence of Almighty God. The monastery offer private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Fathe John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monaster 17009-D Northstar Dr., Huntersville, N.C., 28078 stating why you want to go on retreat and when. Fo more information, call (704) 609-9011.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro Council o Catholic Women* will host a covered-dish luncheo at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Jan. 24 (snow dat is Jan. 31) 12-2p.m. The program will be "Famou People of Guilford County" presented by Bett Gale Sikes of the Greensboro Historical Museum Please bring your favorite dish to share wit friends. For more information, please call Carme Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — *Chris Skinner*, a nationall known speaker whose life was changed foreve after a near-fatal car accident several years ago will share the lessons he learned and give his message of hope and determination at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. This program is for Parents and youth, grades 6-12. For more information, visit www.chrisskinner.org or call Terry Aiken at (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will have an *Open*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JAN. 19, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 14

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

OM THE VATICAN

ope marks migration day, urges olicies to benefit families

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Political licies and humanitarian assistance to lp migrant and refugee families stay gether or reunite will benefit host cieties because they help newcomers egrate, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Marking the World Day for Migrants d Refugees Jan. 14, the pope used Sunday Angelus address to ask the ernational community and individual tions to adopt policies aimed at feguarding the family bonds of migrants d refugees.

In the Gospel account of Jesus, Mary d Joseph being forced to flee to Egypt, he id, people can see "the painful situation many migrants," especially refugees, displaced and the persecuted.

Forced to leave their homes because poverty, war or persecution, the milies of the migrants can become tremely fragile, the pope said.

Pope Benedict said the United Nations estimates there are 200 million migrants in the world who have left their homes for economic reasons, 9 million refugees forced to flee and about 2 million young people who have left their home countries in order to study.

To the official figures, he said, one also must add the millions of people who have been displaced within their own nations and those who have immigrated without going through official channels.

Pope Benedict said nations must develop policies to regulate migration in a way that respects the rights of each person, promotes family unity, safeguards women and children and, at the same time, encourages an orderly and legal movement of peoples. This will be possible only if the human dignity of the migrants is respected and if the migrants recognize the values of the society offering them a home, he said.

use Jan. 31, for anyone who have questions out the Catholic faith or to any "former" tholics. The program will include a brief esentation on our Catholic inquiry classes, active Catholic program and continuing adult th formation education. A tour of the church and freshments will follow, for more information, ease call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

IGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary urch 4145 Johnson St. will offer a *free Spanish urse* on Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. . For more information or to register call Nancy ee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail Larry Kwan at kwan@lexcominc.net.

IGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary hurch , 4145 Johnson St., will begin the 2007 ries of our *Hope of Seeing Everyone Again* IOSEA) program. It is a program to invite atholics who have distanced themselves from the atholic Church, for whatever reason, to return. his small group will begin Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m. and ill meet weekly for six weeks to get a sense of e modern-day church, to discuss various issues d concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and uidance. For more information, contact Larry wan at (336) 688-1220.

REENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support roup* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet n. 25, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish ife Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you e currently out of work or looking to make a areer change, join us for encouragement, support d informative topics to help you in your job earch. For more information, call Colleen Assal at 336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

INSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

INSTON-SALEM — *The Fraternity of Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order* will host open houses for new inquirers Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. The Spirit of Assisi (below Our Lady of Fatima hapel), 211 W. 3rd St. Secular Franciscans are community of lay Catholic men and women who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information, call Mary Ellen Humphrey at (336) 722-2293 or e-mail donaldbh@aol.com.

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Tony O'Meara will speak about "Signs along the Journey of Faith" Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you want to follow the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with the Couple to Couple League beginning Feb. 18 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., 1:30-3:30 p.m. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching, and the method is healthy and effective. Please call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information about classes or NFP-knowledgeable physicians.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 18 — 7 p.m.
Mass for Life
mmaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Jan. 21-22
March for Life
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 23 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Committee meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Jan. 28 — 2:30 p.m. Mass
MACS Catholic Schools Week
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Vatican paper hits new Iraq executions, says country heads off course

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper criticized executions in Iraq as a "cruel manipulation" of justice and said the country is veering in the wrong direction.

The comments on the front page of L'Osservatore Romano Jan. 15 followed the gruesome hanging of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's half-brother, who was decapitated by the hangman's noose when his body dropped through the gallows floor.

A video showed the body of the dead man, Barzan Ibrahim, the former head of the Iraqi secret police, lying on the floor, with his severed head several feet away, still hooded. Iraqi authorities said the decapitation was accidental.

Executed at the same moment was Awad Hamed al-Bandar, the head of Saddam's revolutionary court. His body swung from a rope in the video.

Both men were convicted of responsibility in the torture and killing of 148 Shiites in 1982.

"A cruel manipulation of justice once again has used the gallows as its instrument," the Vatican newspaper said.

"After the execution of Saddam Hussein — which was also turned into a spectacle in a way that seriously damaged human dignity — many people noted the urgent need to give signals in the direction of dialogue and reconciliation," the newspaper said.

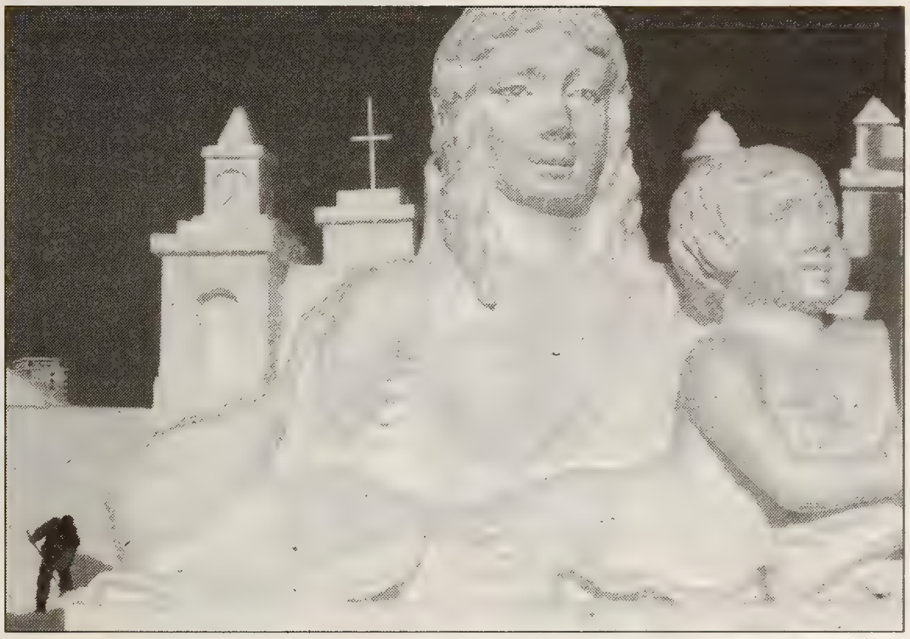
"But at the moment, it does not seem such a change of course has occurred," it said.

Vatican Radio carried an interview with the head of Amnesty International in Italy, Riccardo Noury, that was sharply critical of Iraq for proceeding with executions. Noury said the hangings were done in a hasty manner following "irregular" trials, and do not serve justice.

"The death penalty should have been abolished in the new Iraqi Constitution. It would have been an important sign that the country was breaking with Saddam's tradition of violating human rights," Noury said.

He faulted the Iraqi government for threatening diplomatic repercussions against the many countries that have criticized the executions. He said the methods and actions of the current government are not very different from the previous regime.

Snow sculpture



CNS PHOTO BY CHINA DAILY, REUTERS

An artist (lower left) carves a snow sculpture for the opening ceremony of a park in Mudanjiang, in northeast China's Heilongjiang province, Jan. 12.

Atlanta's Emory University begins new Catholic studies minor

ATLANTA (CNS) — Starting this January, students at Emory University in Atlanta have the chance to learn about famous Catholics as part of a new Catholic studies minor at the liberal arts university. The program is the only such minor in the country at a non-Catholic college or university, according to Emory officials.

With a significant number of Catholic students at Emory, the minor will give these students an opportunity to learn more about the roots of their faith.

Jack Zupko, assistant professor of philosophy at the university, also hopes the program will help students to gain a better understanding of the relationship between church and state.

"We need to train student scholars to look at religion and secular interests in a way that's not hostile," he told The Georgia Bulletin, newspaper of the Atlanta Archdiocese.

The minor concentrates on the impact of Catholicism's intellectual and cultural traditions on Western thought and is described as "entirely secular and academic" — not to be confused with formation in the Catholic faith.

Girl Scout earns Gold Award

Jordan Claire Cain

GREENSBORO — Jordan Claire Cain, a member of Girl Scout Troop 675, was recently awarded the Gold Award from the Tarheel Triad Council.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts. Jordan's Gold Award project included planning and building a memorial garden at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville.

The Charles B. Smith Memorial Garden was in memory of Charlie Smith, a Bishop McGuinness student who was killed in a boating accident in 2004. Charlie was a top scholar, talented musician and good friend to many at the school and in the community.

Jordon, a parishioner of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, is a 2006 graduate of Bishop McGuinness and a pre-law and history major at Meredith College in Raleigh.

Scouts provide Christmas meal for 'extended family'

CHARLOTTE — Members of Girl Scout Troop 10 recently adopted a family for Christmas.

The troop members, all parishioners of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, purchased food and gifts for a local family who had fled Nicaragua due to political persecution. The family of five — including a newborn baby — had recently experienced a job loss and severe illness.

The Scouts purchased and wrapped the items, and delivered them to the family Dec. 20.

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Girl Scout Troop 10, all parishioners of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, are pictured Dec. 19, 2006 with Christmas gifts and food they purchased for a local family. Pictured are (from left): Skylar Heeter, Ivey Andersen, Cara Toebbe, Emily Asinger, Mary Lauren Shea, Caitlyn Brewer, Brigid Sommer and troop leader Nancy Andersen.

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Bishop Jugis on Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Knights help supply Toys for Tots at Christmas

COURTESY PH

Craig Schwarz, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 8509, and young parishione of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, are pictured while sorting toys collected by the U. Marines, items donated through the parish Angel Tree and other contributions to the U. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Through the program, new and unwrapped toys are collected during October, Novemb and December to be distributed as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community which the campaign is conducted.

The Knights, Columbiettes and other volunteers worked to identify needy recipients a help supply them with food, gifts and other needed items. They were able to reach out to children in 25 families at Christmastime.

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR GRADUATE THEOLOGY CLASS

Application Deadline
February 2, 2007

The Writings of Pope John Paul II

Dr. Timothy Herrman

February 3
March 3
March 31

12PM –
6:10PM

Class Location:
Cardinal Newman High School
4701 Forest Drive
Columbia, SC 29206

For an Application or More Information

Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Teresa Duff prays following Mass in July 2006 at Immaculate Conception Church in Westhampton Beach, N.Y.

"God has been good to me. I owe him a debt of gratitude."

— Teresa Duff

Catholic news story reconnects distant relatives

RELATIVE, *from page 1*

records, and sure enough, his grandmother and Duff's mother were sisters — making them first cousins, once removed.

FitzGerald wrote a letter to Duff, which he later found out was one of many "fan letters" she received as a result of the story.

"It ran in several newspapers, even in Denver, Colo.," he said.

When he didn't hear from Duff, FitzGerald called her.

"My wife and I were going to a wedding on Long Island in October, so we made a side trip to visit Teresa," he said.

About a month before their visit, the FitzGeralds were in Salt Lake City visiting the Family Research Library.

"I was able to make a copy of Teresa's Irish birth registration — she was born in Cratloe, County Clare," FitzGerald said. "She was thrilled — she had never seen it before."

During their visit, the cousins, who hadn't seen each other for 25 years, reminisced about their family and Duff's life in her native Ireland.

"Teresa even cooked us a delicious chicken cordon bleu dinner and her famous Linzer tarts for dessert," FitzGerald said.

At 99, Duff still drove to Immaculate Conception Church in Westhamptom Beach, N.Y., every morning, arriving at 7:30 a.m. to pray the rosary before Mass. On rainy or snowy days, a neighbor would take her.

"The sixth pew back, on the left," said Duff in a August 2006 Catholic News Service story. "This is what I live for. God has been good to me. I owe him a debt of gratitude. Since I am able to go, I go."

On the rare occasions she couldn't make it to church, Duff would watch Mass on television.

She attended daily Mass nearly all of her adult life, and credited her mother's example for her strong faith and love of the Mass.

When FitzGerald called Duff at Christmastime, he found out she had been hospitalized for severe dehydration.

Duff passed away Jan. 9, six months shy of her 100th birthday. The FitzGeralds had planned to travel to New York for her centennial celebration, July 14.

They'll still make the trip, but instead for the inurnment of Duff's ashes at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, N.Y. Duff will be inurned next her husband, Angus, and a son who died in childhood.

Through his reconnection with Duff, FitzGerald has also been able to reconnect with Duff's son John and other distant cousins.

"I am grateful that The Catholic News & Herald published the story," FitzGerald said. "It provided me the opportunity to spend a most enjoyable day with her, a memory I will forever cherish."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Come Visit Our Open House

Saint Michael Catholic School

St. Michael
Catholic School

Sunday, January 28, 2007
(Inclement weather date - Sunday Feb 4th)
11:30AM – 1:30PM
Come for a tour!
Faith, Tradition & Academic Excellence
for over Sixty Years!

Pre-K(4 Years) – Elementary (K-5) – Middle School (6-8)

Now accepting applications for the
2007-2008 School Year
704-865-4382
smsgastonia.com

704 St. Michael's Lane, Gastonia, NC
Located 10 mins from I-85 off Highway 321

CFCC
Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Belmont Abbey College taps Lamadrid for dual role

Veteran college administrator to lead enrollment management, student affairs

BELMONT — Dr. Lucas Lamadrid was named vice president of enrollment management and student affairs of Belmont Abbey College Jan. 9.

In his new role, he will be responsible for admissions, financial aid, retention and student life, which also includes athletics.

"Lucas was a natural choice for this combined position because he has excelled elsewhere in the same dual capacity and understands how higher education is enhanced through the Catholic Benedictine intellectual tradition," said Dr. Bill Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College.

"In keeping with our college's vision, he is deeply committed to providing a comprehensive higher education experience focused on development of the whole person — mind, body and spirit," said Thierfelder.

Lamadrid comes to the Abbey after seven years with St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., where he served as vice president and chief student affairs officer.

"It's a huge responsibility and makes great sense to have one person oversee a student's journey through college from the time he or she begins searching for the right college through graduation," said Lamadrid.

"I believe my experience in a similar role and environment will ease my transition and help me hit the ground running at Belmont Abbey," he said.

Lamadrid holds three degrees — a bachelor's in economics and English, a doctorate in religion and a Master of Divinity from the University of Notre Dame.

Consistently ranked one of the best liberal arts colleges in the South by U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review, this past fall the Intercollegiate Studies Institute selected Belmont Abbey College as one of the top 50 "All-American Colleges."

COURTESY PHOTO

Rebekah Torres gives her declamation speech at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Arden in December.

Academy sophomore wins speech contest

ARDEN — Rebekah Torres, a sophomore at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Arden, won the school's first Public Declamation Speech Contest in December.

Rebekah's recitation from memory of a Mortimer Adler speech on the value of a liberal education was nearly flawless, according to one of the judges.

"Not a word out of place," said Sedrick Dellinger, academic dean and one of the contest's two judges.

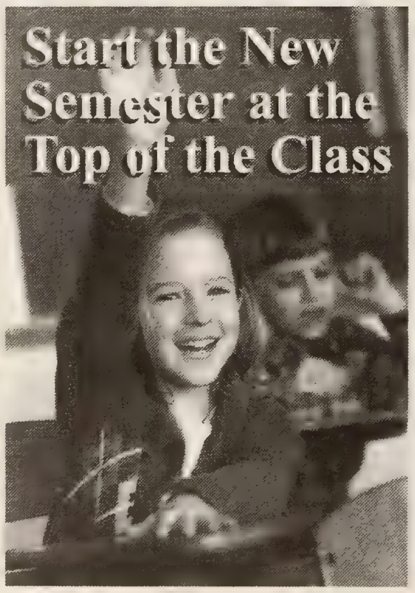
A public declamation is a feat of memory, literature and performance. All the students at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy memorized texts significant to Western Civilization, with the theme being the value of education.

The text sources range from ancient Greek to Renaissance to modern literature. The students recited their literature selections from memory for an audience in an exercise of the art of persuasion, as well as a test of memory, understanding of the work and public speaking skills.

"A declamation speech allows students to develop the art of speaking with force and clarity," said Dellinger.

Rebekah claimed a $50 prize and the honor of repeating her speech at the academy's St. Nicholas dinner in Asheville. Alexandra Sterling, a freshman, also performed her recitation of a section of the classic "The Iliad" before 75 attendees.

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy opened in August 2006 in Arden. It is the first mountain-area high school in 30 years to offer a Catholic curriculum to students of the area.



Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class

Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student

South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER
The Academic Edge™

Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

Catholic Family EXPO
Belmont Abbey College
April 13 - 15, 2007

"Formation for Vocations"

Be transformed to fully embrace your vocation
Learn how to prepare your children for God's call

Dr. Ray Guarendi	Fr. Frank Pavone	Dr. William Theirfelder	Gail Buckley

Early Registration Discount Available
Register Today!

www.catholicfamilyexpo.org
Or call 704-455-7233

Catholics well represented in 110th Congress

CONGRESS, *from page 1*

— 25 in the Senate and 130 in the House. But there are fewer Catholic Republicans in both houses since the 109th Congress and many more Catholic Democrats.

In the last Senate, Catholic members were nearly evenly split between the parties, with 11 Republicans and 13 Democrats. Now there are 9 Catholic Republicans and 16 Catholic Democrats in the Senate.

In the House at the start of the 109th Congress, there were 129 Catholics — 57 Republicans and 72 Democrats. Although the total number of House Catholics in the 110th Congress is nearly the same at 130, the current group includes 42 Republicans and 88 Democrats.

Even Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., a Muslim who was sworn in as a member of Congress using a Quran once owned by President Thomas Jefferson, was raised a Catholic. He became a Muslim while in college at Wayne State University in Detroit.

Ellison's mother, Clida Ellison, recently told The Associated Press that she remains a practicing Catholic and attends Mass daily. But she said the controversy over her son's decision to be sworn in using the Quran rather than a Bible was a good thing, "because many people in America are going to learn what the diversity of America is all about."

The two new Buddhist members of Congress — Democratic Reps. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii and Hank Johnson of Georgia — have not spoken publicly about their religion.

Hirono is among 54 members of the 110th Congress who attended Jesuit institutions of higher education, according to a list compiled by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. She earned her law degree in 1978 at Georgetown University Law School in Washington.

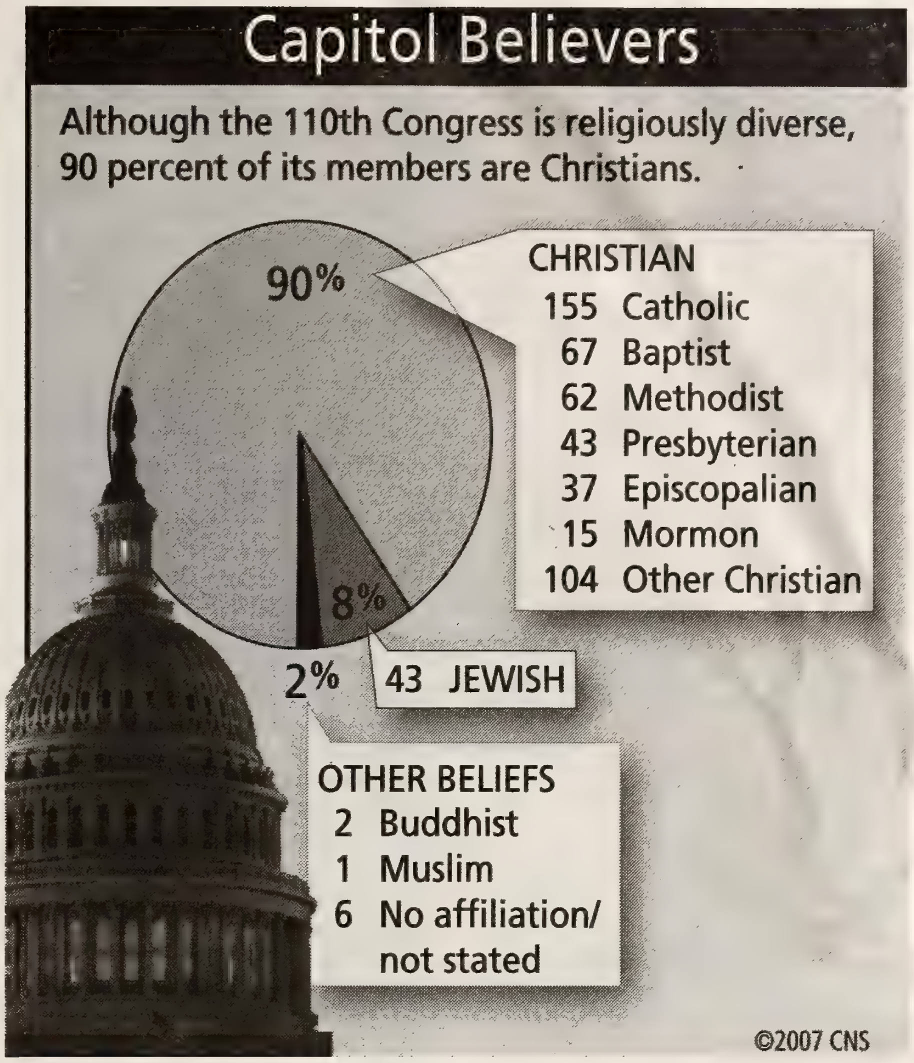
The number represents a nearly 15 percent increase compared to the 109th Congress, in which 47 of the 535 members were alumni of Jesuit colleges or universities, the association said.

Jesuit Father Charles Currie, association president, called the latest figures "an important reminder that a Jesuit education is meant to lead to lives of leadership and service."

"We are proud that this goal is realized at the highest levels of public service, as well as in countless other ways across the country and around the world," he added in a statement.

With the election of Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., as Senate majority leader, the 110th Congress also marks the highest congressional leadership position ever achieved by a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, also known as Mormons.

In all there are 15 Mormons — five senators and 10 representatives — in the new Congress.


Capitol Believers

Although the 110th Congress is religiously diverse, 90 percent of its members are Christians.

©2007 CNS

After Catholics, Baptists (67), Methodists (62), Jews (43), Presbyterians (43), Episcopalians (37) and Lutherans (17) are the most well-represented faith groups in the 110th Congress. Another 26 members of Congress describe themselves only as "Protestant," while 18 more list themselves as "Christian."

Six members of the current Congress say they have no religious affiliation.

Among the other Christian denominations with more than two members in the 110th Congress are the United Church of Christ (7), Christian Science (5), Eastern Orthodox (5) and Assembly of God (4).

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Christian Reformed Church, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Seventh-day Adventists, Unitarian Universalists and unspecified evangelical churches have two members each.

DEPART JULY 15, 2007 WITH FATHER WALTER

Canadian Rockies Tour Offers 'Cool' Vacation

Join other Roman Catholics, and your chaplain,
Father Walter Grabowski, for the most "heavenly" sightseeing
in the most pristine and beautiful countryside in North America.

There's more than just the Canadian Rockies on this popular Your Man Tours vacation. You'll spend a week in the Canadian Rockies and another week across the border in the American Northwest. First fly into Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. En route you'll visit Fargo and Bismarck, North Dakota; then north to Saskatchewan where you'll visit the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Your time in the Canadian Rockies will include daily sight-seeing. Highlights include Lake Louise; Banff National Park; Hoodoos; Bow Falls and Cascade Gardens; a SnoCoach ride over the Columbia Ice Fields; Canmore, Alberta; Kananaskis Country; Waterton Lakes National Park and more! Back in the U.S. you'll visit Helena and Billings Montana; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane's Deadwood; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park and more! We'll handle your luggage; include 13 nights hotel accommodations, motor-coach transportation, and take you on some of the most beautiful sight-seeing with unsurpassed scenery in North America. Prices start at only $1148 per person, double occupancy including taxes. Add $550 for round-trip airfare from Charlotte. This will be Father Walter's fourth trip as a Your Man Tours' Catholic Chaplain. He is pastor of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Eden, New York.

Space is limited. $300 deposits are now due.

For brochure, information, reservations and letter from Father Grabowski with his phone number, call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-736-7300

America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Pilgrimage to Italy

Fr. Mark Lawlor of St. Vincent de Paul Church and parishioner Dr. Joseph Di Pietro are working on the plans for a 14-day pilgrimage to Italy. Our group will leave on April 16 and we will visit such interesting and exciting places as Rome, Montecassino (site of St. Benedict's first abbey), San Giovanni Rotondo (tomb of St. Padre Pio), Historic Pompeii and Subiaco. The trip may be called A Mosaic of Italy and will be a combination of religious, historical and cultural aspects.

Our goal is to have 30 pilgrims. Tour package (based on double occupancy) should be just under $3,000.

E-mail: MLawlor@stvincentdepaulchurch.com, phone: (704) 554-7088, ext, 215 or Dr. Di Pietro at (704) 543-0314. The proposed itinerary may be viewed at our parish web page: www.stvincentdepaulchurch.com under the tab: pilgrimage.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Bishop Jugis calls on Catholics to fight legislation

STEM CELLS, *from page 1*

parishioners with the Catholic Church's teachings on stem-cell research, especially those aspects that violate the church's moral teaching.

The letters were sent with a three-part document on the teaching on stem-cell research, written in "an easily understood manner by a committee of Catholic doctors, scientists and theologians," to be included in parish bulletins distributed at Masses the weekends of Jan. 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28.

The inserts are titled "Introduction to the Ethics and Science of Stem-Cell Research," "Myths and Facts of Stem-Cell Research" and "A Call to Action."

In their letter, the bishops asked their pastors "to help us both educate and mobilize the Catholics in our state regarding the issue of stem-cell research so that Catholics will understand the issues connected with it and will act, when legislation is proposed, to voice their opposition to embryonic stem-cell research and any proposal to fund it using taxpayer dollars."

Over the past two years, a House health subcommittee of the N.C. General Assembly has been studying House Bill 632, the Stem Cell Research Health and Wellness Act, which would provide taxpayer funding for embryonic stem-cell research within North Carolina.

"Human life is precious and we should not destroy innocent human life at any stage, including the beginning embryonic state," said Bishop Jugis.

Bishops Jugis and Burbidge stated that the voices of the more than 400,000 Catholics in North Carolina "can make a difference on behalf of the unborn."

Federal funding criticism

Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, recently criticized the U.S. House of Representatives passage Jan. 11 of a bill expanding federal funding of stem-cell research that involved the destruction of human embryos, but expressed confidence that an expected presidential veto of the "misguided and unethical legislation" would stand.

Doerflinger said that the 253-174 vote indicated that there were not enough votes to override the veto that President George W. Bush has promised.

The bill now goes to the Senate for a vote; if it passes there, it will be sent to the White House for action by Bush.

But Doerflinger said both houses of Congress should turn their attention "to stem-cell research that poses no moral problem — constructive research that is already beginning to help patients with dozens of conditions in clinical trials."

"Unlike embryonic stem-cell research, research using stem cells from adult tissue, umbilical-cord blood, amniotic fluid and other sources is showing enormous promise and is likely to produce new treatments for patients now living," he added.

Noting that most Americans prefer stem-cell research that takes place "without harming or destroying human life at any stage," Doerflinger said, "the truly statesmanlike approach to this issue would be to take up this challenge, supporting medical progress that all Americans can live with."

Before the vote, Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged House members to "consider the fundamental moral line" they would cross if they approved H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007.

Cardinal Rigali called it a "sad reality" that other forms of stem-cell research have received inadequate funding and attention while there has been "an exaggerated and almost exclusive focus on destructive embryo research in the political and policymaking arena."

"Even the national cord-blood stem-cell bank that Congress approved a year ago, which could benefit many thousands of Americans immediately, has received minimal funding," he said.

Other forms of stem-cell research made news Jan. 7 based on a report from scientists at Wake Forest and Harvard universities that said the amniotic fluid surrounding a child in the womb can be the source of medically useful stem cells.

"The federal government has never taken the crass utilitarian approach of forcing taxpayers to support the direct killing of innocent human life, at any stage of development, in the name of progress," said Cardinal Rigali.

Contributing to this article was David Hains, Frank Morock and Catholic News Service.

EDUCATING N.C. CATHOLICS

Parishes in the dioceses of both Charlotte and Raleigh are expected to run a three-part bulletin insert in January on the Catholic Church's teaching on stem-cell research.

Part one, "Introduction to the Ethics and Science of Stem-Cell Research," explains the church's teaching on the sacredness of human life, an explanation of stem-cell science, the important distinction between embryonic stem cells and adult stem cells, and the moral issues involved with embryonic research.

Part two, "Myths and Facts of Stem-Cell Research," explores the falsehoods reported by proponents of embryonic stem-cell research and provides factual information on related issues such as cloning.

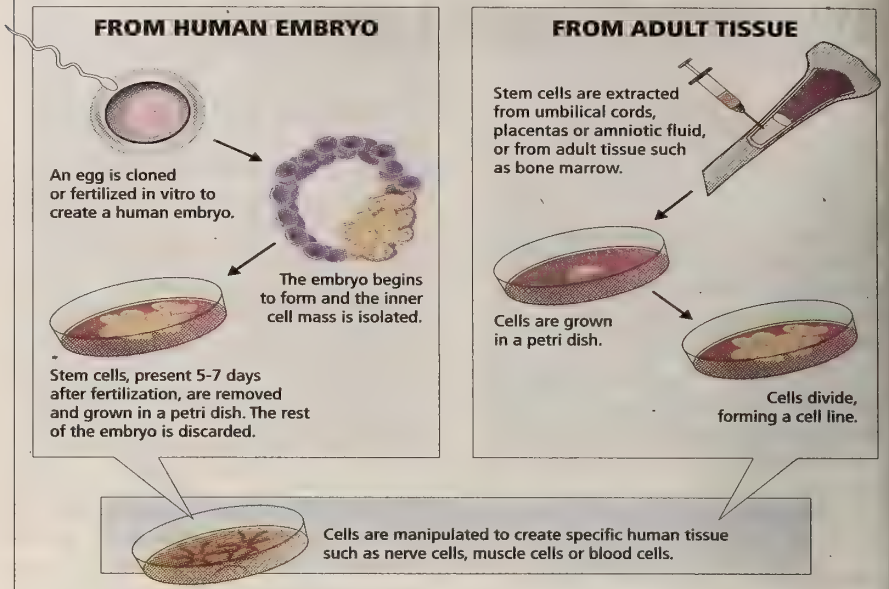
And part three, "A Call to Action," advises Catholics in both dioceses to be prepared to be called to action by Bishop Jugis and Bishop Burbidge "to help defeat this legislation." Catholics will be asked to contact their representatives to voice concerns and objections to taxpayer funding of embryonic stem-cell research.

WANT MORE INFO?

The three bulletin inserts are available on the Diocese of Charlotte's Web site at www.charlottediocese.org.

CREATING STEM-CELL LINES

Scientists believe stem cells could repair diseased or injured tissues. The Catholic Church opposes stem-cell research that involves the destruction of human embryos.


FROM HUMAN EMBRYO
An egg is cloned or fertilized in vitro to create a human embryo.
The embryo begins to form and the inner cell mass is isolated.
Stem cells, present 5-7 days after fertilization, are removed and grown in a petri dish. The rest of the embryo is discarded.
FROM ADULT TISSUE
Stem cells are extracted from umbilical cords, placentas or amniotic fluid, or from adult tissue such as bone marrow.
Cells are grown in a petri dish.
Cells divide, forming a cell line.
Cells are manipulated to create specific human tissue such as nerve cells, muscle cells or blood cells.

© 2005 CNS Graphics

Vatican official hopes new amniotic stem-cell research proves correct

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's top health care official expressed hope that U.S. researchers would be proven correct in asserting they could obtain medically useful stem cells from amniotic fluid.

Mexican Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said Jan. 8 there would be no ethical problem with using cells from amniotic fluid as long as the procedure did not place the pregnant woman or her baby in danger.

"The ethical problem," he said, always has surrounded cells obtained by destroying human embryos.

In a study reported Jan. 7, scientists at the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston said the amniotic fluid surrounding a child in the womb can be the source of medically useful stem cells.

The U.S. research, Cardinal Lozano said, "is a discovery for which we can rejoice. I congratulate the researchers who have demonstrated how it is possible to make medical progress without damaging embryos."

Dr. Antonio Spagnolo, a professor at the bioethical institute of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome, said it appeared that cells taken from amniotic fluid hold the same therapeutic potential as embryonic stem cells.

However, he urged caution in declaring the new procedure ethically positive, particularly because it depends on how the cells are obtained.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD *at Irving Park*

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Pro-lifers take message to streets of Charlotte

MARCH, *from page 1*

the street from the diocesan Pastoral Center before heading uptown to the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building, where they prayed the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The march, along with the annual March for Life in Washington, marks the 34th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

"Roe v. Wade crossed into an area that is out of character for the U.S. experience," said Bob Loughlin, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte who participated in the march.

"It refused to define personhood for the country, denying it for a whole class of people in this country, similar to what Hitler did," said Loughlin.

"When we deny the dignity of humanhood to a class of people, it gives us the ability to destroy them," he said.

Witt referred to abortion as the "war on terror in the womb."

"With the war in Iraq, we can see the bodies of those killed, we can see the evil," she said. "But with abortion, it is difficult to see the evil and people are in denial."

> "When we deny the dignity of humanhood to a class of people, it gives us the ability to destroy them."
>
> — Bob Loughlin

Some marchers carried photographs of unborn babies killed through abortion. Other marchers brought their children with them.

"It's great to see so many people out here, especially all the families with children," said Cindy Brown, executive director of Room at the Inn, a Catholic maternity home in Charlotte.

Ben Roberts, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte studying at St. Charles Borremeo Seminary in Pennsylvania, was in town and wanted to take part in the Charlotte march.

"I hope the march will raise awareness," he said. "Prayer, too, is always effective."

I Regret My Abortion
I Regret My Abortion

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Pro-life activists walk by the diocesan Pastoral Center toward uptown Charlotte during the first March for Life in Charlotte Jan. 12.

Other pro-life events

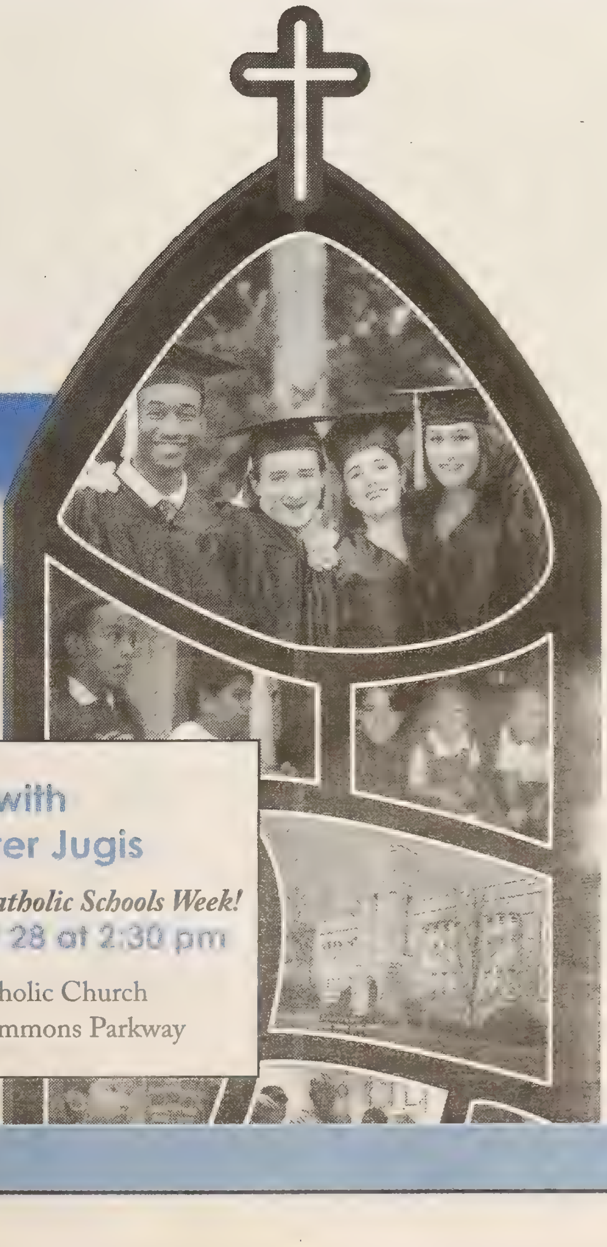
Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte participated in the annual Rally for Life in Raleigh Jan. 13. Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh opened the rally with an invocation; participants then marched through the city streets.

Bishop Jugis will also participate in the annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 22., and will be the homilist at a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception that day.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will take place at the basilica Jan. 21. The vigil also includes a rosary for life, night prayer, Holy Hours, morning prayer and the opportunity for confession.

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
The Good News in Education

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
January 28 - February 3
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION PREPARES A CHILD FOR LIFE.

There is good news in education. And you'll find it in a Catholic school.

A Catholic school education prepares a child for life. At a Catholic school, your children will learn more than reading, writing and arithmetic. They'll learn the importance of character and integrity. They become understanding, compassionate and loving. Give your children a Christ-centered education!

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools

Visit us online to learn more about the eight MACS schools located across the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area or call Admissions at (704) 370-3273.

Mass with
Bishop Peter Jugis
Celebrate the start of Catholic Schools Week!
Sunday, January 28 at 2:30 pm
St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway

www.charlottediocese.org/ma

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

In new book, Nigerian priest decries racism he finds in America

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — It is time for U.S. churches to combat racial injustice in their country and among their congregations, says a Catholic priest from Nigeria who has studied the problem.

Holy Ghost Father Cajetan Ngozika Ihewulezi resides at Sts. Teresa and Bridget Church in North St. Louis and serves as a hospital chaplain while doing graduate studies. He is the author of a new book, "Beyond the Color of Skin: Encounters With Religions and Racial Injustice in America."

In his book, he looks at the issue as an outsider.

Father Ihewulezi came to St. Louis four years ago as a graduate student, first at St. Louis University, where he earned a master's degree in historical theology, and then at Aquinas Institute of Theology, where he is earning a doctorate.

He said some hospital patients don't want a black priest anointing them.

"Even now," he said, "some Catholics still have that prejudice."

"I see the churches, not just the Catholic Church but American churches, as having neglected the issue of civil rights and racial justice. It is as if they feel everything is OK. But in actuality negative things are still happening, and the continued silence calls for a renewed evaluation," Father Ihewulezi said.

He said "racial abuse" is similar to sexual abuse in terms of the long-lasting effects it has on the lives of those who have suffered from it. For instance, he said, racial injustice has tended to keep its victims in poverty and has destroyed their sense of self-worth.

"It's happening in society and also in the churches," he said.

For Catholics, he said, "racial injustice is not in line with our faith. There is no justification for that. The Catholic Church teaches that racial injustice should be resisted, even the least bit of it."

Yet in some Catholic churches whites have refused to sit in the same pew with blacks or shake hands with them, he said. In one instance a pastor suggested that perhaps they'd feel more comfortable at another parish.

"For people to behave that way in a Catholic church is uncalled for and an embarrassment of the faith," Father Ihewulezi said.

Not everyone is this way, he noted, but that kind of behavior, "especially for us who are foreigners coming here with the impression of America as a place of equality, is insulting."

His book is "a call for a dialogue to address the problem. You can't eliminate racial injustice by sweeping it under the carpet," he said.

So far, he has had only positive reaction to the book. Many have welcomed it, especially for his detail on the origins of racial injustice, the churches' connection to it and why it is still persistent, he said.

The book also could make a good resource for high school or college students and has been recommended for students in clinical pastoral education, he said.

In the book, through interviews with church officials and others, he focuses on steps to counter racial injustice in the churches.

A more welcoming attitude is one response, he said. More interaction between mostly white congregations and mostly black congregations in worship and other activities and a greater emphasis on helping poorer parishes also would help, Father Ihewulezi said.

In addition, he said "it is time for the church to be more active, more vocal" in condemning racism in American society and challenging it in all its forms.

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers

Academic Excellence through Classical Education

Self-Discipline through Catholic Formation

OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM

(828)687-7714 **or call for appointment**

www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to

SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:

Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JAN. 28, 2007

Jan. 28, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71:1-6, 15-17
2) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
3) Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Hearing and applying God's words

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

If we know or have known anyone of a prophetic turn of either personality or calling, we can guess why this week's Scriptures have been clustered as they have. Putting together the Old and New Testament descriptions of the prophet and his or her relationship to God with Paul's exaltation of the gift of love is no mistake.

The book of Jeremiah is one of the few books of the Bible I've read from first chapter to last in one or two sittings. When you do it that way, what emerges from Jeremiah's heroic efforts and his trials and persecutions is the great love he had for the people of Israel.

His primary motivation was not truth with a capital T, but love with a capital L.

But the psalm, the Jeremiah reading and the Luke passage all make clear that when the prophet is obedient, speaking God's word to his people while knowing it likely will cause their anger, God himself will protect the prophet.

The call to speaking forth obediently is implicit, but God's protection is explicit. In Luke, when Jesus offers a message that is ill-received, God's literal protection of his life is described, not just promised.

My dad will turn 91 the last day of this month, the Lord willing. During much of his working life he was a church, civic and business leader. In various organizations as well as in his church and business life, it was sometimes necessary for him to "speak truth to power."

Sometimes, though not always, there were consequences: lost jobs, rejection by others. But always, God was faithful. My dad never fell into irredeemable circumstances in any area of his life.

Now, in his later years, he is proving the truth of the excellence of the gift of love.

With his active and working years behind him and my mom gone, he finds meaning and purpose in offering appreciation and love to others whose lives come into contact with his own. And because he is still active, caring for himself, that includes quite a number of folks.

"There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love."

Questions:

In what way can we prepare our hearts and our lives to be able to hear God's words and apply them, first of all to ourselves? How has God used you to speak his word to others?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"But he went straight through their midst and walked away" (Luke 4:30b).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 21-27

Sunday (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Nehemiah 8:2-4, 5-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; **Monday (St. Vincent),** Hebrews 9:15, 24-28, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 10:1-10, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday (St. Francis de Sales),** Hebrews 10:11-18, Mark 4:1-20; **Thursday (Conversion of St. Paul),** Acts 9:1-22, Mark 16:15-18; **Friday (Sts. Timothy and Titus),** Titus 1:1-5, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday (St. Angela Merici),** Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 1:69-75, Mark 4:35-41.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 28–FEB. 3

Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31 — 13:13, Luke 4:21-30; **Monday,** Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (St. John Bosco),** Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday,** Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (The Presentation of the Lord),** Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Saturday (St. Blaise, St. Ansgar),** Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...

"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.

We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®

(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**

Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties

www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Retired.
Not retiring.

For Phil, wellness means relaxing without a care in the world. Having more time to exercise his mind and listen to his spirit gives him a sense of inner harmony. It's the simple joy of living, and Phil knows he'll find it here. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

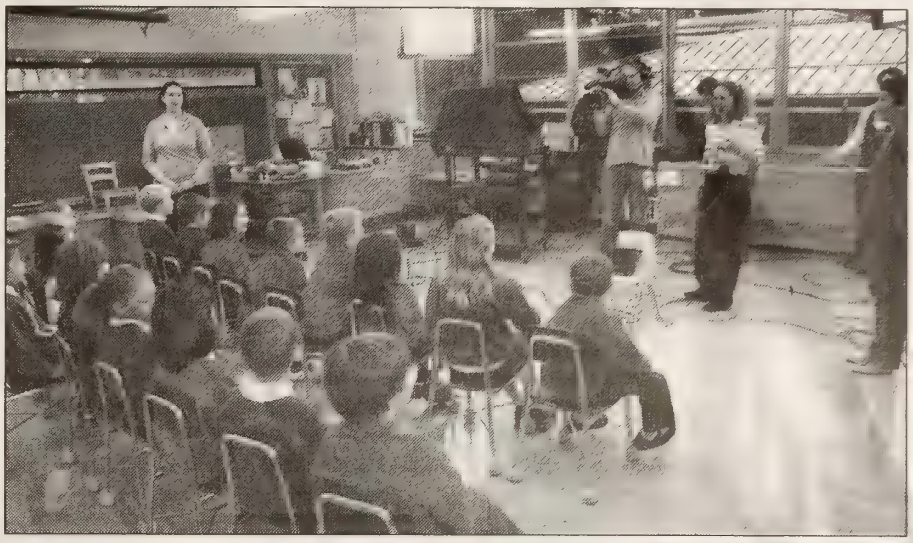
1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Ret2

Leno schooled in nutrition



CNS PHOTO BY ED LANGLOIS, CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Second-graders from St. Ignatius School in Portland, Ore., get some last-minute instruction from "The Tonight Show" stage manager Roberta Kantola before their national television appearance Dec. 13.

Students chide Leno for not eating veggies, appear on show

BY ED LANGLOIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PORTLAND, Ore. — One moment Michael Sorenson colored a picture of the Virgin Mary. The next, he impersonated Elvis for millions of television viewers.

That's show biz when you're a second-grader in a Catholic school.

When Michael and the rest of his classmates at St. Ignatius School in Portland learned that Jay Leno, host of NBC-TV's late-night "The Tonight Show," claimed he had gone more than 30 years with no vegetables, they were appalled.

They had learned in health class that such dietary behavior is wildly irresponsible. They sent letters of appeal to the host in California.

"Do you know you will be fat from so much junk food?" wrote Alex Smith. "I won't be surprised if people start calling you Mr. Junk Food."

Samira Farah recommended that he close his eyes when eating vegetables. That's what she does.

Leno was touched by the notes and knew they would touch the funny bones of his audience, so he invited the class to appear on his show.

A crew came from California Dec. 13 and turned the second-grade classroom into an impromptu studio. The students sat in rows and faced the camera.

After his monologue, which had material prompting parents to cover their children's ears, Leno carried on a conversation with his second-grade interlocutors. He told them his version of the food pyramid was roast beef, topped by potatoes and capped by chocolate cake.

He had the children laughing uncontrollably and saying, "Ewww," when he suggested boyfriend-girlfriend matches and designated a class clown. Students told a joke or two and Michael did his Elvis after a little prodding.

After the chat, a chef brought out a tray of vegetables and the students urged Leno to eat broccoli. He did it with a slightly pained face, and amid vigorous chewing called for a commercial break.

Pushing vegetables and fruits is not just a fad for the students. They deeply believe in eating at least five servings a day and went out on a limb to prove it.

In the course of 22 days, the class of 17 students collectively tried more than 800 servings of fruits and vegetables. If they can do it, Leno should, too, they thought.

Teacher Kathy Downing had read about Leno's take on vegetables in Parade magazine. She decided her students could write him as an exercise in both health awareness and persuasive composition.

"I never thought he would come calling," said Downing. "The surprise lesson is how effective writing can be."

Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

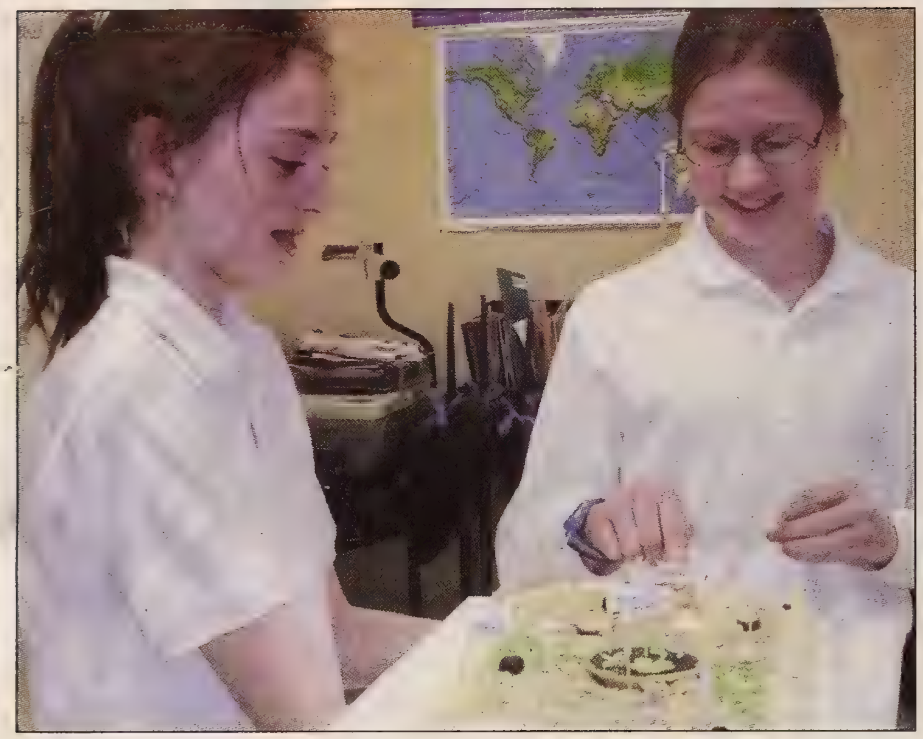
Fr. Patrick Winslow (pastor, St. John the Baptist Church) and Fr. Timothy Reid (parochial vicar, St. Matthew Church) cordially invite you to join them on an 11-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain May 7-17, 2007.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila & Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid. Price from Charlotte: $2689 ($2589 before January 27, 2007).

For more information contact Pentecost Tours at 1-800-713-9800.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Studying (and eating) cells



Courtesy Photo

Middle school students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem study cells by creating "edible cells" out of delicious ingredients in December.

"There are many names of functions for cells, and having the students do a hands-on project such as creating edible cells helps them to better remember all the information they are taught," said Mythily Isaac, science teacher.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, located in beautiful Winston-Salem, N.C., is searching for a youth minister to continue an established Life Teen program. We are seeking an enthusiastic, passionate, faith-filled individual, to direct young people toward a meaningful, life-affirming journey with Christ. If you are a Catholic with a college degree, have a strong spiritual, faith-based background, are passionate about working with youth, and have at least two years or more of practical experience as a youth minister, preferably in a Life Teen environment, please consider this opportunity.

St. Leo parish has an established Life Teen program centered on the Eucharist. The Life Teen Mass is held every Sunday at 5pm during the school year. We have a dedicated Core Team made up of singles and couples along with many committed parent volunteers. Most important, however, are the 150 (and growing) young people who participate in our Edge Nights (jr. youth), Life Nights (sr. youth), Coffee Houses, activities and retreats. In addition, our Family Life Center features a room dedicated to our youth, a Youth Minister's office, kitchenette and entertainment center. Check us out at www.foolishoftheworld.com.

The position's starting salary is competitive and negotiable depending on education and/or experience. We also offer an attractive benefit package. If interested, please contact Youth Minister Search Committee at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104. Phone: 336-724-9596. Fax: 336-724-7036. Email: youthminister@stleocatholic.com.

Classifieds

SERVICES

COUNSELING SERVICES: Individuals. Couples. Family. Lucille Moses, BSN, M.Ed., Licensed Professional Counselor. 1801 E. 5th Street, 108-B, Charlotte. 704-366-6507 or 704-942-4334.

FOR RENT

VILLA: Isles of Palms, SC (Charleston area): 3 BD, 3BA. Resort community. Walk to beach, pool, golf, tennis. Tropical, upscale décor. Extended stay discounts available. 703-255-0572

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Egg-straordinary science

Courtesy Photo

Kindergarten students at St. Ann School in Charlotte examine the strength of an uncooked egg in preparation for their group-project entry in the school science fair in December.

The students wanted to know if an egg's shell is strong and powerful or weak and fragile. They carefully placed the uncooked egg in soft clay and, using the egg and two blocks of wood, made a base to support a large cookie sheet.

Slowly the students added books, one by one, onto the cookie sheet to observe how much weight the egg could support before it broke. The egg was able to support 26 books and the tray before it broke, bringing the weight to 16 pounds.

Why didn't the egg break sooner? The students learned that the egg has an arch at each end which is an excellent structure for supporting weight.

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

Para Celebrar la Unida
Presente en la Comunidad
La Universidad Belmont Abbey College
Invita a la comunidad Latina
A una misa que se celebrara en Español
en la Basilica de Belmont Abbey

El coro Alegría Hispana
(de la Iglesia de San Gabriel)
nos deleitar con su musica

2 de Febrero del 2007
a las 8:00 de la noche
Seguido por una Recepción

To Celebrate Unity within the Community
Belmont Abbey College invites
the local Hispanic Community to a
Spanish Mass at the Abbey Basilica

Music by Alegría Hispana Choir
(from St. Gabriel Catholic Church)

Friday, February 2, 2007, at 8 PM
Reception Following

Belmont Abbey is off exit 26 on I-85 — only 10 minutes from the Charlotte airport!

Weaving words and art

Students study writing through innovative museum program

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Fourth-graders at Asheville Catholic School recently explored the weaving of visual arts and language arts.

In eight weekly classes, students learned about creative writing skills while studying art through the Literacy Through Art program sponsored by the Asheville Art Museum.

Their ninth class was a trip to the museum.

"The purpose of the project is to develop the creative writing abilities and sharpen the descriptive skills of the students," said Leigh Wilson, an artist and teacher with the program.

The Literacy Through Art program has expanded from one fourth-grade classroom in Asheville to approximately 65 fourth- and fifth-grade Appalachian region classrooms, reaching more than 1,600 students this school year.

"We've blossomed from teaching literacy through art to rural school reform," says Diane Dufhillo, associate director of education for the museum, who created the program.

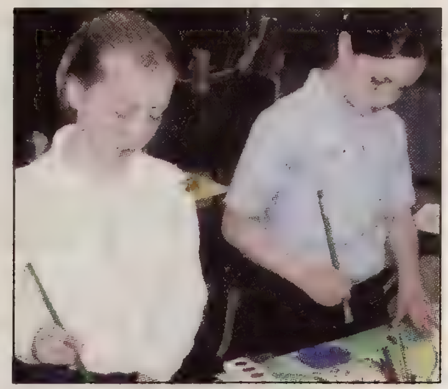


PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Fourth-graders at Asheville Catholic School learn writing skills by studying art as part of the nine-week Literacy Through Art program sponsored by the Asheville Art Museum.

The Asheville Catholic fourth-graders learned from visiting artists through their works and in person, from reading stories, and from the stories they discovered in paintings from the museum and ones they created.

The final classroom lesson was on portrait painting. After listening to a performance by folk musician and entertainer Laura Boosinger, students chose characters from her songs and painted them as they imagined them to be.

Healthy habits

15
together in education

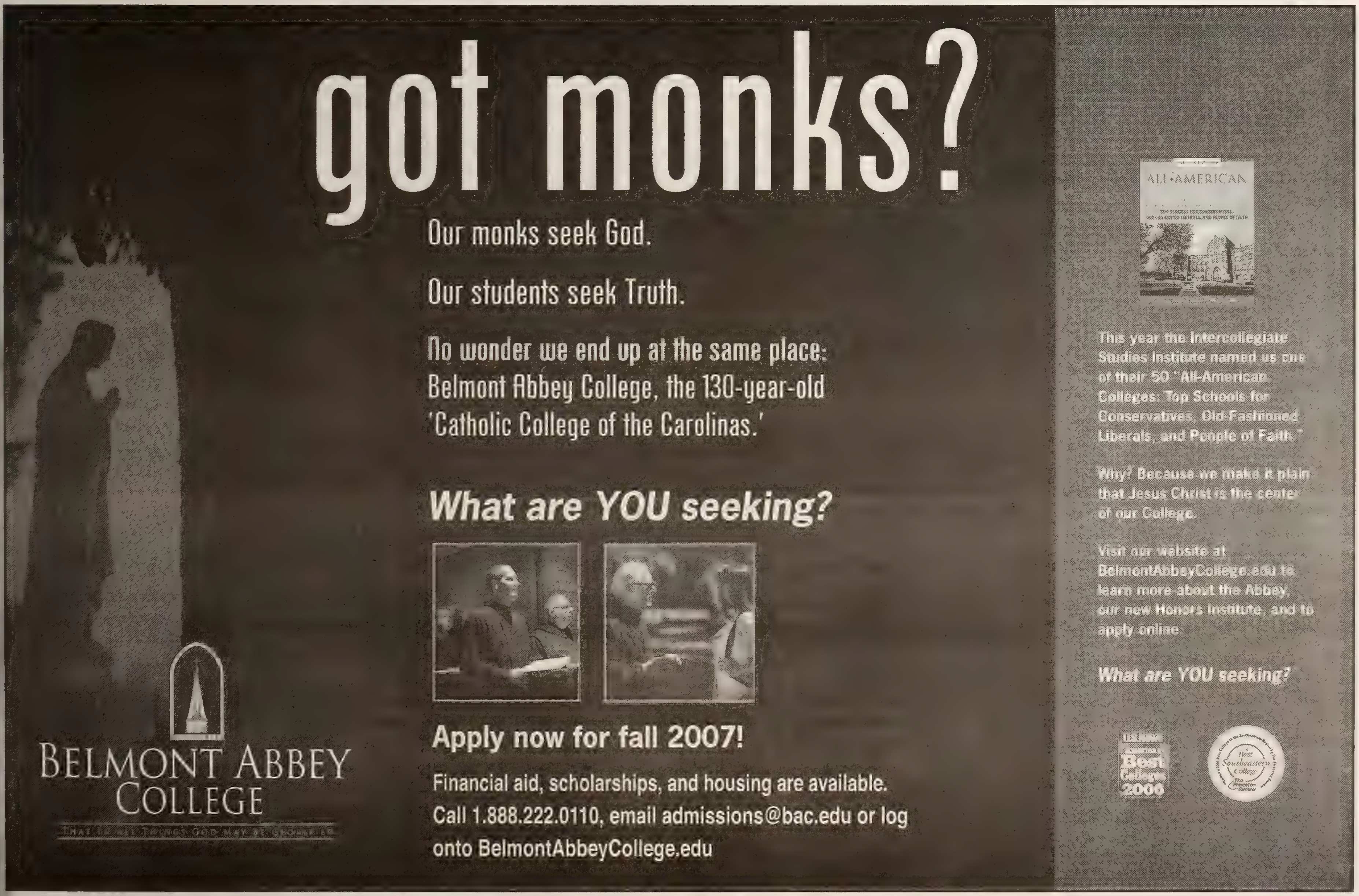
COURTESY PHOTO

Students from St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem pose with Harry the Dragon, Harris Teeter's mascot, Jan 8. Harry visited the school to encourage healthy dietary habits as part of the Together in Education program. The students viewed a video on the making of dairy products, enjoyed low-fat ice cream treats and spoke with Harry and friends.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Is there something unique taking place at your parish? Do you know of someone who is an example of how to live the Catholic faith? Have a photo of a recent event at your parish or ministry event?

If so, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.


got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Letters to the Editor

Praise, criticism for Magliano

Congratulations and many thanks for Tony Magliano's column, "The Big Picture on Human Rights and Peace" (Jan. 5). Such an article has been long overdue and it's time that this approach become part of our national dialogue on these issues.

Instead of polarizing people, the dovetail strategy can, I believe, bring most Americans together. For too long I've felt like I have no party that resonates with my beliefs and there are many millions who feel the same. Both of these issues can and should be under the same umbrella of love and respect for human life at all stages and in all aspects of life.

— Dick Richter
Hendersonville

Perhaps Catholic News Service needs to find a columnist more in line with Catholic values. In his columns, Tony Magliano seems to equate all issues as equal — particularly those pertaining to the "pro-life" and "peace" movements.

While every value he mentions should have some essential value to any Catholic, they are by no means equal.

The most important evils are those that there can be no compromise with — that the evil committed is always intrinsic. Those are the five Catholic "non-negotiables" — abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, embryonic stem-cell research and cloning.

On some of the other evils that Magliano mentions, all may not be evil every time with no questions asked.

It seems obvious that if abortion is allowed, all other issues are moot. I hope Magliano gets his facts right next time.

— Kevin Roeten
Asheville

Rights of citizenry for legal citizens

Regarding "Migration week theme is 'Welcoming Christ in the Migrant'" (Jan. 5), the issue of immigration is cause for great concern among Americans who live and work here legally and find their benefits of citizenry being diminished by an overwhelming number of immigrants, many of whom are illegal.The article makes no distinction between how I as a Catholic should treat a migrant, legal or not. It is my Christian duty to help my fellow man who is in need, but not to harbor criminals.

Bishop Gerald R. Barnes said, "Our nation's legitimate security concerns have been distorted by some who would foment anxiety, fear and a distrust of migrants." After 26 years of military service and traveling around the world, I can safely say that we as a country take our security way too lightly.

With millions of undocumented immigrants in this country whom we know nothing about — including where they came from, where they live and work, what their criminal backgrounds are, what their medical statuses are — our security is a crucial issue.

Jesus never taught us to ignore man's laws unless they contradicted his teaching. We have benefits of being Catholic that we do not extend to those who are not Catholic; likewise, there are rights of citizenry for legal citizens.

We need to concentrate on justice for legal immigrants.

— Mark Gibbons
Huntersville

Remarkable but misleading photo

The front page of the Dec. 15 issue had a remarkable photo of two sides of the abortion debate — it captured the peaceful but powerful disagreement.

I did find the words on the pro-choice activist's sign to be an interesting oversimplified political generalization. The sign read: "Don't go back to illegal abortions! Drive out the Bush regime." The implication is that the "Bush regime" is clearly pro-life and that the other guys (Democrats) are clearly all pro-choice. I doubt that is that clear cut an issue.

— Dick Webber
Hendersonville

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Changing how the church is perceived among U.S. blacks

Visible invitations needed from church leaders

Bridging Gaps

CAROLE
NORRIS
GREENE
CNS COLUMNIST

In July 2007 the 10th National Black Catholic Congress will convene in Buffalo, N.Y. The congress theme is "Christ Is With Us: Celebrating the Gifts of the Sacraments."

In the months leading up to this congress, I think it is good to look at the state of black Catholic ministry in the United States, its achievements and challenges.

Fewer than 10 percent of some 36 million blacks in the United States today identify themselves as Catholic. That's fewer than any other racial group.

What has the church done over the years to increase its black membership?

In a nutshell, it has given financial support to black missions, parishes and efforts to evangelize; established numerous diocesan or archdiocesan offices for black Catholic ministry; given its blessing to religious orders serving in black communities; and, in the late 1980s, created the Secretariat for African American Catholics to serve as the chief adviser to the U.S. bishops' Committee on African American Catholics.

Black Catholics themselves have come together to promote the church's apostolate in black communities.

Organizations that address the concerns of the estimated 2.5 million black Catholics in the U.S. include the National Black Catholic Congress; national associations of African-American priests, sisters, deacons, seminarians and laity; the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver; the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators and other forums.

Yes, there are ongoing efforts to invite more blacks to membership and fuller participation in the church in the United States. But is there something missing that the other 90 percent of U.S. blacks see quite clearly?

I believe there is: What they don't see are whites themselves in church leadership positions extending a warm welcome. It is not enough to engage blacks to do this.

With those few exceptions where whites are involved actively in black ministries (for example, four of the seven bishops on the U.S. bishops' Committee on African American Catholics are white), welcoming invitations from U.S. church leaders are not very visible. I am not saying they aren't there; they are simply not very visible.

Visibility is an important consideration in this visually-oriented age.

Blacks on the outside looking in on what they perceive as "the Catholic Church" may only be going by what is right in their faces: news coverage of aging white men who sometimes look stoic during celebrations of the Mass; well-connected white men and women and the occasional blacks who've gained entree to televised ordinations, papal visits, high-profile funerals and the like.

Blacks on the outside looking in may not be aware of the countless warm and welcoming Catholic parishes scattered throughout the United States that are indeed predominantly white or very diverse, for I have been to several myself.

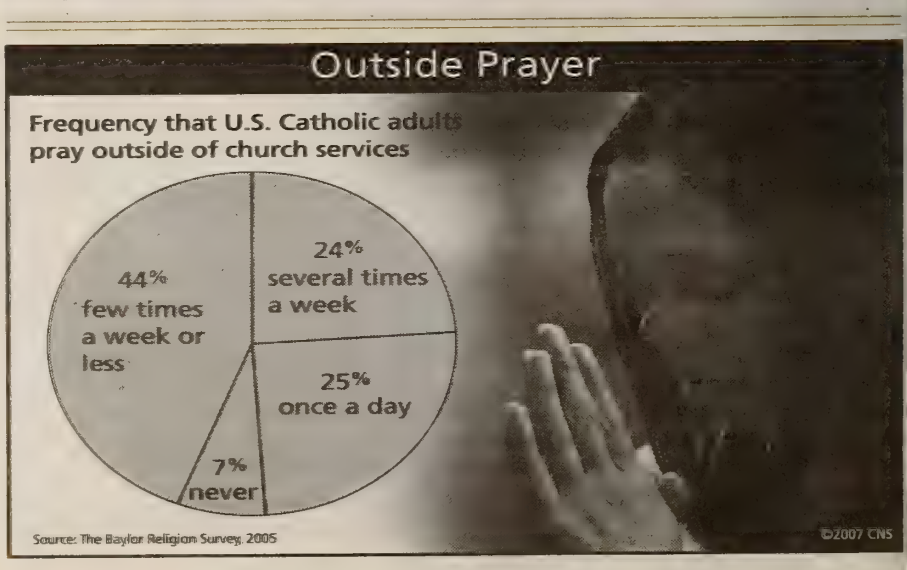
Nor do they always hear just how diligently some predominantly white pastoral teams are addressing racism within their ranks and ministering more effectively among black members.

A significant number of blacks are already "in the water."

They are spearheading organizations serving the needs of their communities. With major church funding, they have developed excellent programs highlighting the cultural contributions of blacks to the church and combating the ills plaguing their communities. They are using their gifts to celebrate life in Christ.

Apparently this is not enough to change how the church is perceived.

When black Catholics say to other blacks, "Come on in, the water's fine!" the unchurched among those U. S. blacks who aren't Catholic just may be looking back thinking: "Not me! How can you stand the cold!"



Outside Prayer

Frequency that U.S. Catholic adults pray outside of church services

Source: The Baylor Religion Survey, 2005

©2007 CNS

Why so many walls?

Borders, and what makes America great, must be protected

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"There is something wrong with this picture," I told myself as I watched Mexican-American laborers build anti-terrorist barriers around the U.S. Capitol while at the same time Congress was voting to erect walls along the Mexican-American border.

Without question, illegal immigration needs to be checked, not only for security reasons but also for the safety of immigrants. Sad to say, the threat of terrorism has heightened suspicions about the legality of all immigrants. Equally unfortunate are illegal immigrants who end up being exploited by corrupt people.

We have entered a new era of immigration when a welcoming spirit we once lauded is being tested.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTTSDALE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The problem with walls along our borders is that they heighten suspicions at a time when we should be striving to increase respect for each other. As the war on terrorism has taught us, the best weapon against terrorism would come with the creation of mutual trust and respect among those most affected by it.

Building protective walls is a fact of life. In the Bible the walls of Jericho are destroyed by the Hebrews. When they, in turn, build Jerusalem, walls are erected to keep out their enemies.

Interestingly, the word "Kremlin" means walls, and in Russia's neighboring country there is the Great Wall of China.

During the days of the Iron Curtain, walls between communism and free states abounded. In early American history and today, for that matter, walled-in forts have dotted our landscapes.

Walls don't always consist of concrete and steel. Feuding husbands and wives can erect psychological barriers more difficult to penetrate than the Great Wall of China.

Although walls, bulwarks, ramparts and other forms of defense primarily are meant to ensure security, whenever they are erected to keep other human beings out, they raise serious questions.

In the case of the southern borders of the United States, we need to ask: Is this the best way of ensuring our security? How does this solve the problem of honest, poor people trying to escape deprivation? Is this an acceptable American way of life?

In most instances, resorting to protective barriers symbolizes capitulation. It is a concession that more reasonable means cannot be found for solving our problems. It flies in the face of the belief that American ingenuity can win the day.

Our history is replete with lessons of ingenious leaders who devised ways of bringing people together. Great coaches and American entrepreneurs repeatedly have been lauded for the innovative ways they created teamwork.

Isn't this collaboration and teamwork what we should be seeing much more of when it comes to the United States and Mexico?

No doubt about it, Sept. 11, 2001 recast a peace-loving America into a much more guarded and cautious nation. Despite anxieties, we must ask: Can we be content with this picture? Have we fallen into a walled-in mentality that severely diminishes one of our greatest gifts, our capacity to tear down walls in the pursuit of peace and liberty?

Pope says Christians show ecumenical commitment through charity

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI offered prayers for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, saying Christians need to demonstrate their ecumenical commitment through concrete acts of charity.

The pope, speaking at his weekly general audience Jan. 17, said the road to Christian unity was a long and difficult one, but the important thing is not to become discouraged. Prayer is essential for ecumenical progress, he said.

The pope was scheduled to close the Jan. 18-25 Christian unity week by presiding over a vespers liturgy with other Christian leaders in Rome.

He said the theme of this year's prayer week, "Open our ears and loosen our tongues," referred to Christ's healing of a deaf man and to the missionary responsibilities of all Christians.

Through baptism all Christians have been freed from "spiritual deafness," he said, and become capable of listening to God's word and communicating it to others.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 17.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Tomorrow begins the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Since unity which our Lord wills for all his disciples is ultimately God's gift, I encourage everyone to join fervently in imploring this great grace. The closer we draw to Christ and the more we are converted by his truth and love, the closer we will draw to one another.

In many countries the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is also preceded by a Day of Reflection between Christians and Jews, in order to build greater respect, friendship and cooperation between our two communities.

The theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — "He even makes the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak" — is inspired by St. Mark's account of Jesus' healing a man who was deaf and mute (cf. Mk 7:37).

Through baptism, all Christians have been freed from spiritual deafness, enabled to hear God's word and charged to bear witness to it in word and deed, by the exercise of Christian charity. May our common prayers and our efforts to live fully the grace of our baptism hasten the day when all Christ's followers will live in perfect communion.

Making society and the world different

Thinking outside the box needed to make critical changes

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Changing for the better rarely comes easy. But it's worth all the prayer and effort it takes. So let's go for it!

While we're at it, let's pray and work harder to make our society and government — in every respect — "one nation under God."

In the Gospel, Jesus makes clear that much is expected from those who have much. He warns us that our very salvation hinges on how just and generous we are to the poor and vulnerable.

He calls us to become peacemakers and to put away our weapons. For violence, he says, only leads to further violence.

The Creator has given us a vast, beautiful and resourceful land. But it is important that people of faith ask, What does the Almighty expect the richest and most powerful nation on earth to do differently at this time?

In many areas, the United States is deaf to the voice of God. But a careful reflection on the Gospel and Catholic social teaching will inspire us to become prophets — those who speak for God.

How can a nation that annually kills 1.3 million unborn babies through abortion consider itself great? Let's labor for the birth of a U.S. constitutional amendment protecting all human life from conception to natural death.

Every day approximately 25,000 people around the world — 18,000 of them children — die from hunger and related diseases. Currently we give a mere 20 cents of every $100 of national income for poverty eradication. That puts us in last place among the world's industrialized nations.

Let's resolve to urge our government leaders to honor promises to give just 70 cents of every $100 of national income for global poverty reduction.

And how is it that 37 million people — 13 million children — remain poor within our wealthy nation? The United States should launch a real war on poverty.

Speaking of war, followers of the Prince of Peace should be committed to ending war once and for all. We need drastically to change our way of thinking, speaking and spending.

The world's Catholic bishops at Vatican Council II declared that we are compelled "to undertake an evaluation of war with an entirely new attitude." Albert Einstein said, "You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war."

Let's try something we have never done before. Let's really "think outside the box." Let's insist that the president and Congress take half of the $500 billion-plus military budget and use it to eradicate worldwide poverty and hunger.

Imagine a world without hunger or poverty. Imagine the positive effect it would have on international relations. Imagine how pleased God would be.

Each of us can make a difference. And together we can transform the world!

Robert F. Kennedy said, "Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events; and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

Now that's a history worth making!

Sacred Heart's mission is to serve diverse Catholic community

Photo by George Cobb

Although small in size, Sacred Heart Mission in Wadesboro has preserved the devoted spirit of its earliest parishioners, which continues to inspire today's parish.

WADESBORO — Sacred Heart Mission celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 1997, a half-century after a handful of Anson County Catholics — a devout mother of four and her daughters among them — laid the foundation for a tightly knit community of faith.

The Horne sisters — Mary Virginia, Ann, Elizabeth and Sarah — were the daughters of James Dudley and Sarah Augusta Horne. James, a Baptist, was a businessman who owned a cotton farm his daughters operated following his death in 1950. Sarah was a Catholic credited with sowing seeds of the faith during the late 19th century in Anson County.

While the Horne's influence is still felt today in the Catholic community, it was Gen. Atlas J. Dargan, a prominent lawyer who later represented Anson County in both houses of the legislature, who was perhaps the first Catholic in the south-central Carolina county. He died in 1883.

For decades, Anson County Catholics traveled to Hamlet or Albemarle for Mass. Occasionally, they gathered in Wadesboro for liturgies. But during World War II, thousands of soldiers — Catholics included — came to the Anson County region for military training. Mass was celebrated in a local theater, and the Horne sisters saw the increased Catholic population as an opportunity to have a church building in their home county.

Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh agreed on the need for a new church, and in 1946 construction began. The bishop dedicated the church, named in honor of the Sacred Heart, in September 1947.

Meanwhile, plans for a church to the west in Monroe were also being finalized, and the new Our Lady of Lourdes Church was dedicated by Bishop Waters in 1948.

The Fathers of Mercy had been ministering to Monroe and Wadesboro Catholics for several years at the time of the dedications. Benedictine monks also had served the Wadesboro faithful. Father Thomas Walsh, a diocesan priest, was the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart Mission.

In the mid-1950s, Elizabeth and Mary Virginia Horne built a church hall in memory of their parents. The building became a center for ministerial and social events, and the Hornes taught catechism classes there.

Sacred Heart Mission

A mission of St. James Church, Hamlet
205 Rutherford St.
Wadesboro, N.C. 28170
(910) 582-8776

Vicariate: Albemarle
Pastor: Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton
Parochial Vicar: Benedictine Father David Draim
Number of Households: 37

Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton

Although the Horne sisters and a small group of parishioners formed a Catholic stronghold in Anson County that exists to this day, the Catholic population tapered in the years following the church's dedication. The church hall was virtually abandoned for two decades.

The last surviving Horne sister, Sarah Divine Horne Sutherland, died in December 1994. Like her sisters, Sutherland's estate continues to benefit the Catholic Church in North Carolina.

With that same devoted spirit of the Hornes and the other charter parishioners of Sacred Heart Mission, extensive preparations were made for the 50th anniversary of the church's dedication, including remodeling and beautifying projects throughout the church grounds.

The area's Catholic population is again on the rise, and Madonna Hall, the church center built by the Hornes, has been refurbished and is once again used for parish functions. While a small community, the Catholics of Anson County are well-known for their work with Crisis Ministry, participation in the Wadesboro InterCity Church Council, outreach to the Hispanic population and annual food baskets to those in need at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Abbot Patrick Shelton and Father David Draim have served at Sacred Heart since 1998 and expressed their gratitude for the commitment of the parishioners to their Catholic faith.

Abbot Shelton said that each time the community gathers to celebrate the Eucharist and the presider looks out at the culturally and racially diverse congregation, "it is impossible not to think of the words for the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II, where we express our faith that one day God the Father will 'gather people of every race, language, and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord.'"

"The Sunday Eucharist at Sacred Heart is a foretaste of heaven," Abbot Shelton said.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

Save $100 before February 2nd!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:
- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping -- PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.
This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

Learn Rosary Making
A Catholic Tradition
Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer!
LEWIS & COMPANY
Dedicated to Rosary Making!
rosaryparts.com
(800) 342 - 2400

Fc 282
C363c

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JANUARY 26, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 15

In Memoriam

Priests remembered for years of service in Diocese of Charlotte

| PAGE 7

Marching for life, calling for change

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Pro-life supporters cheer during the March for Life rally in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22.

The most precious gift

Husband converts to Catholicism on 60th wedding anniversary

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — The woman in Proverbs 31 sets an ideal for wives: "When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life."

On Oct. 16, 1943, when Victoria Kolodziejczwk married Clarence Sleeman in Bellefonte, Pa., she began a life that would exemplify those characteristics that bless a husband and family with faith and love that lasted 62 years.

"She spent her whole life making sure her family was treated well. Her main objectives were making sure

See CONVERT, page 5

Culture of life means changing hearts, president tells March for Life participants

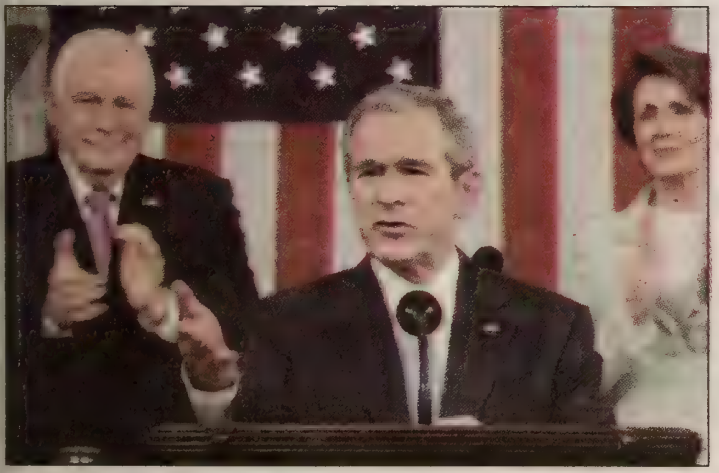
BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — "A true culture of life cannot be built by changing laws alone. We've all got to work to change hearts," President George W. Bush told tens of thousands of participants in the 34th annual March for Life Jan. 22.

Bush spoke by phone at the beginning of a two-hour rally on the National Mall preceding the marchers' slow, peaceful trek around the Capitol to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

With temperatures hovering right around freezing, the marchers — including Bishop Peter J. Jugis and

See MARCH, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY LARRY DOWNING, REUTERS

U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., applaud as President George W. Bush delivers his State of the Union speech on Capitol Hill in Washington Jan. 23.

Commenting on the State of the Union

Catholic leaders respond to president's speech

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The heads of two national Catholic organizations took some encouragement from the priority placed on health care in President George W. Bush's Jan. 23 State of the Union message but found little else to cheer about.

"It is encouraging that President Bush presented health care as a domestic priority ... especially given the urgency of providing health care for millions of people in the U.S. who do not currently have any kind of insurance coverage," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the

See UNION, page 6

To ensure good stewardship

Dioceses urged to institute tighter controls over parish finances

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A national advisory Accounting Practices Committee has urged U.S. bishops to institute tighter internal controls over finances in the nation's 19,000 parishes.

Its recommendations

See FINANCES, page 8

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Culture Watch

New book on Pope John Paul II; documentary on nuns

| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives

Kingdom of God; apologies for war deaths

| PAGES 14-15

Parish Profile

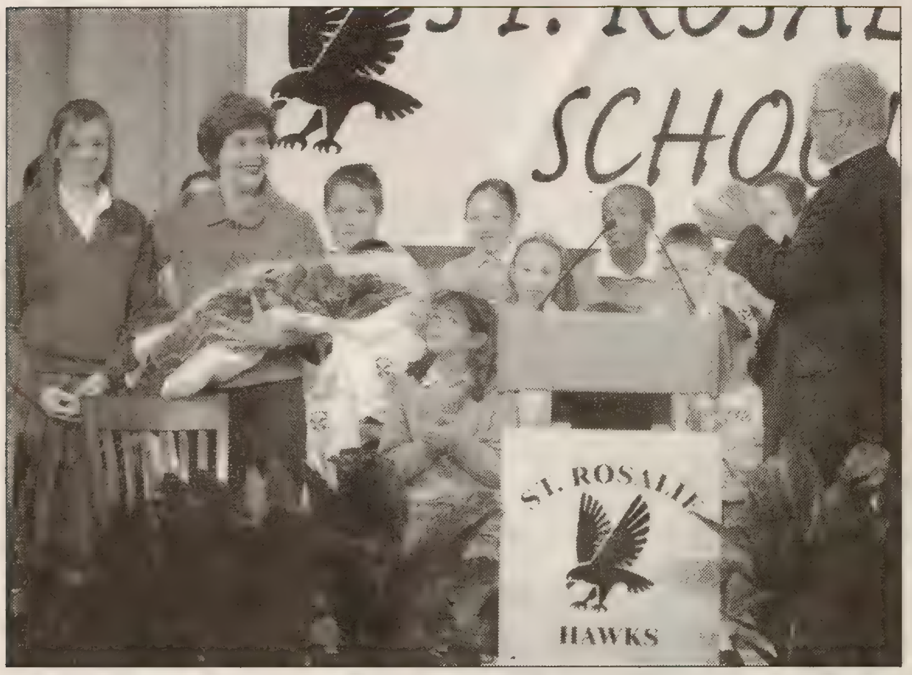
Our Lady of the Assumption Church

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FIRST LADY PRAISE



CNS PHOTO BY FRANK J. METHE, CLARION HERALD

First lady Laura Bush accepts flowers from eighth-grader Katelyn Huff, student council president, at the conclusion of Bush's Jan. 9 talk at St. Rosalie School in Harvey, La. Leading the applause to the right is Salesian Father Jonathan Parks, pastor of St. Rosalie Church. The school had received a $20,000 grant from the Laura Bush Foundation.

Laura Bush lauds 'vital role' of Catholic schools after hurricane

HARVEY, La. (CNS) — Catholic schools played a "vital role" in the Gulf Coast's path to recovery after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, first lady Laura Bush said on a visit to St. Rosalie Catholic School in Harvey.

After her midmorning visit to St. Rosalie, Bush had lunch at Cafe Reconcile in New Orleans, a program of the New Orleans archdiocesan Catholic Charities.

Meeting students, teachers and parish and archdiocesan personnel at St. Rosalie Jan. 9, Bush said the school "reminds us of the vital role Catholic schools have played in helping children whose lives were devastated by the hurricanes.

"Catholic schools worked as quickly a possible to re-enroll their students. In September 2005, students from archdiocesan schools were scattered throughout 49 states. By November 2006, 98 percent were back attending the school of their choice," she said.

She pointed out that "New Orleans Catholic schools ... opened their doors to thousands of public school students displaced by the storm. In Metairie, Archbishop Rummel Transition School helped hundreds of families return by taking students from any area school that closed.

"Cathedral Academy welcomed the children of first responders who lived on mercy ships immediately after Katrina. Archdiocesan representatives spent three evenings aboard those mercy ships registering students, and they asked for no tuition," she said.

"Today," she continued, "1,500 public school students remain in Catholic schools, their tuition paid entirely by the archdiocese."

She quoted archdiocesan school superintendent Father William Maestri: "We don't educate children because they are Catholic. We educate children because we're Catholic."

St. Rosalie principal Mary Wenzel said she learned just before Christmas that the first lady wanted to visit her school in January. The Harvey elementary school had received a $20,000 grant from the Laura Bush Foundation to help rebuild its library, but beyond that Wenzel said she had no real idea why her school was chosen.

"But I know she felt that Catholic schools were not getting enough publicity for their part in recovery efforts, and she wanted to highlight a Catholic school," Wenzel said.

The elementary school campus sustained nearly $2 million in damage but was back open by Oct. 3, 2005. Repairs to the middle-school campus are just getting under way and are expected to be completed in early June, in preparation for its August reopening.

Middle-school students, meanwhile, have been attending classes on the Archbishop Shaw High School campus.

Before leaving St. Rosalie, Bush said she was going to Cafe Reconcile for lunch because it is a place where at-risk youths "receive on-the-job training for a host of restaurant jobs — from waiting tables to serving as station chefs or line cooks."

Budget choices must reflect needs of poor, vulnerable, senators told

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Reminding U.S. senators that their budgetary decisions are "not only policy choices but moral ones," two leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops urged that the continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2007 pay greater attention to "the essential needs of the poor and vulnerable."

Bishops Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., and Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., said in a Jan. 17 joint letter to senators that "the fundamental moral measure of our nation's spending policy is whether it enhances or undermines those most in need."

The two bishops chair the USCCB international-policy and domestic policy committees, respectively.

"Providing an adequate safety net for poor and vulnerable families at home and abroad and promoting human development in poor countries are both fundamental obligations of a responsible society," the bishops said.

"These must not be neglected as Congress addresses essential priorities like homeland security and the defense of our nation, which can only be enhanced by wise investments to protect lives and reduce poverty and deprivation at home and abroad," they added.

Specifically, the USCCB leaders asked that the senators not reduce funding in the continuing resolution for fiscal 2007 in three areas: efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in poor countries; two domestic housing programs; and support for refugees and others fleeing persecution in their home countries.

"These are difficult times with few easy choices, but there are some right choices," the bishops said in their letter. "In a time of war, mounting deficits and growing needs, our nation's leaders must ensure that there are adequate resources to protect and enhance the lives and dignity of people who are poor and vulnerable both here at home and around the world."

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

HUNTERSVILLE — A free *"Lunch and Learn"* program for seniors will be held at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nancy Ennis, a certified diabetes educator from Presbyterian Hospital, will share information about diabetes and answer questions. Blood glucose screenings will be offered by registered nurses prior to the lunch and educational program. Reservations are required to join us for lunch. For more information, call Nancy Bunton at (704) 394-5521. Registration deadline is Feb. 7.

CHARLOTTE — Janice Olive of Hospice at Charlotte will present *"Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow"* Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry building of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The goal of grief is not to forget, but to be able to remember the good and the bad times with less pain. We become reconciled to grief in the years that follow a loss, learning to live a very different life. The one-year mark is not a magic number, but there is hope that it gets better. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope John Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on Sex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays through Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 548-3356.

CHARLOTTE — Sign-ups for *Why Catholic?* will be offered at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at all Masses Jan. 27-28. Why Catholic? consists of small groups meeting in homes to pray and discuss the Scriptures, the Catholic catechism and how our Catholic faith affects our everyday lives. For more information, call (704) 543-7677 ext. 1056.

CHARLOTTE — *Steve Ray*, former fundamentalist and evangelical Protestant who converted to Catholicism, will speak at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., Feb. 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. Steve is an author, producer and international speaker who is a frequent guest on EWTN and Catholic Answers Live. Please contact renee@catholicscripturestudy.com to RSVP or call at (866) 887-2774 for more information.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a free screening of *Kilowatt Ours* Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The documentary film addresses the topics of our responsibilities to God's creation and the reversal of climate change. For more information on the film, visit www.kilowattours.org. For directions to the church and for other information, e-mail Dennis Teall-Fleming at teallfleming@yahoo.com or call (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *Chris Skinner*, a nationally known speaker whose life was changed forever after a near-fatal car accident several years ago, will share the lessons he learned and give his message of hope and determination at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. This program is for parents and youths grades 6-12. For more information, visit www.chrisskinner.org or call Terry Aiken at (336) 869-7739.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will have an *Open House* Jan. 31, for anyone who have questions about the Catholic faith or to any "former"

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JANUARY 26, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 15

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Rome's mayor backs off plans to rename train station after late pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican newspaper criticized Rome's mayor for backing off plans to rename the city's main train station after Pope John Paul II.

In late December, Mayor Walter Veltroni joined Cardinal Camillo Ruini, the papal vicar of Rome, for the unveiling of two stone markers dedicating Termini Station to Pope John Paul.

But after complaints from leftist political parties and a threatened sit-in, Veltroni issued a clarification, saying the station would not change its name.

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, cried foul. In an article Jan. 21, it quoted Veltroni's words the day after the pope's death in April 2005. The mayor had proposed to "name Termini Station for John Paul II," it said, as a gesture recognizing the late pontiff as a world traveler.

The Vatican newspaper said Veltroni was now, in effect, "de-naming" the station after complaints that the change would offend some passengers.

The markers inside the station refer to "Termini Station — John Paul II." But city officials now say the intention was not to rename the facility.

Veltroni first announced the move as a gesture of respect that would "crown the relationship of love between the city and John Paul II."

But political parties on the left called it an imperious decision and derided the mayor — himself a former communist — for naming the station after a pope.

After Veltroni announced Termini Station would remain Termini Station, the Italian political federation Rose in the Fist applauded the decision.

It said it would now propose changing the name of a smaller train station near the Vatican, St. Peter Station, and dedicating it instead to Ernesto Nathan, Rome's Jewish mayor in the early 20th century.

Catholics. The program will include a brief presentation on our Catholic inquiry classes, inactive Catholic program and continuing adult faith formation education. A tour of the church and refreshments will follow. For more information, please call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4, beginning Feb. 6. The group will discuss the Gospel of Luke. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and School, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The group will be facilitated by parishioner and life coach Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the group is to create a time and a space for women to better connect with their inner wisdom and move forward on their journey in life. For more information or to register, call Lucy (336) 632-1940 or e-mail coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — *The Fraternity of St. Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order* will host an open house for new inquirers Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at The Spirit of Assisi (below Our Lady of Fatima Chapel), 211 W. 3rd St. Secular Franciscans are a community of lay Catholic men and women who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information, call Mary Ellen Humphrey at (336) 722-2293 or e-mail donaldbh@aol.com.

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Tony O'Meara will speak about "Signs along the Journey of Faith" Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you want to follow the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with the Couple to Couple League beginning Feb. 18 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., 1:30-3:30 p.m. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching and the method is healthy and effective. Call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information about classes or NFP-knowledgeable physicians.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Jan. 28 — 2:30 p.m.
Mass for Catholic Schools Week
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Feb. 9 – 1:30 p.m.
Meeting with Cursillo Leadership
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 18 – 11 a.m.
Diaconate Ordination of Tri Vinh Truong
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

Feb. 27 – 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Vatican says Chinese church growing; pope to write Chinese Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the end of a two-day meeting to discuss the status of the Catholic community in mainland China and the problems it faces, the Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI would write a letter to the country's Catholics.

Despite continuing instances of persecution and pressure, the number of Catholics in China is growing and the vast majority of bishops and priests have recognized the authority of the pope, said the statement issued at the end of the Jan. 19-20 meeting chaired by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

"In the light of the troubled history of the church in China and the main events of the past few years, there was an examination of the most serious and urgent church problems, which need adequate solutions related to the basic principles of the divine constitution of the church and of religious liberty," the statement said.

The Vatican did not say when Pope Benedict's letter to the Catholics of China would be written or released.

After decades of harsh persecution of Catholics who maintained their ties to the Vatican and stringent efforts by the government to exclude Vatican influence over all areas of church life in the country, the communist government appeared to be relaxing its stance.

In 2005 several bishops were ordained who were approved both by the government-controlled Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the Vatican. However, in 2006 the patriotic association moved forward with the ordinations of three bishops without Vatican consent.

The Jan. 20 Vatican statement said Pope Benedict called the meeting to deepen the Vatican's knowledge of the situation of the Catholic Church in China, inviting bishops from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan and "those who, for the Holy See, follow the Chinese question most closely."

The Vatican described the discussions as "broad and detailed" and marked by frankness on the part of the participants.

Despite restrictions, the statement said, the Catholic Church in China has shown a surprising numerical growth and its members are "called to be witnesses of Christ, to look forward with hope" and to offer Gospel-based values to the rapidly changing Chinese society.

A chilly Epiphany

CNS PHOTO BY SHAMIL ZHUMATOV, REUTERS

Orthodox priests offer prayers during an Epiphany ceremony at the Ishim River in Astana, Kazakhstan, Jan. 19. Orthodox Christians abiding by the Julian calendar celebrate Epiphany 13 days later than most Western churches.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2007

THIS YEAR THEMED "THE GOOD NEWS IN EDUCATION," CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK RUNS JAN. 28-FEB. 3, WITH NATIONAL APPRECIATION DAY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS JAN. 31. CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK IS A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD WELCOMES SUBMITTED PHOTOS AND ARTICLES FROM CSW-RELATED EVENTS. LOOK FOR COVERAGE IN THE FEB. 9 ISSUE.

Dioceses urged to institute tighter controls over parish finances

FINANCES, *from page 1*

included establishing clear diocesan policies about conflict of interest, protection of whistle-blowers and a fraud policy that would include prosecution in all cases.

It also called for each diocese to require every parish to submit an annual report to the bishop on the names and professional titles of the members of the parish finance council, dates the council met, when it approved the parish budget and what budget information was given to parishioners and when.

The report should include a copy of the parish's published financial statement, it said.

The committee, a lay group of certified public accountants convened to advise the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, met in Washington Jan. 11-12. Its recommendations were released by the USCCB the following week.

The committee is chaired by Bill Weldon, chief financial officer of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Roles and responsibilities

Just two days before the committee met, a recently retired pastor in the Diocese of Richmond, Va., was arrested on charges of embezzling at least $600,000 from two parishes where he had been pastor. Within a few days the estimate of how much was missing rose to more than $1 million.

Last October two former pastors of a parish in Delray Beach, Fla., were accused of having misused more than $6 million from weekend collections and other parish funds over a period of several decades.

In December two researchers at Villanova University in Pennsylvania reported that four out of five diocesan finance officers who answered a national survey said they had experienced at least one case of embezzlement of parish funds within the past five years.

The committee of CPAs recommended that all dioceses require an annual statement signed by the pastor and members of the finance council certifying that they have met, developed and discussed the financial statements and budget of the parish.

It also recommended that every diocese provide "thorough diocesan training" to parish finance council members regarding their roles and responsibilities.

Each parish should be required to "complete an annual internal control questionnaire" with appropriate review and follow-up at the diocesan level.

The committee said that "many dioceses already have very good policies in place," and its recommendations should be seen as encouragement to enhance those policies or redouble efforts to see that they are enforced.

It added that its recommendations should be seen as complementary to the work currently being done by the Diocesan Fiscal Management Conference on internal audits of parishes.

For the longer term the committee recommended development of a parish best-practices manual, similar to the "Diocesan Financial Issues" document that has been developed for dioceses. It also recommended integrating financial training into the seminary curriculum so that future priests will be better prepared to handle parish finances.

Reasonable, helpful ideas

Bishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Duluth, USCCB treasurer, called the committee's recommendations "reasonable and helpful" and said he would implement them in his diocese.

He said he did not concur, however, with the recommendation of financial training in the seminary.

"Seminary days are jampacked enough, and I am not certain that finances should be added to the schedule," he said in a statement Jan. 18.

"Finance is an area of parish ministry that is wide open for participation of the laity. Members of the laity who have expertise and experience with administration and finance should be invited and encouraged to consider a stewardship of their talents," he said.

The message to seminarians, he added, should be that "as parish leaders they are to recognize, call forth and coordinate the talents that God has entrusted to a particular parish community."

The Accounting Practices Committee includes nine CPAs affiliated with dioceses, four representing the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and four CPA advisers from large public accounting firms.

Weldon was appointed to the Accounting Practices Committee Nov. 1, 2006, for a three-year term, with a possible second term.

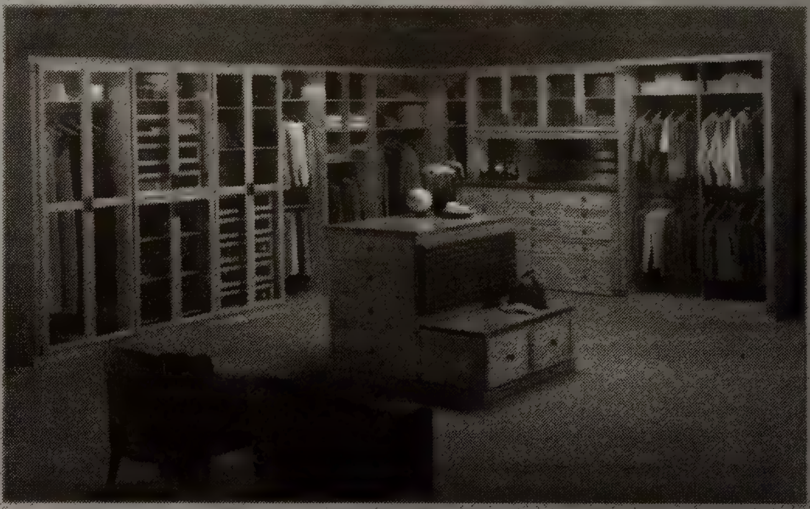
CFCC
Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

©2006 Closet Factory. All rights reserved.



YOUR CLOSET.
ONLY BETTER.

Custom storage solutions for every room in your house.
- Closets, offices, garages, entertainment centers etc.
- Handcrafted designs that fit your needs and style
- Professionally trained designers and installers

25% OFF With This Ad
FREE INSTALLATION
We Will Beat Any Competitor's Offer!

Call for a FREE design consultation
704.676.5000

closetfactory

www.closetfactory.com
CNH-1

Husband joins church on 60th wedding anniversary

CONVERT, *from page 1*

her husband and children were taken care of," said Clarence Sleeman.

A dedicated wife, mother and homemaker, Vicki Sleeman also lived her life as a devoted Catholic, a faith Clarence did not share.

On Oct. 17, 2003, the Sleemans renewed their vows at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. While their 60th anniversary was enough cause to celebrate, Clarence wanted to do something extraordinary and particularly meaningful for the woman who had been his wife and mother of their two children, Carol and Robert.

Prior to the blessing of their marriage, Capuchin Father John Aurelia, pastor, surprised Vicki Sleeman with a gift from her husband when he was formally received into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

For the first time in their long and loving marriage, Clarence Sleeman was able to receive the Eucharist with his wife.

> "She had taught him quietly all those years and he already knew more about the faith than most."
>
> — Sandy Donecho

"She had taught him quietly all those years and he already knew more about the faith than most," said Sandy Donecho, parish faith formation director who helped Clarence Sleeman prepare to receive the sacraments.

"Through teaching Clarence I learned a lot about Vicki and how strong her faith was," she said.

"I think she (Vicki) was surprised and pleased. She cried when she told our neighbor about it," recalled Clarence Sleeman.

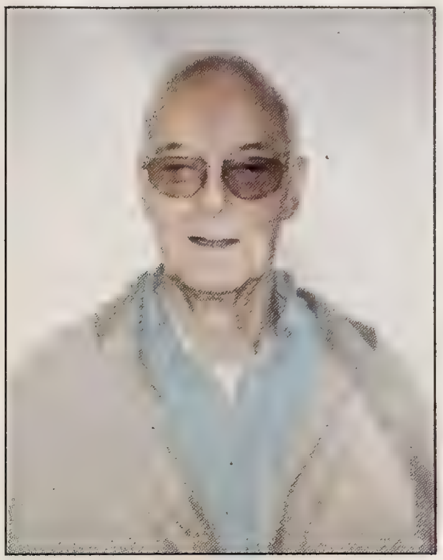


Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Clarence Sleeman, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, converted to Catholicism on his 60th wedding anniversary in 2003.

"She was such a devout Catholic and when we moved to Hendersonville (in 1984), I started to go to church with her. She always sat in the same place, with some nice friends," he said.

"She was so devout I almost felt an obligation to convert," he added.

As a member of the Ladies Guild, Vicki Sleeman volunteered tirelessly and "wouldn't get rid of anything until they held the Ladies Guild sale," said Clarence Sleeman.

Through his wife's example of living a faith-filled life, Clarence Sleeman grew to love the church as well. On a trip to Poland, they attended Mass at a church where Pope John Paul II had served as a priest.

"Both Vicki's parents were born near Krakow. I admired Pope John Paul so much," said Clarence Sleeman.

On March 3, 2006, Vicki Sleeman died after a brief illness, leaving behind her husband of 62 years and a legacy of faith and service that continues to live through a recently-established scholarship program for Immaculata School.

"She was so interested in Immaculata School, I decided to do the endowment in her name," said Clarence Sleeman.

"The Victoria Sleeman Endowment Fund will provide children with the opportunity for a Catholic school education," he said.

Through her dedication, Vicki Sleeman brought her husband into the faith, and the endowment in her name will continue to bring children into the faith.

"She never pressured me at all. (Her faith) was just so much a part of her," said Clarence Sleeman.

Fittingly, she will fulfill the promise of Proverbs 31:31: "Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates."

Flynn & O'Hara
School Uniforms

- Shop at Our 20+ Convenient Retail Stores
- Shop On-Site at Your School
- Shop On-Line Via Our Secure Web Site
- Call Our Toll-Free Customer Service
- Family Owned and Operated
- Extensive Selection of Styles and Colors
- Fundraising Options
- Custom Embroidery Done On-Site
- Commitment to Excellence
- Flexible Return and Exchange Policy

www.flynnohara.com

Montford Abbey Shopping Center — 704-525-0002
1730 Abbey Place Charlotte

OFFICE PRODUCTS
& FURNITURE
Huge Discounts
Negotiable Pricing
On-Line Ordering
FREE Delivery
FREE "RUSH" Delivery

Star Stationers

349-E West Tremont Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28203
Mobile: (980) 721-8112
Fax: (704) 342-1904

Lynn Murphy (704) 375-3206 ext. 20, or (800) 832-6218
lynnmurphy@starstationers.com

WE NEGOTIATE OUR PRICING!

Happy Catholic Schools Week

Create a winning event

Having your meeting or conference at the center makes you a winner every time!

We can help you turn an ordinary conference, meeting, retreat, or banquet into a special event! You plan the event, we'll provide the environment!

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC
(828) 327-7441 or toll-free at
(888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org
www.catholicconference.org

The Catholic Conference Center

Catholic leaders respond to president's speech

UNION, *from page 1*

Catholic Health Association.

"At the same time, CHA is disappointed that the president's plan falls short of significant coverage expansion and of truly addressing the weaknesses of our health system," she added in a statement.

Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, called the lack of access to affordable health care "a huge barrier to low-income families trying to lift themselves out of poverty."

"Catholic Charities USA is encouraged by the president's acknowledgment of the health care crisis that leaves many individuals uninsured," he said in a statement. "We look forward to learning more about the president's proposal in the days ahead."

In his 49-minute speech, Bush also discussed the war in Iraq, immigration, spending reforms, assistance to fight HIV/AIDS and malaria abroad, education and a plan to reduce U.S. gasoline usage by 20 percent in 10 years.

Care for all

On health care, the president proposed changes in the tax code to give all Americans the same tax breaks on health insurance, as well as greater assistance to states that cover their citizens who cannot afford insurance or who have persistently high medical expenses.

Sister Keehan said the president's plan "would do little to expand coverage to low- and middle-income families who cannot afford monthly premiums or wait for an end-of-the-year deduction to help finance their health care."

She also decried Bush's failure to mention the State Children's Health Insurance Program and said he missed "a rare and ideal opportunity to put his leadership where the rest of the nation is — behind a health care system that works for everyone, starting with those who are young and least able to provide for themselves."

"Perhaps never before in our nation's history has the public been so unanimous — and vocal — about making health care a top domestic priority," Sister Keehan said. "The president's plan does not respond appropriately to the nation's insistence on a system that leaves no one behind."

Other issues

Bush said the war in Iraq "is more than a clash of arms — it is a decisive ideological struggle, and the security of our nation is in the balance."

"If American forces step back before Baghdad is secure, the Iraqi government would be overrun by extremists on all sides," he said. "A contagion of violence could spill out across the country — and in time the entire region could be drawn into the conflict."

CNS PHOTO BY LARRY DOWNING, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush greets House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., as he arrives to deliver his annual State of the Union speech to a joint session of Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington Jan. 23.

Although the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had no immediate comment on the president's talk, the U.S. bishops have called for steps toward a responsible transition in Iraq and have cited "our nation's moral responsibility to help Iraqis to live with security and dignity in the aftermath of U.S. military action."

On immigration, Bush asked Congress to "have a serious, civil and conclusive debate so that you can pass, and I can sign, comprehensive immigration reform into law."

"We need to resolve the status of the illegal immigrants who are already in our country — without animosity and without amnesty," the president said.

But Father Snyder said Catholic Charities "strongly supports a broad immigration bill ... that provides a path to lawful permanent residence and citizenship for the 11 million to 12 million undocumented persons in the United States" and that "creates greater legal avenues for necessary workers to enter the United States in the future ... and improves the economic prospects, health, labor protections and stability of all U.S. residents, including newcomers."

The Catholic Charities president praised initiatives to fight hunger, poverty and disease abroad, such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, and Bush's anti-malaria funding.

"We believe the same level of dedication and effort should be focused on addressing serious issues of poverty and hunger here in the United States," Father Snyder said.

get ignited!
Featuring these great Catholic Speakers
Mark Shea
Peter Kreeft
Steve Wood
February 16-17, 2007
Raleigh, North Carolina
Cardinal Gibbons Catholic High School
Bringing to light the truth of the teachings of the Catholic Church and igniting in our hearts a love for our faith
For complete details and online registration, visit:
www.IgnitedByTruth.com

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology
The Writings of Pope John Paul II
Dr. Timothy Herrman
February 3
March 3
March 31
12PM – 6:10PM
OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR GRADUATE THEOLOGY CLASS
Application Deadline
February 2, 2007
Class Location:
Cardinal Newman High School
4701 Forest Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
For an Application or More Information
Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

Atonement Father Pius Keating passes away at 90

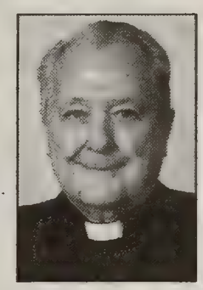
GARRISON, N.Y. — Atonement Father Pius Keating, a priest who had served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died in Carefree, Ariz., Jan. 17. He was 90.

Father Keating was born James F. Keating in Plymouth, Pa., where he attended public schools until entering the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor in 1937. He graduated from Catholic University in Washington, D.C. with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and from St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, Pa., with a master's degree in theology.

He was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and was assigned to Christ the King Church in High Point, first as assistant pastor, then as pastor. He served as chaplain at the U.S. Public Health Hospital in Staten Island, N.Y. from 1948 to 1951 when he began a 20-year career in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Father Keating served as a chaplain in numerous assignments, both in the Pacific Theater and in the United States. He was regimental chaplain of the 11th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; served for two years in the combat zone of the Korean conflict; and was chaplain at the Naval Training Center in Bainbridge, Md.

Following his retirement from the Navy as a commander, he served two years as chaplain at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, Calif., and then 20 years as pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.



Atonement Father Pius Keating

In 1994 he was made pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon. In 2006 he retired to Arizona.

Father Keating is survived by a sister, Helen Watts of New Port Richey, Fla.; and his nephew, Gene Keating and his wife, Joyce, of Scottsdale, Ariz.

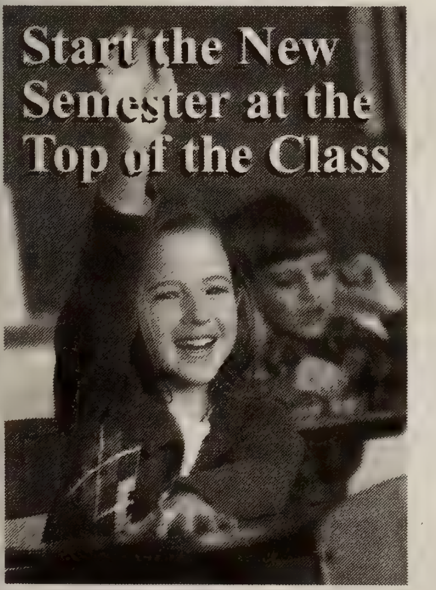
A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Stephen Church in Plymouth, Pa., Jan. 22. At Father Keating's request, interment will follow in Plymouth with his parents.

The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement is a religious order of brothers and priests founded in 1898 by Father Paul Wattson.

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of February:

Rev. Edward Beatty	1990
Bishop Michael J. Begley	2002
Rev. Lawrence Hill	1985

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus


Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class

Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student

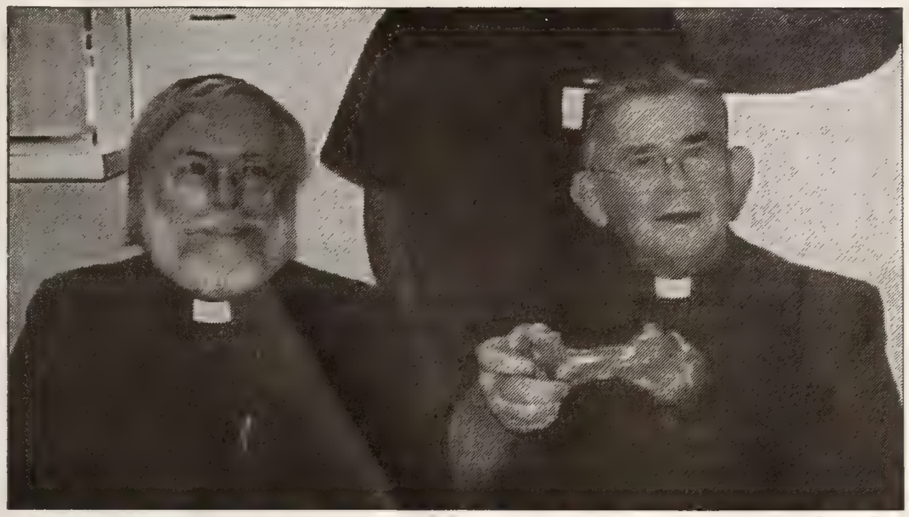
South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER
The Academic Edge™



COURTESY PHOTO

Benedictine Father David Draim, parochial vicar, and Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor, take part in a parish Seder dinner at St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet in this April 6, 2004 photograph. Abbot Shelton and Father Draim were killed in an automobile accident in Scotland County Jan. 23.

Two Catholic priests killed in automobile accident

Priests served in Diocese of Charlotte since 1998, fostered multicutural ministries

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

SCOTLAND COUNTY — The Diocese of Charlotte lost two of its faithful servants this week.

Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton and Benedictine Father David Draim died from injuries sustained in an automobile accident Jan. 23.

Abbot Shelton, pastor, and Father Draim, parochial vicar, began their pastoral service to the Diocese of Charlotte in July 1998 at St. James the Greater Church in Hamlet and Sacred Heart Mission in Wadesboro.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass for the families of the two churches Jan. 24 at St. James the Greater Church.

Abbot Shelton

Abbot Shelton was born in Youngstown, Ohio, July 26, 1929. He was ordained a priest of the Order of St. Benedict Feb. 8, 1975. He served as abbot of St. Leo Abbey in St. Petersburg, Florida from 1985 until 1996.

Before he joined the Benedictine order, he owned a small grocery store in Niles, Ohio.

In April 2004, Abbot Shelton was honored for his work in prison ministry at Morrison Correctional Institute in Hoffman, N.C.

At the time, Greg Parsons, assistant superintendent of programs at the prison, described the abbot as an "angel delivered to us" and praised him for his great sense of humor.

Abbot Shelton studied Spanish to communicate with Hispanic inmates.

"He has worked very hard at learning enough Spanish so that he could provide the prisoners with a Mass in Spanish on a weekly basis," said Father Draim in 2004. "He has had as many as 29 prisoners at Mass and has a very good reputation at the prison, where people enjoy his jokes and personality."

In the Jan. 19 issue of The Catholic News and Herald, Abbot Shelton said that each time the parishioners of Sacred Heart Mission gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, "it is impossible not to think of the words for the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II, where we express our faith that one day God the Father will 'gather people of every race, language, and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord.'"

"The Sunday Eucharist at Sacred Heart is a foretaste of heaven," Abbot Shelton said.

Father Draim

Father Draim was born in Vincennes, Ind., April 8, 1943. He was ordained a priest of the Order of St. Benedict June 23, 1973.

Father Draim was a presenter for the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, a lay Catholic organization committed to creating relationships between sponsors in the United States and children and aging persons in 25 developing nations around the world.

In their ministry in Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Florida, Abbot Shelton and Father Draim enjoyed fostering healthy relationships among the multicultural and interfaith communities. Given the large Hispanic and African-American populations in this area, the priests saw a real opportunity for evangelization here as well.

"Our concept is the church has something to offer to the multicultural community," said Father Draim in 2001, when the two priests received a grant from the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to evangelize to the local Hispanic and African-American populations.

At press time, funeral arrangements for Abbot Shelton and Father Draim were incomplete.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Masses at the parish and mission this weekend, assisted by Father Christopher Roux, priest secretary to the bishop.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Thousands participate in annual March for Life

MARCH, *from page 1*

St. Barnabas
Roman Catholic Church
Arden, NC
Charlotte Diocese

Courtesy Photo by Maggi Nadol

A group from St. Barnabas Church in Arden takes part in the annual March for Life Jan. 22.

people from the Diocese of Charlotte — packed several square blocks of the Mall and overflowed onto side streets.

"The March for Life is a highly visible statement to the nation, and particularly our nation's leaders, that all human life is to be valued and protected," said Joseph Purello, director of Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte, who participated in the march.

"In spite of the cold, the ice and the long treks that many made to get to Washington, D.C., so many people from various faiths and ethnic backgrounds joined together to proclaim the dignity of human life," he said. "It was wonderful to see Catholics from both dioceses of North Carolina present in such large numbers."

Terrence Scanlon, vice president for the March for Life, told CNS Jan. 24 that he estimated the crowd at more than 100,000. He said marchers stretched from the speakers' stage down the Mall about the length of four city blocks and spilled onto several streets.

The U.S. Park Police and the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia have not provided crowd estimates for such events for several years.

"Making the pilgrimage to Washington is both exhausting and exhilarating for many," said Maggi Nadol, director of Catholic Social Services' Respect Life Office in the Diocese of Charlotte, who participated in the march.

"It helps to shore up our resolve to join with so many who share in the belief of the sanctity of life," she said.

Among featured speakers was U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, a Kansas Republican.

"We need a culture of life that respects all life ... from conception to natural death," said Brownback, a Catholic. "The unborn person is unique, is sacred, is beautiful" and he or she "deserves protection."

On the morning of the march, a group from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville were among the 20,000 Catholic teens and young adults at a youth rally and Mass at the Verizon Center, Washington's largest sports arena.

The 29 Bishop McGuinness students, two faculty members and four parent chaperones then took part in the march.

"The coolest part for me was when we all prayed the rosary while marching," said sophomore Patrick Preudhomme.

"I am very proud of this group of amazing young people who made a choice to proclaim their faith and speak out and stand up for life," said Anton Vorozhko, assistant campus minister at Bishop McGuinness.

"It is not an easy choice to make, especially in the culture that we live in today; yet, that is exactly what we are called to do," he said.

Among the more than 20 Catholic bishops at the Mall rally were Bishop Jugis, Bishop Michael J. Burbidge of Raleigh and Cardinals Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Sean P. O'Malley of Boston. Bishop Jugis also was the homilist for a morning Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The theme of this year's march was "Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each innocent human in existence at fertilization. No exception! No compromise!"

Nellie Gray, who has led the March for Life since its inception in 1974, said she warned abortion advocates back then that they were on a "slippery slope" that would also lead to euthanasia.

Among people she introduced on the stage were Bobby Schindler and Suzanne Schindler Vitadamo, the brother and sister of Terri Schindler Schiavo, the Florida woman who two years ago died after her life support was removed by court order at her husband's request, despite efforts by her parents and siblings to keep her alive.

Gray summarized the purpose of the march: "We're not here to reduce abortion, we're here to stop it."

"Feminist abortionists, listen up," she said. "You may not kill innocent human beings in my name."

Standing behind the speakers for most of the rally were more than 20 women with signs reading, "I regret my abortion." The sign held by the one man in the group said, "I regret lost fatherhood."

Holding one of those signs was Andrea Hines, co-regional coordinator in Charlotte for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, which seeks to expose and heal the secrecy and silence surrounding abortion.

"We all received hundreds of blessings, hugs and thank yous from our fellow marchers for being there. People told us that they see us as the hope and turning point in the pro-life movement," said Hines.

Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus — which in 1954 led a successful campaign to get "under God" inserted into the Pledge of Allegiance — led the rally in reciting the pledge. As the people recited "with liberty and justice for all," he added a three-word phrase, "born and unborn."

"Marching with all those Catholics made me confident that something would finally be done (about abortion)," said Kevin Roeten, a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden. "Change will happen, and Roe v. Wade will be overturned. The real fight will be when all the states vote on the legalization of abortion."

Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., said the large numbers of young people at the rally signaled the growth of opposition to abortion among younger Americans. Despite the best efforts of abortion advocates, he said, "they're hearing it's not a choice, it's a baby."

Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, noted that the U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering the constitutionality of the federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. Citing the changes in the makeup of the high court over the past two years, he said, "I'm cautiously optimistic that they will uphold that law."

At a press conference before the march, leaders of the National Right to Life Committee called the high court's 1973 abortion decisions a contradiction of the Declaration of Independence's pronouncement that life is among the unalienable, God-given rights which governments must protect.

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray and Paul Haring.

DEPART JULY 15, 2007 WITH FATHER WALTER

Canadian Rockies Tour Offers 'Cool' Vacation

Join other Roman Catholics, and your chaplain, Father Walter Grabowski, for the most "heavenly" sightseeing in the most pristine and beautiful countryside in North America.

There's more than just the Canadian Rockies on this popular Your Man Tours vacation. You'll spend a week in the Canadian Rockies and another week across the border in the American Northwest. First fly into Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. En route you'll visit Fargo and Bismarck, North Dakota; then north to Saskatchewan where you'll visit the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Your time in the Canadian Rockies will include daily sight-seeing. Highlights include Lake Louise; Banff National Park; Hoodoos; Bow Falls and Cascade Gardens; a SnoCoach ride over the Columbia Ice Fields; Canmore, Alberta; Kananaskis Country; Waterton Lakes National Park and more! Back in the U.S. you'll visit Helena and Billings Montana; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane's Deadwood; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park and more! We'll handle your luggage; include 13 nights hotel accommodations, motor-coach transportation, and take you on some of the most beautiful sightseeing with unsurpassed scenery in North America. Prices start at only $1148 per person, double occupancy including taxes. Add $550 for round-trip airfare from Charlotte. This will be Father Walter's fourth trip as a Your Man Tours' Catholic Chaplain. He is pastor of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Eden, New York.

Space is limited. $300 deposits are now due.

For brochure, information, reservations and letter from Father Grabowski with his phone number, call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-736-7300**

America's First Choice *for travel since 1967!*

Come and share in a bit of the luck of the Irish!

See back cover.

And act quickly to save $100! Limited space.

‘It gets you psyched up for the march. It gets you excited.’

Waves and conga lines

Youths get energized for pro-life march

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — For youthful demonstrators during Jan. 22 pro-life events in Washington, coming in from the cold meant joining a conga line, doing “the wave” cheers and singing at the top of their lungs.

The youths gathered for a musical rally at Constitution Hall close to the White House and near the staging area for the March for Life. The rally preceded a Mass for youths, also in Constitution Hall.

What does snaking through the aisles at 9 a.m. have do with stopping abortions?

“It gets everyone hyped up for the day. It’s going to be cold outside today,” said Andrew Hanley, 17, of North Huntingdon, Pa., as temperatures hovered around the freezing mark outside in the hours before the March for Life protesting legalized abortion.

BISHOP MCGUINNESS
DEFEND LIFE
DEFEND LIFE
DEFEND LIFE
I'M PRO-LIFE
EndRoe.org

COURTESY PHOTO

Students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville take part in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Jan. 22.

“It gets you psyched up for the march. It gets you excited,” said Paige Kowatch, 16, of Pewamo, Mich., who was with a group of 51 people who had arrived the day before after a 12-hour bus ride.

For Ryan Leighton, 17, of St. Louis the rally was also a reminder that “our society is very music-oriented,” she told Catholic News Service.

Her friend, 16-year-old Savannah Myers, said the rally “gets everybody energized for the real purpose of being here” — participation in the march.

Along with most of the 2,000 people attending the morning musical Rally for Life aimed at teenagers, the four youths who spoke to CNS planned to join the march to the U.S. Capitol later in the day.

The annual march is held on the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Jan. 22, 1973, Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

The Washington Archdiocese sponsored the Constitution Hall event as well as a bigger event for youths across town at the Verizon Center, a downtown sports arena.

Hanley said that marching in Washington is important “to show legislators that a lot of people support pro-life issues.”

Myers said that “if we all cry out in one voice it (abortion) will stop.”

For many of the youthful demonstrators, coming to Washington was only one of the ways they have been supporting pro-life issues.

Hanley, a senior at Greensburg Central Catholic High School in the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., said that his school encourages students to send letters on the issues to their congressional representatives.

Leighton and Myers, students at the all-girls St. Elizabeth Academy, said that the school encourages students to develop projects to deal with abortion and other pro-life issues such as helping the elderly, addressing human rights, focusing on capital punishment and protecting the environment.

The academy is located in St. Louis and run by the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O’Fallon, Mo.

“We wrote letters to our congressmen after attending last year’s rally and we’ll do it again this year,” said Leighton.

The teens had the opportunity to tune up their voices and practice shouting in unison at the morning rally.

Among the entertainers was armless singer Tony Melendez, who plays the guitar with his toes. First Melendez egged on the audience to form conga lines. When some of the more enthusiastic lines snaked their way from the main floor up the stairs and into the balcony area, Melendez suggested the teens “slowly walk your way back to your seats.”

Melendez also encouraged “the wave” cheer, where one section of a crowd stands up and sits down as the next section stand ups and sits down and so on. His first effort produced a choppy wave, as sections of his audience failed to rise.

“Look at your neighbors. If they are sleeping shake them,” he said, before organizing a more coordinated cheer.

As the Mass was about to start, Patrick Smith, a singer and composer of liturgical music, asked the youths “to pledge to sing my guts out even if I don’t know the song.”

The main celebrant of the Mass was Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

In brief remarks at the start of the Mass, Cardinal Rigali said that the Mass was a method of spiritually preparing youths for the March for Life.

“Jesus infuses his power in our hearts,” he said. “This gives us the power to influence the world in the name of human life.”

Giving the homily was Father Christopher Rogers, Philadelphia archdiocesan vocations director.

Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision, about one-third of the people who should have been born were not because of abortion, he said.

“Our parents could get away with our murder, but they chose something else,” he said.

“We survived because we were wanted,” he said.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Para Celebrar la Unida
Presente en la Comunidad
La Universidad Belmont Abbey College
Invita a la comunidad Latina
A una misa que se celebrara en Español
en la Basilica de Belmont Abbey

El coro Alegría Hispana
(de la Iglesia de San Gabriel)
nos deleitar con su musica

2 de Febrero del 2007
a las 8:00 de la noche
Seguido por una Recepción

To Celebrate Unity within the Community
Belmont Abbey College invites
the local Hispanic Community to a
Spanish Mass at the Abbey Basilica

Music by Alegría Hispana Choir
(from St. Gabriel Catholic Church)

Friday, February 2, 2007, at 8 PM
Reception Following

Belmont Abbey is off exit 26 on I-85 — only 10 minutes from the Charlotte airport!

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.
THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don't know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don't have time to research even a fraction of them.

Call to learn more about:

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITH BARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Exploring 'A Life With Karol'

New book offers inside glimpse of John Paul II's life in Poland, Rome

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME—Pope John Paul II consulted with top aides about possibly resigning in 2000 and set up a "specific procedure" for papal resignation, says a new book by the pope's former secretary.

The pope eventually decided that it was God's will that he stay in office, despite the illness that left him more and more debilitated, wrote Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, the late pope's closest aide.

In the book, "A Life With Karol," Cardinal Dziwisz offers an inside glimpse at key moments of Pope John Paul's life in Poland and his 26-year pontificate. The book was being published in Polish and Italian in late January.

In his last will and testament, made public after his death, Pope John Paul strongly hinted that he had considered resignation as he prepared to turn 80 in the year 2000.

Cardinal Dziwisz said the pope, in fact, decided at the time to consult on the question with his closest aides, including then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

The pope concluded that he would remain in office, saying that God had called him to the papacy and that "God will call me back, in the form that he wishes," Cardinal Dziwisz wrote.

"At the same time, John Paul II also established a specific procedure for giving his resignation, in case he would not have been able to carry out his ministry as pope to the very end," Cardinal Dziwisz said.

"So, as one can see, he considered this possibility," he said.

The book recounts other behind-the-scenes moments, according to excerpts provided by the Italian publisher, Rizzoli:

— On Sept. 11, 2001, shortly after two planes crashed into the twin towers in New York, the phone rang in the pope's office in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome.

"On the other end of the line was the frightened voice of Cardinal (Angelo) Sodano, the secretary of state. We turned the television on, and the pope was able to see those dramatic images, the collapse of the towers with so many poor victims imprisoned inside."

The pope passed the rest of the day going back and forth between the television and the chapel to pray, he said.

"He was worried, strongly worried that it wouldn't end there, and that the attack could set off an endless spiral of violence," Cardinal Dziwisz wrote.

— Recalling when the pope was shot in 1981, Cardinal Dziwisz said he was convinced his assailant, the Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca, was "sent by someone who thought the pope was dangerous."

He said it seemed logical to conclude, at least as a hypothesis, that the Soviet KGB was involved — an allegation made later by Agca when he described a supposed "Bulgarian connection" to the shooting.

But Cardinal Dziwisz added: "In fact, there was no belief in the 'Bulgarian connection,' nor in the many other reconstructions in circulation."

Likewise, he said, he gave no credence to journalistic theories that the disappearance of a Vatican City teenager, Emmanuela Orlandi, was in any way connected to the papal shooting.

— Toward the end of the book, Cardinal Dziwisz described the pope's final moments:

"It was 9:37 p.m. We had noticed that the Holy Father had stopped breathing. But only in that precise moment did we see on the monitor that his great heart, after continuing to beat for a few moments, had stopped."

Someone, he said, blocked the hands of the clock to mark the hour of the pope's passing. Those around the pope's bed began singing a "Te Deum" of thanksgiving, not a requiem.

"We were crying. How could one not cry! They were tears of both sadness and joy. It was then that all the lights in the house were turned on. ... And then, I can't remember. It was as if it had suddenly become dark. It was dark above me, and it was dark inside of me," he said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 4, 2007

Feb. 4, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Isaiah 6:1-2a ,3-8
Psalm 138:1-5, 7-8
2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
3) Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

'Be not afraid' to serve the Lord

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Do not be afraid" seems to be a command or words of consolation that we hear throughout our lives.

One morning long ago I was preparing an elegant tea party for my saintly black-and-white terrier — a dog that is surely in heaven after a lifetime of playing dress-up and tea parties. I was about ready for us to have our "tea" when I decided that I'd had my fill of imaginary cookies.

On the silent march to procure the real thing from the cookie jar, I heard my parents discussing something called "three in one" and that perhaps I needed this new thing.

My dad broke the news to me. I was going to get this new "medicine." I shouldn't be afraid. Suspicion reigned. We would have to go into town three different times to get it.

The very fact that my dad was the messenger in this scenario signaled red alert.

Into the doctor's office we walked. I again had been assured not to be afraid. Why the nurse wanted to rub my arm with alcohol was a mystery. I offered my arm. Then just as I was distracted, the nurse plunged a gigantic needle into my arm.

My screams rocked the office. Lost in my own suffering, I never would have guessed that when my dad said there is nothing to fear, he was speaking out of his own fears for his only child.

We often hear a variation of the words "Do not be afraid" from people who love us or have our best interest at heart. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus assures Peter, James and John with these familiar words after they bring in the most astonishing catch of fish.

Jesus knows that when they lay down their nets and follow him, their lives never will be the same because becoming fishers of men will become a rewarding as well as a dangerous occupation. For some it will mean prison or execution.

Ultimately, they, along with the countless millions who will answer Jesus' invitation, will be strengthened by his words of counsel, "Do not be afraid."

Questions:

What emotions or memories arise in you when you hear the words "Do not be afraid"? Name a recent time, or times, when your faith in God's promised reward helped dispel your fears so you could serve the Lord.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

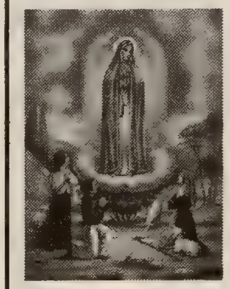
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 28–FEB. 3
Sunday (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 4:21-30; **Monday**, Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (St. John Bosco)**, Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday**, Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (The Presentation of the Lord)**, Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Saturday (St. Blaise, St. Ansgar)**, Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 4-10
Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11; **Monday (St. Agatha)**, Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday (St. Paul Miki & Companions)**, Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday**, Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday**, Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday**, Genesis 3:1-8, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday (St. Scholastica)**, Genesis 3:9-24, Mark 8:1-10.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church



Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

Fr. Patrick Winslow (pastor, St. John the Baptist Church) and Fr. Timothy Reid (parochial vicar, St. Matthew Church) cordially invite you to join them on an 11-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain May 7-17, 2007.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila & Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid. Price from Charlotte: $2689 ($2589 before January 27, 2007).

For more information contact Pentecost Tours at 1-800-713-9800.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Retired.
Not retiring.

For Phil, wellness means relaxing without a care in the world. Having more time to exercise his mind and listen to his spirit gives him a sense of inner harmony. It's the simple joy of living, and Phil knows he'll find it here. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

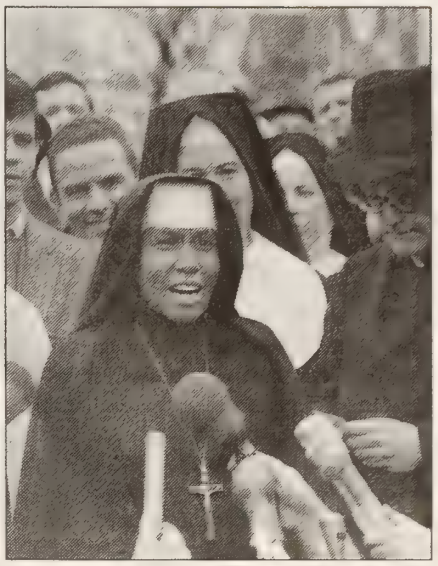
(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Ret2

In their footsteps

Documentary on nuns' role in 1965 civil rights marches to air on PBS



CNS PHOTO BY BETTMAN/CORBIS/PBS

Sister Mary Antona Ebo of the Sisters of St. Mary in St. Louis gives witness for black voting rights in Selma, Ala., March 10, 1965.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A one-hour documentary featuring religious sisters who participated in the 1965 civil rights marches in Selma, Ala., will air on PBS in February as part of Black History Month programming.

The documentary, "Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change," highlights the involvement of Midwestern sisters who joined the marches. It also features the Sisters of St. Joseph from Rochester, N.Y., based in Selma, who provided housing for visiting protesters and treated marchers at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Many of these sisters are now retired or working in various parts of the country. Independent filmmaker Jayasri Hart, who served as the film's director and producer, reunited them to show them previously unused news footage of themselves and the events of 1965.

The comments they made while watching the film serve as a large part of the film's narrative. Hart also found other Selma residents — Catholic and Protestant, white and black — to comment on the sisters' involvement.

"Sisters of Selma" is a co-production of Hartfilms and Alabama Public Television, produced in association with the Independent Television Service, with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign.

For broadcast times, viewers should check their local listings or visit the Alabama Public Television Web site, www.aptv.org/as/sisters/index.asp, for a broadcast schedule link.

The stage for the historic drama was set on "Bloody Sunday," March 7, 1965, when Alabama state troopers brutally attacked blacks with nightsticks, whips and tear gas to break up their intended 60-mile voting-rights march from Selma to the state Capitol in Montgomery.

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. asked church leaders across the nation to join blacks for a second march on March 10, in defiance of a federal judge's injunction and amid threats of violence. An interfaith delegation of about 50 from St. Louis, the largest out-of-state group to participate, was asked to lead the march.

One of the members of this group was Sister Mary Antona Ebo, an African-American and a member of the Sisters of St. Mary, now called the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. She led the march with five white nuns although police stopped them soon after they had begun.

Prior to setting out, Sister Ebo addressed the marchers who had gathered in Selma telling them that every citizen has a right to vote and that it was a privilege to march to support that right.

After a long career in health care, Sister Antona, now in her 80s, is pastoral associate at St. Nicholas Church in St. Louis. She was one of the founding members of the National Black Sisters Conference and served as its president.

Another founding member of the conference who also participated in the march was Sister Barbara Moore, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet. Sister Barbara was only 27 when she marched in 1965 with a group of religious leaders from Kansas City, Mo.

In her recollection of the march, she said she was "literally eyeball to eyeball with the state troopers. They were in full riot gear — billy clubs, helmets, everything — trying to keep us from progressing as we marched."

Hart, who produced the documentary, is a Hindu. She has been working on this project since 2000. Hart's interest in Catholic women stems from her experience with Blessed Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India.

She said it was amazing to meet the sisters who marched in Selma and hear their stories. She was also surprised to find out "how unwilling they are to take credit for what they do."

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation

OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM
(828)687-7714 or call for appointment
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Tour of duty

Courtesy Photo

Pictured are Student Ambassadors from the seventh- and eighth-grades at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, who were selected to serve as hosts and tour guides for prospective families visiting the school throughout the second trimester. An open house is scheduled for Feb. 8.

Eighth-graders Alex Dascoli and Alex Justice are student coordinators for the group and assist Principal Gary Gelo in organizing the tours.

Pictured: (back row, from left) Alex Justice, Alexander Holmes, Edgar Ruiz; (middle row, from left) Kelsey Bradford, Alex Dascoli, Abigail Armstrong, Alexander Valitutto, Brian Roche; (front row, from left) Marie Petrangeli, Reilly Callaghan, Jorge Cortes, Peter Ahnert and James Cardwell.

St. Luke Catholic Church -- Raleigh, NC

A parish of 650 families with well- established Faith Formation programs, seeks two dynamic individuals, soundly steeped in the Tradition of the Church, to fill two full-time positions; offering competitive salaries:

1) Director of Faith Formation
2) Director of Youth Ministry

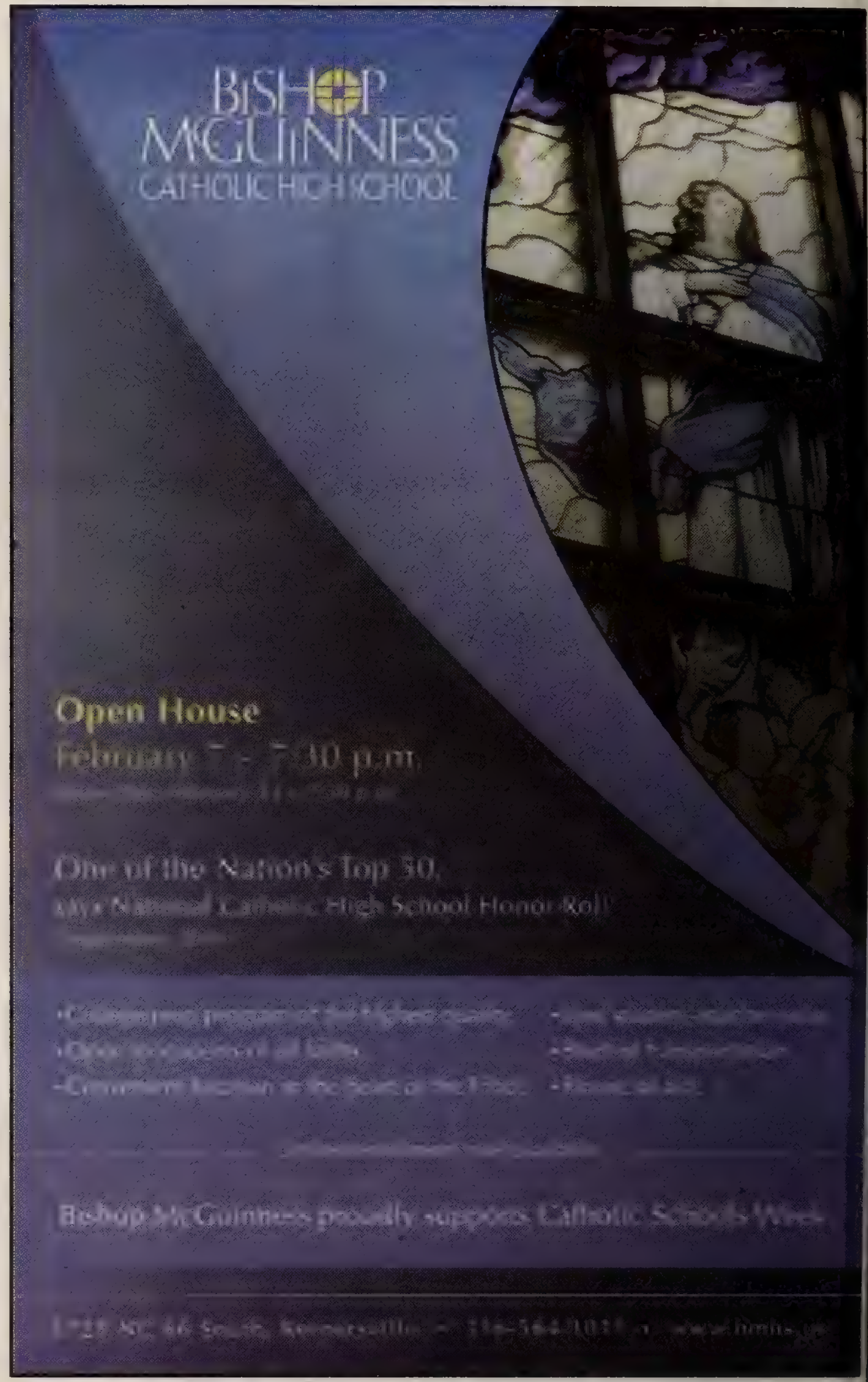
Please go to parish web site www.stlukeonline.com for application information.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, located in beautiful Winston-Salem, N.C., is searching for a youth minister to continue an established Life Teen program. We are seeking an enthusiastic, passionate, faith-filled individual, to direct young people toward a meaningful, life-affirming journey with Christ. If you are a Catholic with a college degree, have a strong spiritual, faith-based background, are passionate about working with youth, and have at least two years or more of practical experience as a youth minister, preferably in a Life Teen environment, please consider this opportunity.

St. Leo parish has an established Life Teen program centered on the Eucharist. The Life Teen Mass is held every Sunday at 5pm during the school year. We have a dedicated Core Team made up of singles and couples along with many committed parent volunteers. Most important, however, are the 150 (and growing) young people who participate in our Edge Nights (jr. youth), Life Nights (sr. youth), Coffee Houses, activities and retreats. In addition, our Family Life Center features a room dedicated to our youth, a Youth Minister's office, kitchenette and entertainment center. Check us out at www.foolishoftheworld.com.

The position's starting salary is competitive and negotiable depending on education and/or experience. We also offer an attractive benefit package. If interested, please contact Youth Minister Search Committee at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church,
335 Springdale Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27104. Phone: 336-724-9596. Fax: 336-724-7036. Email: youthminister@stleocatholic.com.



Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

Open House
February 7 - 7:30 p.m.

One of the Nation's Top 50,
says National Catholic High School Honor Roll

Bishop McGuinness proudly supports Catholic Schools Week.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

J.S. Paluch Co., established in 1913, the nation's oldest Catholic Publisher, is now interviewing for the position of Sales Representatives for parish church bulletins Realistic earnings potential of 40K+, health insurance, paid vacation, 401K. Some travel required. Self-motivation a must. Bilingual helpful in some areas. To arrange an interview call Les Black at 800-432-3240. Seniors welcome to apply. EOE

Classifieds

SERVICES

COUNSELING SERVICES: Individuals. Couples. Family. Lucille Moses, BSN, M.Ed., Licensed Professional Counselor. 1801 East 5th Street, 108-B, Charlotte. 704-366-6507 or 704-942-4334.

FOR RENT

VILLA: Isles of Palms, SC (Charleston area): 3 BD, 3BA. Resort community. Walk to beach, pool, golf, tennis. Tropical, upscale décor. Extended stay discounts available. 703-255-0572.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Cultural education grant awarded to St. Patrick School

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick School in Charlotte recently received a $3,200 grant to help bring culture to its students.

The Cultural Education in Schools Grant was awarded by the Arts and Science Council, a nonprofit organization in Mecklenburg County.

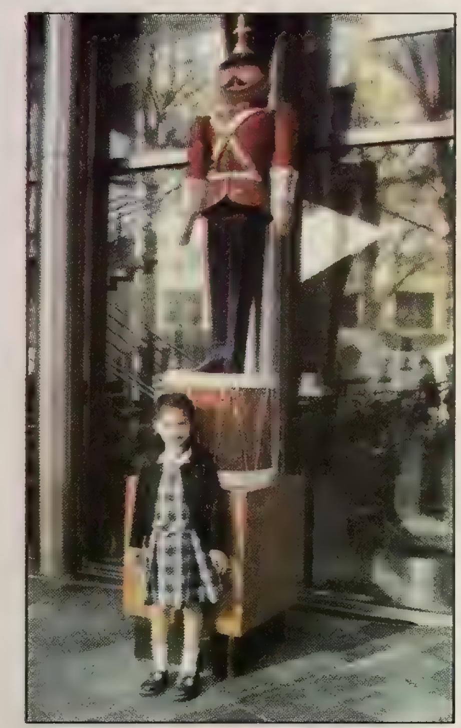
The grant program increases access to the arts, science and history in private and independent schools throughout the county. The grants are not intended to substitute a school's arts education program and funds cannot be used for permanent arts education personnel.

As a result of the grant, the school's cultural committee organized a trip for the kindergarten-through-fifth-grade students and faculty to an educational performance of "The Nutcracker" at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte Dec. 19.

The performance by the North Carolina Dance Theater was "spellbinding," according to Kathy Steiglitz, marketing chairperson for the school.

"The children watched in awe and wonder as the dancers skillfully performed" the journey to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets, and the dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Prince, said Steiglitz.

"For the children and faculty alike, it was a special treat and a marvelous way to usher in the Christmas season," she said.



Courtesy Photo

First-grader Madeline Quon of St. Patrick School in Charlotte stands with a Nutcracker statue outside the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in Charlotte, as part of a school trip to see "The Nutcracker" Dec. 19

Fruitful Samaritans

Courtesy Photo

Fifth-graders at St. Ann School in Charlotte are pictured Jan. 12 holding the fall crops they raised for Charlotte's Samaritan House through a grant from the Diocese of Charlotte and the MACS Education Foundation. Samaritan House is a nonprofit recuperative care place for homeless in need of short-term care following hospital or emergency room stays. By creating an outdoor garden and by supporting Samaritan House, students and faculty felt the project would serve as a meaningful science, social studies, religion and outreach project.

The students harvested the crops of cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and collard greens Jan. 12 and delivered them to Samaritan House. Fourth- and fifth-graders at St. Ann School will begin planting their next season of fruits and vegetables to give to Samaritan House in the spring.

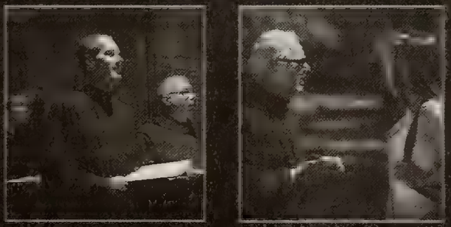
got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

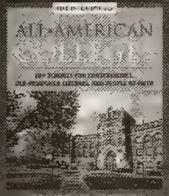
What are YOU seeking?



Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED



This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

A Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Marching for life all year long

Catholics can, must make a difference

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

As I write just days before the 34th annual March for Life, I'm hoping to participate in the Washington, D.C., demonstration with my 15-year-old son Joe. There we will protest against America's deadly assault upon unborn human life.

Having gone to about 20 of these marches, I have a good idea what to expect. Before the march actually begins, friends of the unborn will gather on a grassy area near the back of the White House. There we will hear prayers, spiritual music and numerous speeches.

On stage will be Catholic bishops and several other Christian and non-Christian religious leaders. Seated with them will be several members from both houses of Congress. They will condemn the horror of abortion and express their desire to end it. President Bush will speak to us via telephone hookup.

Then, after prayers, songs and speeches, more than 100,000 of us will walk from the White House to the Capitol.

I always try to work my way close to the front of the march because I want to see from the top of Capitol Hill the sea of caring people who have come from all parts of the nation. It's a real pro-life shot in the arm!

On the other hand, it's rather depressing. My goodness! We have been doing this for 34 years! And even should the U.S. Supreme Court overturn "Roe v. Wade" (not likely anytime soon), it would be left to each state to determine the status of abortion.

As it now stands, nearly every state would permit abortion under certain circumstances. Some would allow it to continue as it is now: abortion on demand.

Besides the deadly assault of abortion, the unborn now face added threats to their lives in the form of embryonic stem-cell research and cloning.

We still have a long road to march. But it could become much shorter if every Catholic took on the cause of the unborn.

March for Life founder Nellie Gray once told me, "If just Catholics alone stood up and demanded an end to abortion, it would end!"

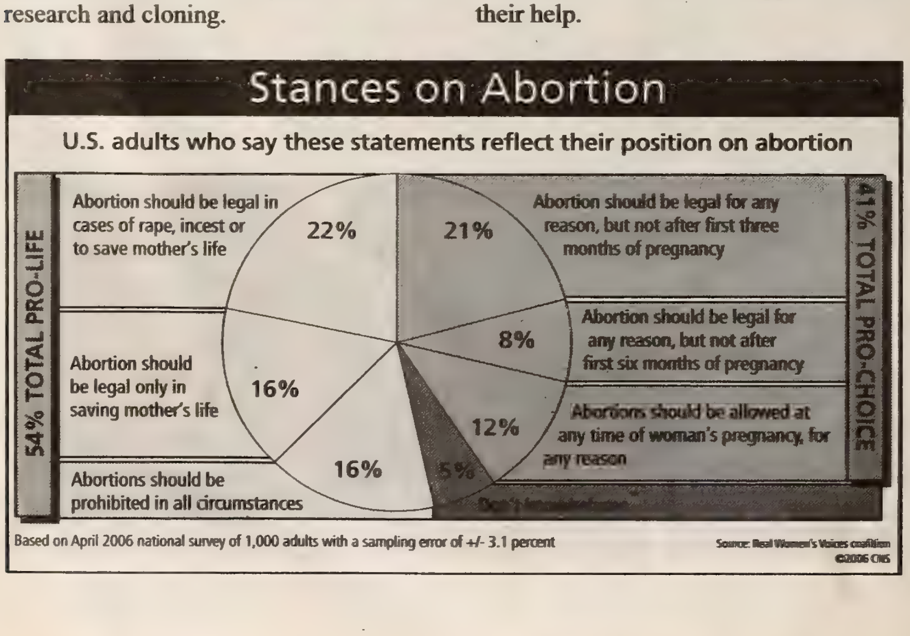
The annual March for Life in our nation's capital — and other state capitals — is much like caroling at nursing homes just before Christmas. It's very nice, but what about the rest of the year?

It is important not to let the anniversary of abortion's legalization in the U.S. pass by without strong objection, but it's even more important to learn, volunteer, teach, preach, organize, advertise, lobby, demonstrate and pray throughout the entire year!

For assistance, visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at www.usccb.org and click on "life issues."

There are certainly deeply committed persons laboring all year to protect our most vulnerable unborn brothers and sisters. And many of them also work to help women dealing with difficult pregnancies.

But those of us who are somewhat active can do better here. And the tens of millions of American Catholics who do almost nothing to end abortion can begin to realize that the silent holocaust of abortion will not be stopped without their help.



Stances on Abortion

U.S. adults who say these statements reflect their position on abortion

Based on April 2006 national survey of 1,000 adults with a sampling error of +/- 3.1 percent

Source: Real Women's Voices coalition
©2006 CNS

Letters to the Editor

Pelosi's Catholicism, agenda in question

Thank you for your work on The Catholic News & Herald. Our family enjoys the education and community news we receive through the paper. It is often a great supplement to our Catholic education.

Today I have become disturbed by the article about U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi ("Madame Speaker: Anticipating how Pelosi will run the House," Jan. 12). It could have been written by the Congresswoman's own public relations firm.

Only a few scant mentions of her positions and votes on abortion and embryonic stem-cell research are mentioned, and none on her positions and votes on marriage and the family. On crucial subjects, her record is treated with inane political quotes.

This lack of acknowledgment and gloss-over is confusing to our family to say the least. Even Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick's quotes leave those who believe in the teachings of Christ and Catholicism confused and disappointed.

I hope and pray that Pelosi will return to the teachings of Christ. In the past and at present, though, her agenda is transparently perverse.

As an agent of information for our church, I expect The Catholic News & Herald to be truthful and less tolerant of the new House speaker's present anti-church agenda.

— Charles Masterton and family
Huntersville

The article on Nancy Pelosi refers to her personal and political background with comments of support for her by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, who says he has found her to be "a very thoughtful and a committed defender of human rights."

Pelosi is an avowed supporter of abortion. She is in favor of partial birth abortion and campaigns for embryonic stem-cell research. This from a defender of human rights? Perhaps our church leaders need to be more careful about those they support.

— Don Mulligan
High Point

The "Madame Speaker" article was most informative and interesting, but it does leave open a question regarding Pelosi's status as a Catholic.

Many U.S. bishops have stated that Catholic candidates for public office who support legalized abortion are not welcome to receive Communion. As Pelosi supports abortion, same-sex marriage and embryonic stem-cell research, just what is the status of her Catholicism?

— Gloria White
Charlotte

Editor's note: This writer is an eighth-grader at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte.

Congratulations on your Jan. 12 article about Nancy Pelosi. I guess it is OK to ignore the Catholic Church teachings against abortion, embryonic stem-cell research, same-sex marriage and artificial birth control so long as you are high and mighty and rich and powerful.

— Jessica Demick
Charlotte

Catholicism in label only

I do not know if I am supposed to be proud of the 155 Catholic members in the Congress ("Catholics in Congress," Jan. 19). As I understand it, most of them operate outside the Catholic Church's teachings when it is politically convenient to them.

I remember listening to Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin a few years ago. While speaking to catechumens and candidates in Clemmons, Bishop Curlin said that we are not looking to increase our number in the Catholic Church, but the church is looking for people who will surrender themselves completely to Jesus Christ.

In this context I consider our congressmen and congresswomen who support abortion and embryonic stem-cell research — and thus oppose the Catholic Church — not to be part of the Body of Christ. They only don the Catholic label.

— Matthew Thekkekandam
Greensboro

Marching for life

What a wonderful and beautiful thing to stand or march for life.

For me, life means all phases of the life cycle — for the unborn as well as the born; for the suffering child who is mistreated, hungry and without love; for the prisoners who will have their lives snuffed out through our hands instead of being given a chance for repentance and forgiveness during a lifetime in prison; for the war dead in all situations among all nationalities — some innocent, some not — killed just the same. There is no justice in any of it.

Let us as a Catholic Church all embrace, stand and walk for all of life. Let us find causes for unacceptable un-Christ-like behaviors that we find in every society and work for resolutions — for ways of loving that Christ has asked of us. What can you do?

— Jane Sullivan
Greensboro

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The need for more success stories

Positive tales may affect human spirit, foster change

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

In a recent study conducted by LeMoyne College in Syracuse and Zogby International, it was heartening to hear that 71 percent of Catholics are between "very" and "somewhat" satisfied with the way bishops are leading the church, and 83 percent of these people feel that the pope is doing a good job.

Polls such as this give us some idea of the role of church leadership in our very complex new millennium.

As interesting and encouraging as it is to learn all this, I believe it is even more interesting and consoling to read success stories of everyday Catholics.

We live at a time when leadership, whether in our church or our country, is the center of the news.

But there is more to the leadership picture than we often state.

Although individuals in positions of authority wield enormous power and often are responsible for changing everyday life for the better, without second-layer people exercising their leadership, leadership at the top is often ineffective.

It is the second-layer leaders who are the bricks and mortar of the inspiration that propels life; we need to hear more about them.

As a social-science researcher, I know research can't survey everything. I also know that political figures are very interesting to study because they are exciting to the public and because they influence our lives immensely.

As true as this is, it would be equally good news if we were treated to more success stories that come from second-layer leaders. Recently Catholic News Service published an inspiring story that focused on this type of leadership.

A Catholic convert, who resided at a Catholic long-term care facility — Our Lady of Holy Cross Care Center in northwestern Indiana — wanted to become an active participant in giving care and not to remain just a care recipient. She therefore organized a pastoral-care team.

Members of the group serve as extraordinary ministers of Communion, readers, greeters and prayer leaders. With the permission of family and in the absence of a chaplain, they also make spiritual visits to other residents.

Residents at Holy Cross, a long-term care facility, may be there because of a stroke, crippling accident or head injury or a debilitating condition such as multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease.

If we examine this story closely, we learn that not only is someone's leadership being lauded, but the human spirit within it.

People in long-term care often can't do anything but receive care. But here we have a person who is thinking beyond her own needs, even though they may be grave. She reflects the inspiring spirit that life doesn't necessarily end when you are down and out.

If you dig deep enough into your spirit you will find that you have much more of it to share with others than you think.

I have to wonder what effect our evening news would have on the human spirit if we heard more success stories that reflect wholesome grass-roots achievements of second-level leadership.

What is the kingdom of God?

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. A priest visiting our parish during Advent spoke about the kingdom of God and said it is here and now present on earth. But in the Our Father we pray that the kingdom will come. What exactly is the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven? (Texas)

A. Yours is a good question, shared by many Catholics and other Christians. And it's an important one. The Gospels, Matthew in particular, speak of the kingdom as a basic reality of our faith, which frames and forms our relationship with God here and in eternity.

One source of confusion is that he kingdom of God, or of heaven, is a ather fluid term in the New Testament. esus never actually defines it. Rather, he alludes to it with a variety of images and stories that give us something of a multicolored description of what he means.

The kingdom of which Jesus speaks s, first of all, not a place. Nor is it a tatic, unchanging condition, something inally finished here or perhaps even in he future.

God's reign, his loving rule over ll creation, is active and full of life, constantly at work in everything he continually is creating.

Nor is this kingdom something new. God always has been Lord of the niverse and of our human family. From the beginning of his public life Jesus declares that the rule of God is now; we must reform our lives to recognize his reign, to re-establish the harmony of creation destroyed by sin.

In fact, as I said above, the core of Christ's Gospel ("good news") is that this God whose reign we honor is a gracious, loving, merciful and joyful Father who is revealed in the life and words of his Son, as in the great parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, and the prodigal son (Lk 15).

The heart of the kingdom-of-God theme, therefore, is this conviction that the infinite mystery surrounding us is an ongoing presence that allows Jesus to urge us to trust, not to be afraid. Whatever happens, we are sure of the Father's benevolent presence and power active in the world.

As the preface of the feast of the Kingship of Christ puts it, the kingdom he proclaims is one of justice, love and peace. All these are active, ongoing realities that, at least here, are never totally perfect, are always moving toward fuller realization.

Finally, the New Testament indicates often that this kingdom, this compassionate and magnanimous presence of God, is not something we merit or "build" by our own initiative and strength. It is his work, a pure gift to his people when they try to live as a faithful and loving community.

When we look at it this way, as part of the mystery of God's creating love, perhaps we can understand a bit better how the reign of God will always be here and yet always be in some way in the future, as long as his lavish creative generosity continues.

The spiritual value of this remarkable insight from Jesus is endless. The more we are aware of the power of this divine rule among us now and its continuance in eternity, the greater is our confidence that, in St. Paul's words, nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Pope notes difficult road toward Christian unity, also sees progress

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The search for Christian unity is a long and difficult journey because it is a process of repentance and humility, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At the same time, he said, over the past 40 years God has given Christians "broad spaces of joy, refreshing pauses, from time to time allowing us to breathe freely the pure air of full communion."

At his weekly general audience Jan. 24, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Pope Benedict offered a list of the ecumenical encounters he had in 2006 which he said provide proof of progress in the search for unity among Christ's disciples.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 24.

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes as its theme these words from St. Mark's Gospel: "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak" (cf. Mk 7:31-37).

As we recall the wonder felt by those who witnessed the healing of a deaf-mute by Jesus, we, too, marvel at the remarkable growth that has taken place in ecumenical relations during the last 40 years. The Lord has helped us to overcome our deafness, so that we can listen profoundly to one another, and he has restored our power of speech so that we can pray together and proclaim the truth with conviction.

In thanking God for the many ecumenical initiatives we have witnessed at every level of the church's life, I want to recall some particular events in which I have been personally involved during the past year.

I was pleased to receive visits from the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, as well as the World Baptist Alliance and representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In November I was able to spend time in prayer with the archbishop of Canterbury.

And in Turkey I had the opportunity of visiting the ecumenical patriarch, Bartholomew I, whom I greet once more, recalling our fraternal encounter with great joy.

Through the intercession of Our Lady and all the saints, may our work for Christian unity continue to progress, so that the Holy Spirit may make us truly one.

Our Lady of the Assumption Church home to multicultural parish

CHARLOTTE — On Aug. 15, 1948, Our Lady of the Assumption Church, originally known as the Assumption Missionary Cenacle, was founded as the third Catholic church in Charlotte, under the pastoral leadership of Trinitarian Father Michael Giblin.

The first Mass was celebrated in a private home with 19 people in attendance. That number more than doubled within a few months, and the parish purchased a two-story house that would serve as church, rectory and school.

The first kindergarten class was formed in 1949 with 15 students under the care of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity. Within the next 10 years, the parish's elementary school grew to nearly 200 students.

The parish grew steadily, and in September 1950 the diocese acquired the property of St. Paul Presbyterian Church on Independence Blvd. The first Mass in the church was celebrated March 11, 1951.

In 1953 a building fund program for a new church and school building was initiated. Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh dedicated the new facility, located on Shenandoah Avenue, June 3, 1954.

In August of 1958 the Trinitarian Fathers left Our Lady of the Assumption Church and diocesan priests assumed the pastorate of Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Over the following five decades, a number of priests have led the parish, among them Father Lawrence Tait, Father (now Msgr.) Joseph Kerin, Father Ron McLaughlin, Msgr. Lawrence Newman, Father Joseph Kelleher, Father John Hanic, Msgr. Thomas Burke, Jesuit Father Francis Gillespie and Father Philip Scarcella.

An 11-acre property on Shamrock Drive was purchased in 1961 for future construction of a new church and school. The first capital campaign was begun in 1976.

In the spring of 1978, the 10-year mortgage was burned in a celebration with Father Kerin, who consolidated the mortgages, and Father Kelleher, who paid off the debt.

A major renovation of the church took place in June 1982. The altar was moved forward and raised, and the organ and choir sections were relocated to the "pit" at the rear of the altar. The old confessionals were removed and a new reconciliation room was added adjacent to the sanctuary.

On the heels of the renovation project, a second capital campaign was started in 1982 to raise funds for a new church.

In August 1986, Father Hanic started the first RCIA program for the parish.

The first architectural model for the new church was presented to and approved by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue in 1988. A third and final capital campaign was initiated that same year.

On March 19, 1989, Bishop Donoghue officiated at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new church on Shamrock Drive. Bishop-Emeritus Michael J. Begley celebrated the last Mass on Shenandoah Avenue Feb. 3, 1990.

Bishop Donoghue celebrated the Mass of Dedication for the new church Feb. 4, 1990 with Father Hanic, then-pastor, concelebrating.

Under the leadership of Msgr. Burke the Our Lady of the Assumption Chapter of the Knights of Columbus Council 11102 was formed in April 1992.

In the summer of 1996, under the auspices of the Community Life Commission, the Connections Ministry to the Elderly, Ministry to the Hungry and Ministry to the Immigrants were formed.

The parish continued to grow spiritually with the introduction of the "Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius" in 1995-96, followed by the formation of Ignatian prayer groups in 1997.

On June 25, 2001 the mortgage on the church was paid off and the parish celebrated with a mortgage burning ceremony at the church.

Today, Our Lady of the Assumption Church boasts a thriving and diverse population, offering faith formation classes in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

A number of councils, commission and groups at Our Lady of the Assumption Church assume active roles in parish and community life, including the finance council; liturgy, education, family and parish life and evangelization commissions; and African American Affairs Ministry.

Photo by George Cobb

Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte has been home to a large multicultural Catholic population for nearly 60 years.

OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH
4207 Shamrock Dr.
Charlotte, N.C. 28215
(704) 535-9965

Vicariate: Charlotte
Pastor: Father Philip Scarcella
Permanent Deacons: Deacon Peter Duca; Deacon Stephen Horai Jr.; Deacon Kevin Williams
Number of Families: 650

Father Philip Scarcella

Last chance to save $100 before Feb. 2!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

Price: Early discount price $2,799 from Charlotte (after 2/2/07 $2,899) includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.
This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

FC282
C53c

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives
Barbara Gaddy reveals way to answer God's call; Father Pavone examines prenatal diagnostic tests
| PAGES 14-15

FEBUARY 2, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 16

DSA: A way to 'Answer the Call'

Diocesan Support Appeal helps fund 30 ministries, 50 programs in diocese

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Every day, everywhere, people answer.

They answer the phone, e-mails, the door. Teachers and students answer questions. Parents of toddlers answer endless requests for juice, snacks, attention.

This year, Bishop Peter J. Jugis is asking the people of the Diocese of Charlotte to answer another call: to give to the 2007 Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA).

"The DSA provides every Catholic … with an opportunity to answer God's call with 'Here I am. Send me,'" said Bishop Jugis in a February letter to parishioners announcing the 2007 DSA, themed "Answer the Call."

See DSA, page 9

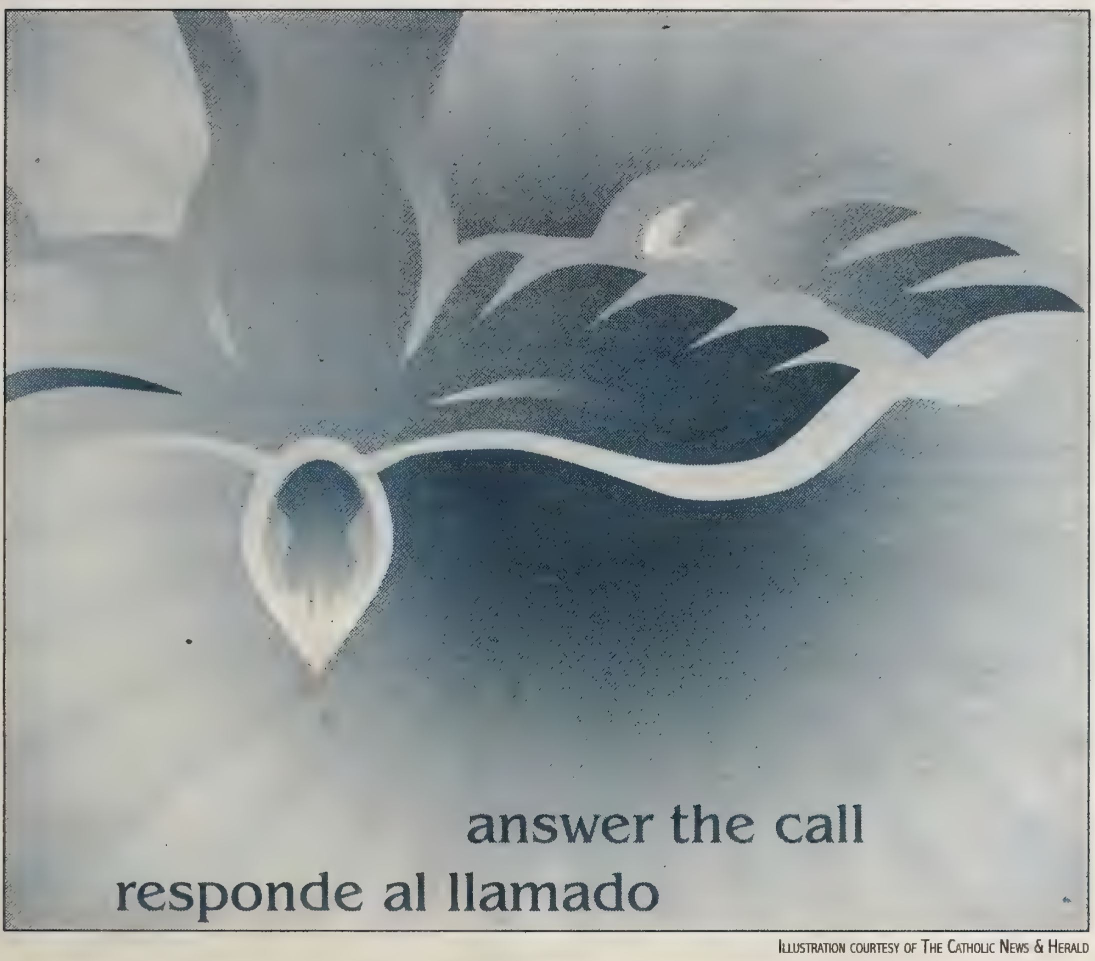


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Pictured is the poster for the 2007 Diocesan Support Appeal, themed "Answer the Call." The appeal runs Feb. 3-March 11.

RENEWing the faith

New programs reach out to college students, young adults

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Catholic young adults in the Diocese of Charlotte soon will have new ways to connect with one another while exploring their faith.

The diocesan offices of campus ministry and young adult ministry announced the launch of Campus RENEW and the expansion of Theology on Tap. Both programs are ministries of RENEW International.

RENEW International fosters spiritual renewal and evangelization through parish-based small Christian communities (SCC). RENEW's Why Catholic? program for adults was introduced to the diocese last year and is

See RENEW, page 7

Restructuring Mercy

Six regional Mercy communities to merge, form West Midwest community

BY LISA SCHULTE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

OMAHA, Neb. — Six regional communities of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas will be one next year — and it will all happen in Omaha.

See MERCY, page 6

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

David Hains, communications director, and Bishop Peter J. Jugis record the first podcast for the diocesan Web site at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte July 28, 2006.

Have podcast, will preach

Catholics embrace new Internet technology

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Thanks to the latest in communications technologies, the Catholic Church is finding new ways to reach and teach the faithful.

In August 2006, the Diocese of Charlotte debuted "docPod," one of several Catholic podcasts across the country that have made an impact on how the church spreads the Word of God.

A podcast is a computer file distributed over the Internet for playback on mobile devices and personal computers. Like radio, "podcast" can mean both the content and the method of distribution.

Podcasters' Web sites may also offer direct download or streaming of their content. A podcast is different from other digital audio formats because subscribers receive the

See PODCAST, page 5

#BXNPDVQ*************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
5-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#* **Overcoming obstacles**
'WOW moments,' sharing faith at St. Pius X Church
| PAGE 4

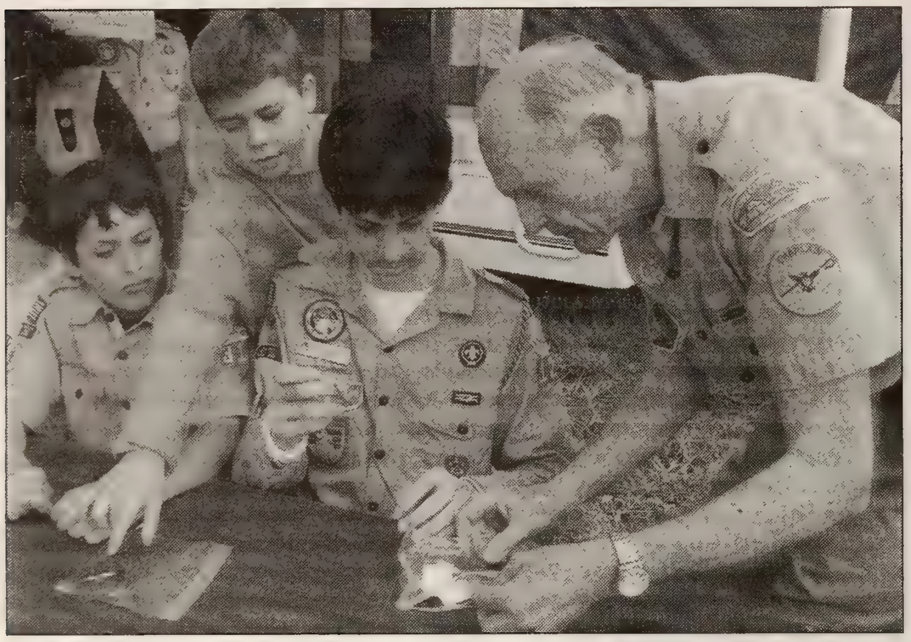
Culture Watch
Pope peruses St. Luke's Gospel; Swiss Guard stickers
| PAGES 10-11

Around the Diocese
Confirmation retreat; kids collect coats
| PAGES 12-13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SCOUTING THE FUTURE



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOYT

Msgr. John Brady, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, helps Boy Scouts make rosaries to be sent to soldiers in Iraq during a retreat for Scouts in the Washington area in 2006. Participating in Boy Scouts is a great way for youths to meet people in all walks of life and help them discern their own vocations, says Msgr. Brady, a 65-year veteran of Scouting.

Priest says Scouting helps youths discern vocations

IRVING, Texas (CNS) — Participating in Boy Scouts is a great way for youths to meet people in all walks of life and help them discern their own vocations, says Msgr. John Brady, a 65-year veteran of Scouting.

Msgr. Brady said jamborees — nine-day national or international gatherings of Scouts and their leaders — provide opportunities for vocational discernment "not equaled in any other environment."

"At each of the seven jamborees on which I have been privileged to serve on staff, I have had the opportunity to help about 1,000 Scouts discern their life's calling," he said. "Other jamboree staffers, such as doctors, surgeons, optometrists, engineers, pilots, military personnel and the like, have shared their professions and experiences with Scouts who consult them."

The "excitement, enlightenment, reverence and camaraderie" of a jamboree combine to increase youths' openness to thinking about what direction their life should take, he said.

Msgr. Brady recently received the National Catholic Committee on Scouting's 2006 Silver St. George award, given to Catholic Scouting leaders for "especially significant" accomplishments and service at the national level.

A priest of the Washington Archdiocese, Msgr. Brady, 77, was archdiocesan chaplain for Boy Scouting, Girl Scouting and Camp Fire Boys and Girls from 1960 to 1984. He is a longtime member of the national committee's advisory board and is currently an acting Scouting chaplain.

There are currently some 9,500 Boy Scout units chartered by Catholic institutions in the United States, serving more than 305,000 Scouts.

During a jamboree in 1950, Msgr. Brady said a priest helped him "discern that God was calling me to be a Catholic priest rather than a Signal Corps Army officer, a patent attorney or a professional Scouter."

He cited Scouting as a "powerful program" to help meet the goals that the U.S. bishops set out in their 1997 document on Catholic youth ministry, "Renewing the Vision."

"The goals," he said, "are these: to empower the young to live as Christ in our world; to draw them to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the faith community; and to foster the personal and spiritual growth of each young person."

He added that Scouting is especially effective in fostering all-around personal and spiritual growth.

"Taken together, the Scout oath and (Scout) law — beginning with 'duty to God' and ending with 'a Scout is reverent,' two bookends for the entire Scouting program — comprises one of the world's best tools to challenge young people to live by the highest standards that God expects of the human beings he places on this earth," Msgr. Brady said.

WANT MORE INFO?

National Boy Scout Week runs Feb. 4-Feb. 10. For information on Scouting in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Deacon James Johnson, diocesan chaplain on Scouting, at e-mail dj4j@charter.net.

Religious leaders seek more vigorous U.S. role in Mideast peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Jan. 29, a delegation of U.S. Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders said they think the United States should take a more vigorous leadership role in promoting a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, said the group met with Rice "to reiterate our strong commitment to a two-state solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" and to discuss "the urgent need for United States leadership to restart and successfully conclude negotiations for a lasting and just peace between Israel and the Palestinian people."

Afterward, outside the Department of State, Cardinal McCarrick said the meeting was "substantive and excellent. But the real measure of the success of our meeting can only be taken in the coming weeks and months as actions and events unfold."

The religious leaders belong to the National Interreligious Leadership Initiative for Peace in the Middle East, a coalition of 35 leaders of national religious bodies or organizations that was formed in 2003 to press for a more constructive and comprehensive U.S. approach to Arab-Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Cardinal McCarrick said the delegation emphasized two points.

"First, as Americans, we ask for bold, persistent U.S. leadership for peace in the Middle East, leadership that supports and challenges both Israelis and Palestinians," he said, adding that this means ongoing, active high-level U.S. engagement "that holds both sides accountable in a step-by-step peace process."

"Second, as religious of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions, we committed ourselves to continuing to say tough things to our communities here and in the (Middle East) region to build up public support for peace," he said. "We know that these are difficult but necessary steps on the road to a two-state solution."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage, meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for Feb. 17 will be "Euthanasia vs. a Civilization of Life and Love." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Hero for Life Award* is a $2,000 pro-life scholarship sponsored by Charlotte Right to Life recognizing pro-life service and leadership for teenagers ages 14-18. Visit www.charlottelife.org for applications and information. Applications are due Feb. 19. Contact Jason Beckert at (704) 341-5084 or jmbeckert@carolina.rr.com for questions or more information.

HUNTERSVILLE — A free *"Lunch and Learn"* program for seniors will be held at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Feb. 14, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nancy Ennis, a certified diabetes educator from Presbyterian Hospital, will share information about diabetes and answer questions. Blood glucose screenings will be offered by registered nurses prior to the lunch and educational program. Reservations are required to join us for lunch. For more information, call Nancy Bunton at (704) 394-5521. Registration deadline is Feb. 7.

CHARLOTTE — Janice Olive, with Hospice at Charlotte, will present *"Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow"* Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry building of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The goal of grief is not to forget, but to be able to remember the good and the bad times with less pain. We become reconciled to grief in the years that follow a loss, learning to live a very different life. The one-year mark is not a magic number, but there is hope that it gets better. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays through Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to become reacquainted with the basics of their religion and to get answers to any questions that they may have. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Volunteers are needed for a *"40 Days for Life"* Lenten prayer vigil. The vigil will take place outside of the Family Reproductive Health facility at 700 E. Hebron St. A rally will kick off the vigil on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 8:30 a.m. at the facility. The vigil ends at 3 p.m., Palm Sunday, April 1. Sign up by contacting Andrea Hines at HinesAL@aol.com. Specify your preferred dates and times, and include alternatives.

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope John Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on Sex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays through Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Babysitting will be provided. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 548-3356.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

FEBRUARY 2, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 16

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope again decries rupture between faith and reason

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Returning to one of his favorite themes, Pope Benedict XVI said the rupture between faith and reason has produced a type of "schizophrenia" in modern culture.

The pope made the remarks at a noon blessing Jan. 28, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the philosopher and theologian known for articulating a harmonious vision of faith and reason more than 700 years ago.

Today, the pope said, the faith-reason relationship looms as a serious challenge for the dominant Western culture.

While the achievements of the modern sciences are undeniable, he said, this progress has been accompanied by a tendency to consider as true only that which can be experimentally proven.

This represents a limit on human reason and "produces a terrible schizophrenia, now clearly recognized, in which rationalism and materialism live together, as do hyper-technology and unbridled instinct," he said.

The pope said humanity urgently needs to rediscover the Christian vision of a rationality that is open to the divine, and in particular to the "perfect revelation" that is Jesus Christ.

"When Christian faith is authentic it does not mortify human freedom and reason; therefore, why should faith and reason be afraid of each other, if they can express themselves better by meeting and engaging in dialogue?" he said.

The pope noted that this was an important theme of his speech last September in Regensburg, Germany. That talk, however, drew the most attention because of statements about Islam and that religion's relationship with reason.

The pope did not mention Islam in his brief talk to pilgrims, but he underlined a point he made at Regensburg: that the Christian synthesis between faith and reason should be a precious resource for Western civilization as it seeks to dialogue with other cultures and religions of the world.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a free screening of *"Kilowatt Ours"* Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The documentary film addresses the topics of our responsibilities to God's creation and the reversal of climate change. For more information on the film, visit www.kilowattours.org. For directions to the church, and for other information, e-mail Dennis Teall-Fleming at teallfleming@yahoo.com or call (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, and wives of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet on Feb.12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336)785-0693.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church , 4145 Johnson St., will begin the 2007 series of our *Hope of Seeing Everyone Again* (HOSEA) program. It is a program to invite Catholics who have distanced themselves from the Catholic Church, for whatever reason, to return. This small group will begin Feb. 7, 7-9 p.m. and will meet weekly for six weeks to get a sense of the modern-day church, to discuss various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4, beginning Feb. 6. The group will discuss the Gospel of Luke. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — All engaged and married couples are invited to attend a four-part course on *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. Learn how and why to live out the church's teaching on marital love, and discover an effective, healthy and moral alternative to artificial birth control. Classes will be held in the library of Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 West Market St., beginning Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. To register, please contact Scott and Carri Richter at (336) 621-1071.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults will be held this fall in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Tony O'Meara will speak about "Signs along the Journey of Faith" Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you want to follow the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with the Couple to Couple League beginning Feb. 18 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., 1:30-3:30 p.m. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching, and the method is healthy and effective. Please call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information about classes or NFP-knowledgeable physicians.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 9 – 1:30 p.m.
Meeting with Cursillo leadership
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 18 – 11:00 a.m.
Diaconate ordination of Tri Vinh Truong
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

Feb. 27 – 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 28 – 7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Vatican secretary of state defends Pope Pius XII's wartime actions

ROME (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, strongly defended Pope Pius XII's wartime actions and said he had coordinated church efforts that saved the lives of many Jews.

Cardinal Bertone spoke Jan. 24 at the presentation of the Italian translation of the book "The Righteous: The Unsung Heroes of the Holocaust," by Martin Gilbert.

The cardinal said the book illustrated how people of many faiths, including Christians and Muslims, had risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution and death in concentration camps.

He said the Catholic Church as an institution played a part in this effort, working under Pope Pius and following his directives. The church aided all during World War II, but specifically sought to defend and save persecuted Jews, he said.

"They were to be helped in any way possible. This is the premise on which every action of the pope and his aides was founded, as is demonstrated by the existing documentation," Cardinal Bertone said.

"The story of Catholic 'righteous' therefore is entwined with the action of Pius XII," he said. It is a story of understanding, dialogue and appreciation among Jews for the actions of the church and the pope, he said.

"But above all it is a story that removes any justification for the recurring accusations of papal 'collaboration' and Catholic anti-Semitism," he said.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig, the Rome representative of the American Jewish Committee, also spoke at the book presentation. She said there was no question that the Vatican had helped save the lives of Jews, sometimes hiding them inside the Vatican itself.

She noted Pope Pius' strongly worded Christmas appeal in 1942 on behalf of those persecuted by the Nazi regime on the basis of nationality or race.

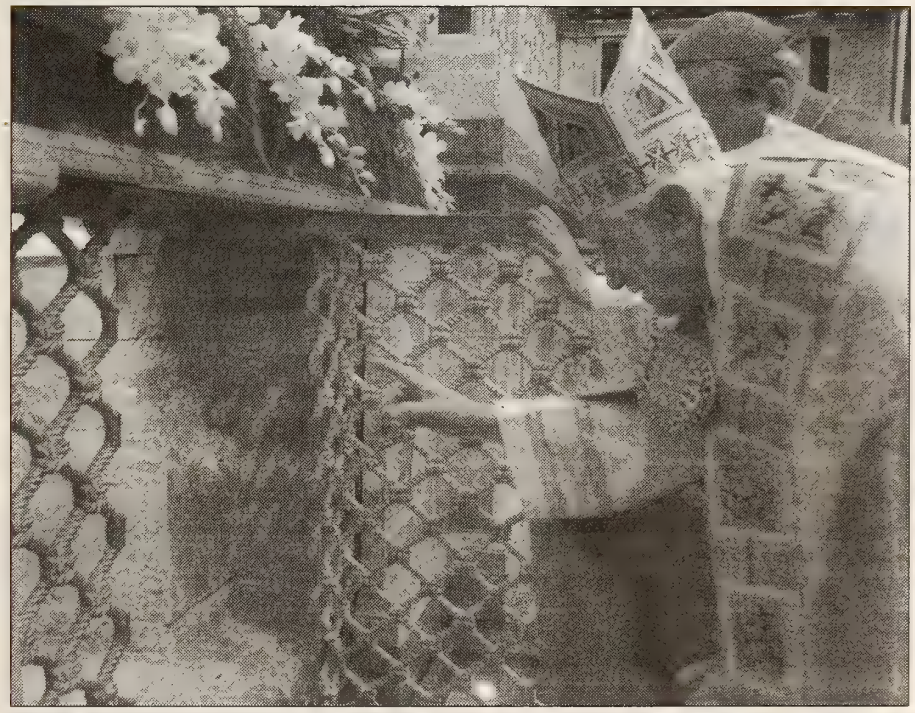
Scholars are divided about why the pope did not make similar appeals later in the war; several Catholic experts have said the pope had legitimate fear of Nazi retribution against the church and the Jews.

Palmieri-Billig said the question may not be settled until secret archive material from that period is made available to scholars.

She said the strategic choices made by Pope Pius were once explained to her in this way by Jesuit Father Pierre Blet, a historian of the wartime period: The Vatican tried to help save as many lives as possible, including Jewish lives, but the first priority of Vatican diplomacy was to help the Allies win the war.

At that time, the fate of Jews did not exist as a separate question, Father Blet told her.

A tomb uncovered



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI looks into the crypt area of what church officials have identified as the tomb of St. Paul in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Jan. 25. The pope celebrated an ecumenical prayer service in the basilica with representatives of Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches.

NOTICE TO READERS

DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER ON THURSDAY, FEB. 1, THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD WAS PRINTED A DAY LATE. AS SUCH, NEWSPAPERS MAY ARRIVE LATER THAN USUAL. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY.

Discovering 'WOW moments'

Program at parish assists women with overcoming life's obstacles

GREENSBORO — Women in the Greensboro area are taking advantage of Wisdom of Women (WOW), a series of monthly workshops offered at St. Pius X Church.

The program, designed to help women discover ways to overcome obstacles, is sponsored by the church and facilitated by Lucy Wellmaker, a parishioner and "life coach."

Life coaching is a practice of assisting people to set and achieve personal goals. A life coach may use a variety of methods to help clients set and reach goals.

The aptly-named Wellmaker holds a master's degree in counseling from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is a graduate of the Institute of Life Coach Training.

Michele Greco has been attending the workshops since September 2006.

"I have come to experience what Lucy refers to as 'WOW moments' — discovering wisdom that has been revealed to me through reflection and exploration of the topics presented in the workshop," said Greco.

Each session focuses on a topic and includes discussions on challenges and solutions each participant experiences in her life.

"We are treated to weekly messages that reinforce the action plans we take away from our sessions," said Greco.

"I truly feel that connecting to these WOW moments is leading me toward finding the way to live my life as God intended," she said.

WANT MORE INFO?

Wisdom of Women workshops are held the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m., in the parish center. For more information, contact Lucy Wellmaker at (336) 632-1940 or e-mail coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

COURTESY PHOTO

Women participate in a session of Wisdom of Women in the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Jan. 10. The monthly program is designed to help women discover ways to overcome obstacles in their lives.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with NO BUY-IN FEES
- And, optional in-home health care services

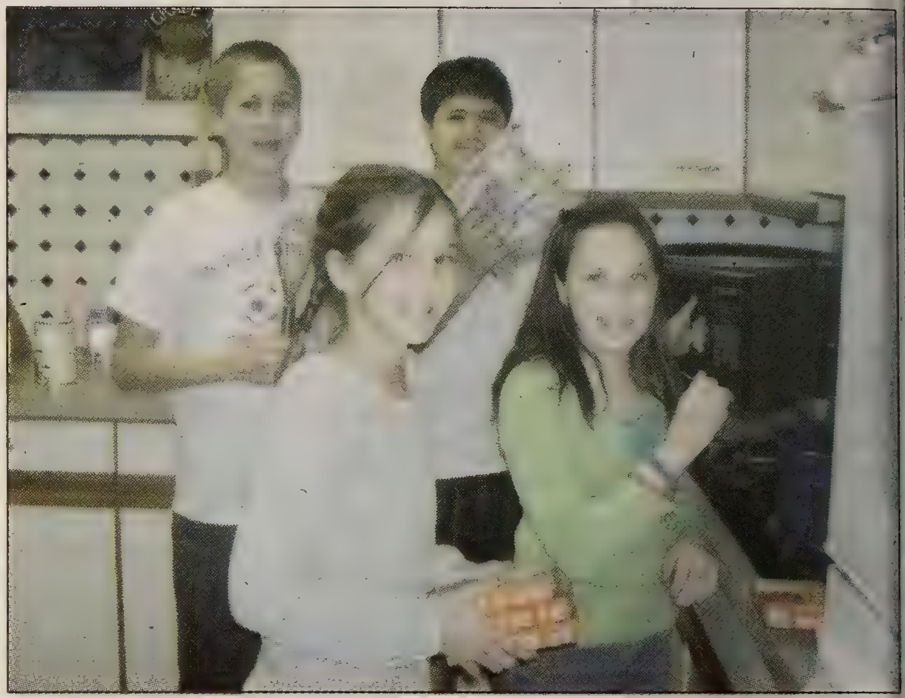
For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

A network of faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Student council members from St. Pius X School in Greensboro prepare dinner in St. Pius X Church's parish hall Jan. 11 for families receiving assistance through the Guilford Interfaith Hospitality Network. The network is a group of congregations in Guilford County that work together to provide temporary housing and hospitality to homeless families in the community.

The families stayed in the homes of parishioners that week, with different parish and school groups — including the Knights of Columbus and Boy Scouts — volunteering to prepare meals each night. The families will return to St. Pius X Church in April for another week.

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation

OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM
(828)687-7714 **or call for appointment**
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097 rockhilloratory.com

27th Cardinal Newman Lecture

9:30 am – 4 pm — Saturday, February 24

Sr. Maria Riley, O.P.

A long-time member of the Center for Concern staff, Dr. Riley has been a witness for justice in prophetic areas of global economics, labor and women's rights.

The Newman Lecture is an annual gift to the regional church to celebrate the life and ministry of Cardinal John Henry Newman. The schedule includes noon Eucharist and a chamber music concert.

It is open to the all without charge or pre-registration.

For more information, please contact **The Oratory: Center for Spirituality,**
PO Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.

Catholics embrace podcasting to evangelize

PODCAST, *from page 1*

content automatically.

DocPod, which gets its name from Diocese of Charlotte podcast, was developed and is hosted by David Hains, communications director for the diocese.

Hains was intrigued by the idea of podcasting after writing a column on the iPod given to Pope Benedict XVI by Vatican Radio in March 2006.

"Even though I already owned an iPod, I wasn't aware of its capabilities until I started reading about and then listening to podcasts," said Hains. "Before long, I was hooked on this new form of communication."

One of the benefits of podcasting is that the listener can download the file and listen to it at his or her leisure — at home, driving or while taking a walk. Another benefit is that, unlike conventional radio, the podcast can be received wherever there's an Internet connection.

Podcasting also is relatively inexpensive to start. Anyone with a computer and an Internet connection can talk into the microphone on the computer, make it an MP3 file and place it on a hosting Web site.

For a high broadcast quality, the Diocese of Charlotte invested in the necessary equipment and Hains records the podcasts in his office. They are made available for download from the diocesan Web site.

Once on the Web, podcasts can be downloaded to iPods or MP3 players around the world.

Since August, the bi-weekly docPod podcast, which features news, music, Scripture and interviews, has been well-received both within and beyond the Diocese of Charlotte, said Hains.

"I have received feedback from as far away as Connecticut, Wisconsin and California," he said. "Listeners say it gives them an idea of what the diocese is like."

Other popular aspects of docPod have been interviews with Bishop Peter J. Jugis and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte.

DocPod averages about 110 subscribers per show, but Hains expects that number to grow by 25 percent this year. Since August, the podcast has seen 2,300 downloads.

"The original plan was to run the program for six months, then review the data," said Hains. "But after reviewing the numbers, we've decided to continue the program for at least another year."

Bishop Jugis isn't the only Catholic leader taking advantage of podcasting.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, believed to be the first U.S. cardinal to have his own Web log, or blog, is apparently the first U.S. cardinal to have his own podcast.

During the holidays, Boston Catholic Television, the Archdiocese of Boston's video arm, made available downloadable Christmas video messages from Cardinal O'Malley, with regular podcast recordings to start this year.

Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit tapes two installments a month of the "Dialogue" talk show for the Catholic Television Network of Detroit, the archdiocesan cable TV channel.

"We put them in a podcast, along with several other things," said Ned McGrath, communications director.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles records his Sunday homilies for podcasting. The archdiocese is looking at other podcasting opportunities, but first "we want to see how many hits we get" from the homily podcasts, said Tom Tamberg, spokesman.

"We don't want to do podcasting for podcasting's sake," he added, but "we owe it to the church to explore this communications area."

And it is not just dioceses that are doing the exploring.

Father Stanislao Esposito, associate pastor of Holy Cross Church in Dover, Del., produced his first podcast from his rectory bedroom in November 2005.

Since then, almost all of the approximately 50 episodes of his podcast, "The Daily Walk Heavenwards," include Gospel readings, short reflections, prayers, items of current interest, music and often answers to listeners' questions.

Dr. Paul Camarata, a neurosurgeon who practices in Kansas City, Mo., is the creator of SaintCast, a weekly podcast about saints. SaintCast has gained fans across the United States and as far away as Japan, New Zealand and Ecuador. Camarata estimates that the SaintCasts have been downloaded 70,000 times in the past five months.

Camarata has done more than 30 podcasts from his "studio" — a closet in his home where the hanging clothes help dampen outside sounds. In his SaintCasts, Camarata has interviews, music, narration, quizzes, "sound-seeing tours," book reviews, movie dialogue clips and listener feedback.

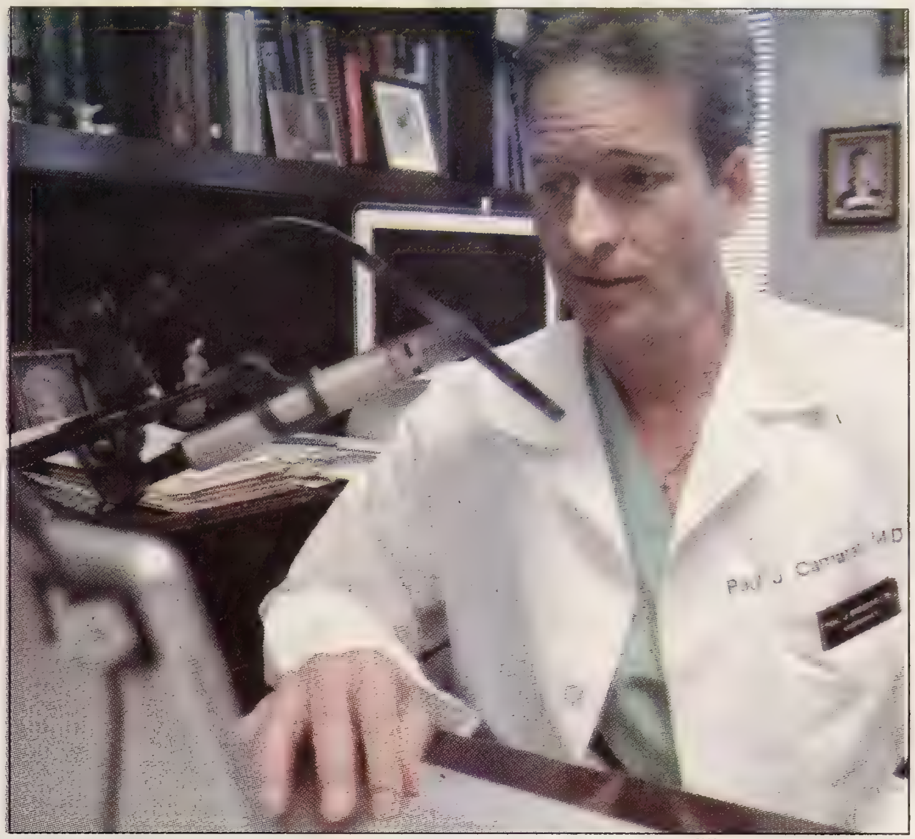
"Using the Internet for podcasting, blogging and information distribution seems to be the future of communication," said Hains.

"We're part of an ancient church with traditions that stretch back over centuries. These new technologies represent new ways for us to deliver an old, but still vibrant, message," he said.

Contributing to this article was Mark Pattison, Gary Morton and Joe Bollig.

WANT MORE INFO?

To download docPod, visit www.charlottediocese.org.



CNS PHOTO BY JOE BOLLIG, THE LEAVEN

Dr. Paul Camarata is the creator of SaintCast, a popular Catholic podcast on the Internet. The neurosurgeon and Catholic parishioner said he draws on his skills as a former broadcaster for the weekly program.

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

[illegible]
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Early booking fares for choice of cabin categories are guaranteed until March 16th so call today for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

docPod
It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
Bishop Jugis goes to Washington.
Subscribe today — It's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org

Six regional Mercy communities to merge

MERCY, *from page 1*

As of July 1, 2008, the Sisters of Mercy will form one West Midwest community, which will include nearly 900 sisters and more than 500 Mercy associates and Companions in Mercy.

The administrative offices will be at the Mercy sisters' Omaha headquarters.

While Omaha has been selected as the primary administrative site, sisters in the six regional communities will continue their ministries in their respective geographical areas.

This decision follows the selection of Belmont, N.C., as the location of the new South Central administrative offices, reported in The Catholic News & Herald in November 2006.

The Belmont headquarters was to become the home to the former regional communities and regions of Baltimore, Cincinnati, Guam, Jamaica, North Carolina and St. Louis.

The group includes more than 800 Mercy sisters and 600 Mercy associates and Companions in Mercy.

Decisions about the governing structure and where other functions of the new Omaha community are to be located will be made in the months ahead.

Mercy Sister Norita Cooney, vice president of the Omaha regional community, said the administrative sites of the six regional communities were visited and reviewed as possible sites for their administrative headquarters, but Omaha was chosen because of its central location.

"We looked at Denver, but we didn't have any office there and so that would have cost more money," she said. "It was a hard decision because everybody wanted it in their place, but I think it makes a lot of sense (to locate in Omaha)."

Mercy Sister Kathy Thornton, who chairs the West Midwest coordinating committee and lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, said the selection of Omaha is a good idea.

"I think the city of Omaha, even though it's not a huge city, still offers some advantages. The cost of living is reasonable in comparison to some other places that we might have chosen," she said. "It will be the center for our administrative offices, but it's not the only place where sisters will be living."

Currently the Mercy sisters have administrative centers in Auburn and Burlingame, Calif., Cedar Rapids, Chicago, Detroit and Omaha.

The restructuring is part of the ongoing strategic plan for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas to move from 25 regional communities to six communities.

"The reorganization will promote the sisters' abilities to be responsible stewards of their ministries, resources, talents and energy," said Mercy Sister Patricia Forret, president of the Omaha regional community.

Currently there are six governing structures in the West Midwest, and only one is needed to support the sisters' lives and ministries, including education, health care, housing, pastoral and social services, and advocacy.

Sister Cooney said the decreasing number of religious sisters in the United States, as well as the declining number of people entering the convent, prompted the Sisters of Mercy to decide now was the appropriate time to consolidate their funds and resources so they can better care for their aging sisters and free up more sisters from leadership roles so they can be in ministry.

The change also could provide the opportunity to raise more awareness of the Sisters of Mercy and their way of life, as well as a way they recruit people into the community, Sister Cooney said.

> "The reorganization will promote the sisters' abilities to be responsible stewards of their ministries, resources, talents and energy."
>
> — Mercy Sister Patricia Forret

"We're going to use this as an opportunity to do everything we can to really revitalize our community and our mission and try and articulate more clearly what it is our life is about, why it's so meaningful and how we strive to respond to needs in the world today," she said.

The change will have the sisters looking for ways to consolidate and to standardize their policies for changing jobs or moving from one community to another.

"I think it's a positive direction for religious life. For the Sisters of Mercy, each one of us is looking for ways to enhance our ability to do ministry," Sister Thornton said.

"I think what we're doing is important for the future of religious life, to give us the time and structures to move into whatever this new reality of religious life will be," she said.

For years, the Sisters of Mercy were joined together as the Union of the Sisters of Mercy, which included a number of communities and many independent orders of Mercy sisters.

But in 1991, the 25 regional communities of the Sisters of Mercy in the United States and Central and South America came together to form the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, an international community of women religious vowed to serve people who suffer from poverty, sickness and lack of education with special concern for women and children.

The group elected one leadership team for the institute. In March, the sisters elect new leadership.

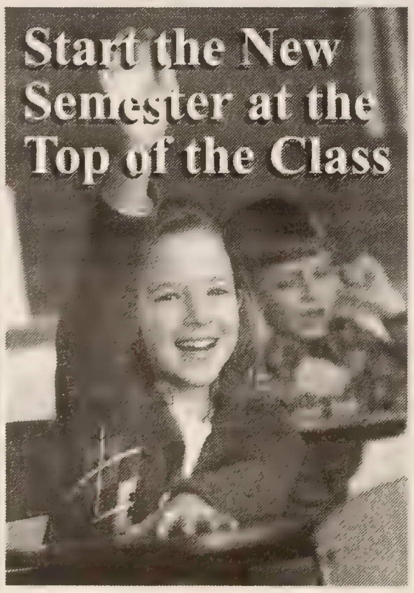
One representative from each of the six communities will form the leadership team for the West Midwest regional community. Those elected will start July 1, 2008.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Sisters of Mercy in North Carolina, visit www.mercync.org.

Knit-to-Pray
(570) 604-3620
www.TrinityShawls.com
Suzanne@TrinityShawls.com

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus


Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class
Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student
South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
The Academic Edge™

Catholic Family EXPO
Belmont Abbey College
April 13 - 15, 2007
"Formation for Vocations"
Be transformed to fully embrace your vocation
Learn how to prepare your children for God's call

Dr. Ray Guarendi

Fr. Frank Pavone

Dr. William Theirfelder

Gail Buckley

Early Registration Discount Available
Register Today!
www.catholicfamilyexpo.org
Or call 704-455-7233

New programs reach out to college students, young adults

RENEW, *from page 1*

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart Sister Eileen Spanier, director of diocesan young adult ministry, speaks to young adult Catholics at a Theology on Tap gathering in Charlotte in April 2006.

currently being offered in 39 parishes and 5 missions.

The diocesan campus ministry office has adopted Campus RENEW, a four-semester process that ministers to Catholic college students through the development of small Christian communities and focuses on students' needs for community, spirituality and service.

According to Campus RENEW's Web site, small Christian communities enable students to "hear the Word of God, to talk about it, to share about it, and examine how it applies to our daily life among our peers."

About 70 campus ministers and student leaders gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Jan. 27 for an introduction to the program.

According to Gloria Schweizer, campus minister at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, Campus RENEW student leaders will work to create small communities of Catholics from existing larger groups.

For instance, Catholic members of sports teams will have an SCC, as will the members of a fraternity or sorority, each residence hall, and so forth.

Each community will be made up of several students and a student leader. This size helps to build a level of trust between the members, Schweizer said.

Campus ministry and young adult ministry are two of the ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte supported by your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

"Campus RENEW is a great Catholic evangelization tool," said Schweizer. "It allows Catholic students to help other Catholic students increase and explore their faith."

For the past several years, adults in Charlotte and Greensboro have gathered at local restaurants for Theology on Tap.

Theology on Tap, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s, is an opportunity to explore Catholicism and issues and challenges faced by Catholic adults. Events usually feature a guest speaker who presents a topics and answers questions.

Discussion topics have included Pope John Paul II's teaching on the theology of the body, workplace ethics and social justice.

Established by the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1981, Theology on Tap is now being operated by RENEW International.

Approximately 20 young adults from around the diocese gathered at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro Jan. 28 for an introduction to the revised program. Leaders will meet again in the spring before the program is launched.

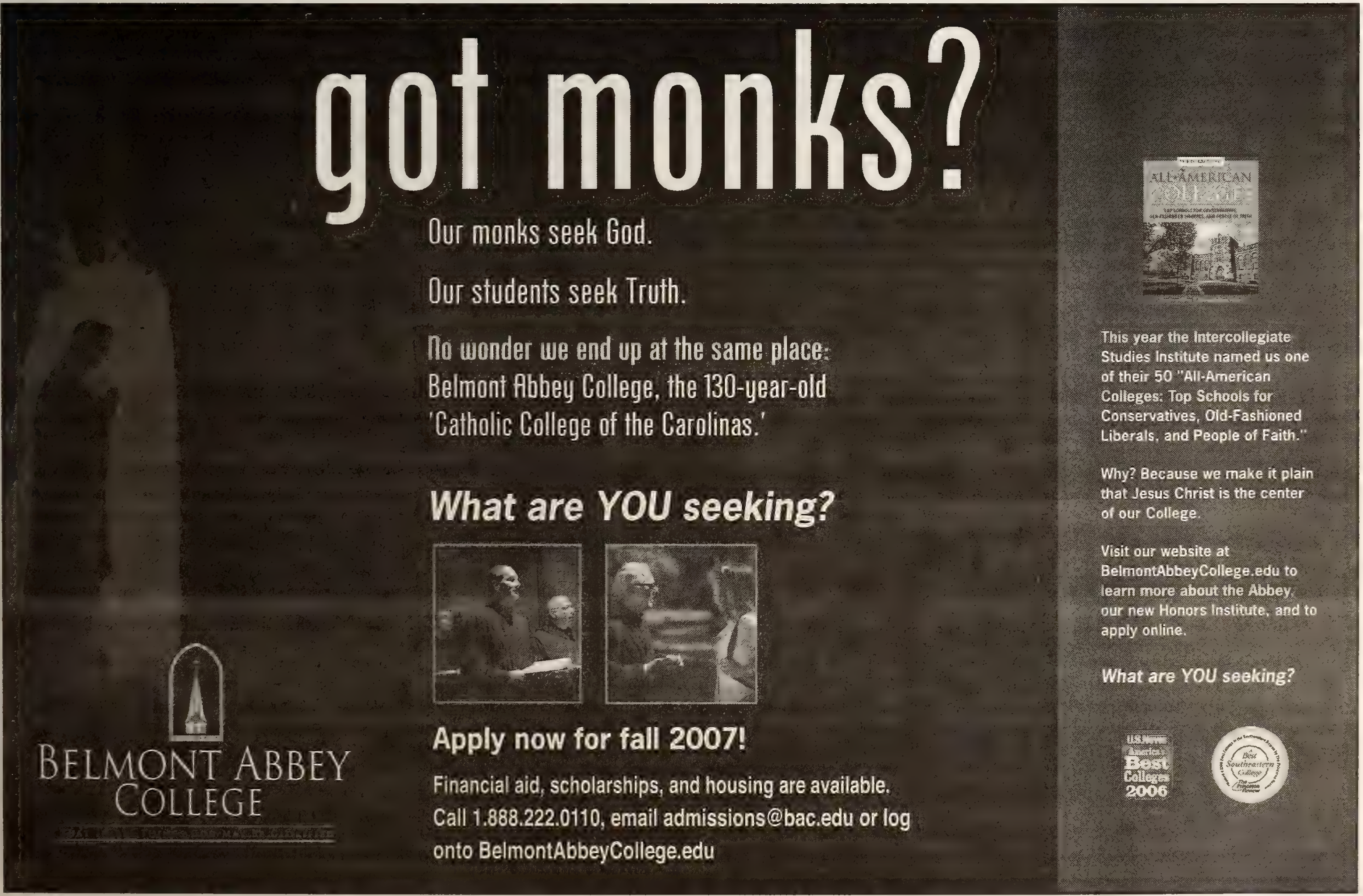
"RENEW Theology on Tap will create small Christian communities, similar to the Why Catholic? program," said Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart Sister Eileen Spanier, director of diocesan young adult ministry.

However, the topics presented in the SCCs will be geared toward young adults.

"Through Theology on Tap, Catholic young adults can gain a greater appreciation of their faith, a closer relationship with God and a network of friends who share their beliefs and values," said Catrina Conway, chair of the planning committee for the Charlotte-based Theology on Tap.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on RENEW International ministries in the diocese, call the diocesan education office at (704) 370-3244, or visit www.renewintl.org.



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

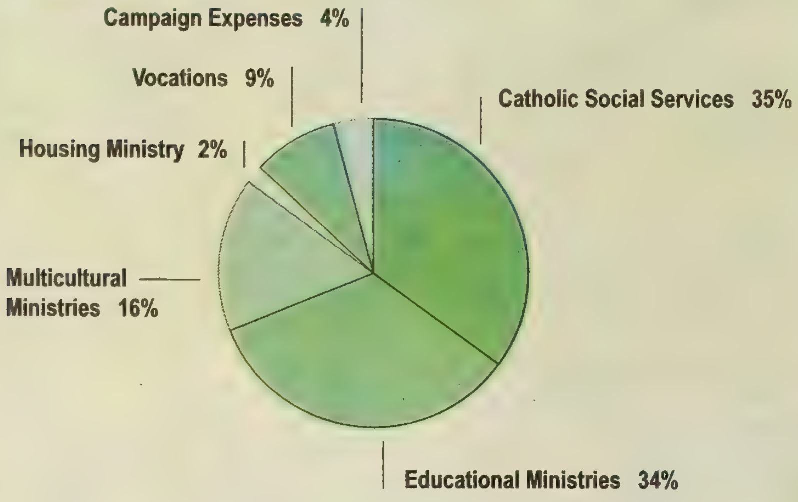
What are YOU seeking?

2007 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

Catholic Social Services Diocesan Ministries	
Family Life Office	$218,881
Elder Ministry	
Natural Family Planning	
Marriage Preparation	
Respect Life	
Office of Justice and Peace	$166,090
Office of Economic Opportunity	
Catholic Social Services Administration	$267,214
Regional Services - *Adoption, Hispanic Services, Counseling, Pregnancy Support*	
Western Regional Office, Asheville	$207,202
Refugee Resettlement Office - Western Region	
Charlotte Regional Office	$305,304
Refugee Resettlement Office - Charlotte Region	$48,144
Piedmont Triad Office, Winston-Salem	$280,506
Greensboro Satellite Office	
High Point Latino Family Center	
Housing Ministry	$124,322
Multicultural Ministries	
African American Affairs Ministry	$40,244
Hispanic Ministry	$600,311
Hmong Ministry	$44,821
Educational Ministries	
Campus Ministry	$450,503
Catholic Schools Administration	$187,775
Education Office	$33,536
Evangelization & Ministry Formation	$82,444
Faith Formation	$354,451
Media Resources	$97,121
Young Adult Ministry	$58,085
Youth Ministry	$155,373
Vocations	
Permanent Diaconate *(Includes deacons' prison ministry)*	$146,525
Seminarian Education	$212,942
Campaign Expenses	$168,206
DSA GOAL FOR 2007	$4,250,000

For more information on this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, visit www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html.

Allocation of funds



DSA-SUPPORTED AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES DIOCESAN OFFICES	
Family Life Office	704-370-3228
Elder Ministry	704-370-3220
Marriage Preparation	704-370-3237
Natural Family Planning	704-370-3228
Respect Life	704-370-3229
Office of Justice and Peace	704-370-3225
Office of Economic Opportunity	828-835-3535
Catholic Social Services Administration	704-370-3262
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES REGIONAL OFFICES *Offering Adoption, Hispanic Services, Counseling, Pregnancy Support*	
CSS Western Regional Office	828-255-0146
Refugee Resettlement Office-Western Region	828-255-0146
CSS Charlotte Regional Office	704-370-6155
Refugee Resettlement Office-Charlotte Region	704-370-3277
CSS Piedmont-Triad Regional Office	336-727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office	336-274-5577
Hispanic Center-High Point	336-884-5858
Housing Ministry	704-370-3250
MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES	
African American Affairs Ministry	704-370-3267
Hispanic Ministry	704-370-3269
Hmong Ministry	828 584-6012
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES	
Vicar for Education	704-370-3210
Campus Ministry	704-717-7104
Catholic Schools Administration	704-370-3270
Evangelization	704-370-3274
Faith Formation	704-370-3244
Lay Ministry Training	704-370-3274
Media Resources	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3244
Young Adult Ministry	704-370-3243
Youth Ministry	704-370-3359
VOCATIONS	
Permanent Diaconate	704-875-3961
Seminarian Education	704-370-3353

Ways to give to the Diocesan Support Appeal

Pledge: Make a pledge and pay it in equal payments over a six-month period. Monthly reminders will be sent beginning in May.

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT): Monthly pledge payments are taken directly out of your checking or savings account. No hassle of writing and mailing a monthly check.

Fill out the withdrawal authorization on your pledge card and include a voided check. EFTs begin on the 15th of each month after your pledge card and authorization materials are received.

Credit Card Payments: Possibly the easiest method, and you may benefit from rewards on your card, such as airline miles or cash back; and you can enjoy the ease of no paperwork.

Fill out the credit card authorization on your pledge card; include type of card and expiration date.

Credit card payments will be charged on the 15th of the month after your pledge card and authorization materials are received.

Online Giving: You can now give online using a major credit card at www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html. No hassle, no paperwork, no mailings involved.

Stock Donation: Make a donation of publicly traded securities and receive the tax benefits for giving appreciated stock. A stock donation form and instructions can be downloaded from the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org/giving.html, or call Barbara Gaddy at (704) 370-3302.

Parish goals for DSA 2007

CHURCH / MISSION	CITY	GOAL
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church	Albemarle	24,602
Holy Redeemer Church	Andrews	5,081
St. Barnabas Church	Arden	77,712
St. Joseph Church	Asheboro	39,661
Basilica of St. Lawrence	Asheville	49,560
St. Joan of Arc Church	Asheville	22,201
St. Eugene Church	Asheville	78,880
Queen of the Apostles Church	Belmont	39,786
St. Elizabeth Church	Boone	39,114
Divine Redeemer Church	Boonville	13,070
Sacred Heart Church	Brevard	46,987
St. Joseph Church	Bryson City	5,701
Sacred Heart Mission	Burnsville	5,168
Our Lady of the Americas Church	Candor	11,528
Immaculate Conception Mission	Canton	4,234
St. Jude Mission	Cashiers	18,828
St. Peter Church	Charlotte	75,582
St. Thomas Aquinas Church	Charlotte	109,087
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church	Charlotte	17,624
St. John Neumann Church	Charlotte	87,617
Our Lady of the Assumption Church	Charlotte	41,533
St. John Lee Korean Church	Charlotte	16,064
St. Luke Church	Charlotte	67,356
St. Vincent de Paul Church	Charlotte	106,925
Our Lady of Consolation Church	Charlotte	45,935
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Charlotte	42,999
St. Patrick Cathedral	Charlotte	80,440
St. Gabriel Church	Charlotte	285,188
St. Ann Church	Charlotte	54,853
St. Matthew Church	Charlotte	400,175
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission	Cherokee	2,929
Holy Family Church	Clemmons	108,423
St. James the Greater Church	Concord	77,606
Holy Spirit Church	Denver	29,424
St. Joseph of the Hills Church	Eden	9,804
St. Stephen Mission	Elkin	6,651
Immaculate Conception Church	Forest City	24,879
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Franklin	24,776
St. Michael Church	Gastonia	69,461
Our Lady of Grace Church	Greensboro	126,216
St. Benedict Church	Greensboro	22,098
St. Paul the Apostle Church	Greensboro	140,315
St. Pius X Church	Greensboro	107,204
St. Mary Church	Greensboro	33,541
St. James the Greater Church	Hamlet	12,309
Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission	Hayesville	19,605
Immaculate Conception Church	Hendersonville	101,890
St. Aloysius Church	Hickory	91,764
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church	High Point	106,716
Christ the King Church	High Point	16,283
Our Lady of the Mountains Church	Highlands	16,714
St. Mark Church	Huntersville	145,894
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Jefferson	12,019
St. Joseph Church	Kannapolis	18,083
Holy Cross Church	Kernersville	61,461
Good Shepherd Mission	King	12,668
Christ the King Mission	Kings Mountain	5,411
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Lenoir	21,659
Our Lady of the Rosary Church	Lexington	15,691
St. Dorothy Church	Lincolnton	17,734
St. Bernadette Mission	Linville	17,171
St. Margaret Church	Maggie Valley	19,122
Our Lady of the Angels Church	Marion	8,861
St. Andrew the Apostle Church	Mars Hill	8,029
St. Francis of Assisi Church	Mocksville	16,505
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Monroe	40,552
St. Therese Church	Mooresville	130,409
St. Charles Borromeo Church	Morganton	38,599
Holy Angels Church	Mount Airy	20,533
St. William Church	Murphy	22,062
St. Joseph Church	Newton	17,325
St. John Baptist de La Salle Church	North Wilkesboro	12,443
Holy Infant Church	Reidsville	14,404
Prince of Peace Mission	Robbinsville	2,851
Sacred Heart Church	Salisbury	72,708
St. Mary Church	Shelby	27,451
St. Frances of Rome Mission	Sparta	7,072
St. Helen Mission	Spencer Mountain	5,381
St. Lucien Church	Spruce Pine	7,580
St. Philip the Apostle Church	Statesville	41,334
St. Margaret Mary Church	Swannanoa	19,773
St. Mary Church	Sylva	16,989
Holy Trinity Church	Taylorsville	10,617
Our Lady of the Highways Church	Thomasville	15,795
St. John the Baptist Church	Tryon	26,415
Sacred Heart Mission	Wadesboro	3,526
St. John the Evangelist Church	Waynesville	17,645
Our Lady of Mercy	Winston-Salem	68,274
St. Benedict the Moor Church	Winston-Salem	12,887
St. Leo the Great Church	Winston-Salem	144,400
Our Lady of Fatima Church	Winston-Salem	10,568

DSA helps fund ministries, programs in diocese

DSA, *from page 1*

> "We're each called to look beyond our own personal needs and the needs of our parishes to the big picture: how we minister to one another."
>
> — Barbara Gaddy

This year's campaign, which runs Feb. 3 through March 11, has a goal of $4.25 million.

Contributions to the DSA provide funds for 30 ministries offering more than 50 programs, including Catholic Social Services; educational, housing and multicultural ministries; and vocations.

"We're all called by Christ through our baptism to play some role in building the kingdom of God," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of diocesan development.

Some are called to be priests, deacons or religious. Others serve as RCIA team members, catechists, on parish councils or in any of dozens of ministries.

"One way we can each answer the call is by contributing to the DSA," said Gaddy.

"We're each called to look beyond our own personal needs and the needs of our parishes to the big picture: how we minister to one another here in the Diocese of Charlotte," she said.

In his letter, Bishop Jugis said that prayer and financial support are two ways to respond to the educational, multicultural, vocation, housing and social services needs of our growing diocese.

The ministries funded by the DSA fulfill the needs of others by feeding the hungry, providing education, evangelizing and in many other ways.

"Your gift provides training for catechists who are entrusted with the teaching mission of the church," he said. "It helps send Hispanic ministers to address the concerns of the fastest-growing segment of the diocese."

Dissecting the DSA

Each of the 92 parishes and missions within the Diocese of Charlotte is assigned a target — "their share of the overall goal of $4.25 million," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. "This is accomplished by using a formula established by a task force of lay people, pastors and finance council representatives."

Parish offertory from the last fiscal year is the starting point, said Weldon. Then, 25 percent of the parish subsidy to Catholic schools is subtracted from the parish offertory. The resulting number is the basis for a mathematical computation that determines each parish's pro-rata share of the DSA goal.

"If, through parishioner contributions, a particular parish goes over its target, the excess is rebated to the parish," said Weldon. "If a parish falls short of its target, the parish is expected to make up the difference from its own budget."

Planning for this year's DSA began last fall as budgeting for the 2007-2008 fiscal year began. Establishing the current goal of $4.25 million involved account-by-account budgets for each program and ministry that receives DSA funding, said Weldon.

"Two components — program changes and cost increases — are examined when establishing the DSA budget," he said. "We've tried very hard to limit cost increases while expanding program services."

The $4.25 million goal represents an increase of 3.7 percent over last year's goal. The amount budgeted for each ministry is published in this issue of The Catholic News & Herald on page 8.

"As the people of the diocese entrust us with their gifts, we are then accountable to them for the use of these resources," said Weldon.

"We are committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability," he said. "The diocese has procedures in place to direct the disbursement of funds in accordance with donor intent and to ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly."

"Financial oversight is provided by annual financial audits and the diocesan finance council," said Weldon.

A complete financial report of the previous year is published as a supplement to The Catholic News & Herald in the fall of each year. The report includes a breakdown of DSA funding by ministry.

Answering the call

During the past week, registered parishioners received pledge cards and letters at their homes from Bishop Jugis, asking for their support of the DSA.

Parishioners have several ways to donate to the DSA, including credit card payment, electronic funds transfer and online giving. Parishioners who choose to be billed will be sent reminder cards beginning in May. Contributions may be paid over a period of six months.

"Jesus himself called disciples to go out and spread the Good News," said Bishop Jugis. "He commissioned them to use their gifts to help build the Kingdom."

"I am confident that your response to that same challenge will help us meet our goal for DSA 2007," he said. "How will you answer the call?"

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, visit www.charlottediocese.org/developmentoffice.html.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

American's donation lets pope peruse oldest copy of St. Luke's Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A donation to the Vatican by a U.S. businessman enabled Pope Benedict XVI to peruse a few pages of the oldest existing copy of the Gospel of St. Luke and one of the oldest copies of the Gospel of St. John.

The Catholic businessman, Frank Hanna III, and his family were present in the pope's library Jan. 22 when Pope Benedict got his first look at pages from the famous Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV.

Hanna is the Atlanta-based chief executive officer of HBR Capital Ltd., an investment management company, and co-chairman of President George W. Bush's Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's archivist and librarian, presented both the papyrus and the Hanna family to the pope.

The Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, handwritten in Greek around the year 200, contains "about half of each of the Gospels of Luke and John," Cardinal Tauran explained. "With this new precious papyrus, the library of the pope possesses the most ancient witness of the Gospel of Luke and among the most ancient of the Gospel of John."

For the presentation, Cardinal Tauran and his staff brought only a few pages of the papyrus to the papal apartment.

He invited the pope to meditate "in front of that which can be considered a true relic, given that the church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord."

Claudio Piazzoni, vice prefect of the Vatican Library, said the new acquisition includes the oldest existing copy of the Lord's Prayer, which is found in Luke 11:1-4. The new acquisitions join the Bodmer Papyrus VIII, a copy of the First and Second Letters of St. Peter, which Martin Bodmer personally gave to Pope Paul VI in 1969.

Before the Bodmer documents were discovered in Egypt in 1952, biblical scholars relied on references to the Gospels in the writings of the early church theologians to assert that by the year 100 the Christian community had accepted only four Gospels as inspired texts.

The Bodmer Papyrus XIV-XV, containing the last two Gospels, provides concrete evidence that the four Gospels were circulating among Christian communities as a complete set by the year 200, although the twin papyrus containing the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Mark has not been found.

The Vatican took possession of the papyrus in late November and already new discoveries about it have been made, the Vatican newspaper said.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 11, 2007

Feb. 11, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6
2) 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
3) Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Only in God do we find true meaning

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Manhattan restaurant was packed with customers enjoying a fine dining experience before hurrying on to the theater for an evening show.

Suddenly the excited hum of the atmosphere was silenced by the angry shouts of a customer. All eyes turned to the 20-year-old waiter stoically enduring the loud, blistering complaint of a woman jabbing her finger in the air at him.

This was the worst service she'd ever seen; she was going to be late! The young waiter's face reddened as he apologized.

The manager intervened and later assured the waiter he'd done nothing wrong. The young man was embarrassed. It ruined his day, but not his life.

Luckily, he'd learned from a similar experience years before in high school. His baseball team was slumping, and the coach regularly rebuked the players for lacking talent.

When practice began to conflict with rehearsals for the school musical, the boy asked to leave practice early. The coach refused, but not before uttering a few snide comments about participating in theater.

But the boy knew what was in his own heart. He was directing the music he'd composed for this play, which was written by a fellow student.

He spoke respectfully to his coach. He thanked him, said he appreciated the experience and regretted that he had to quit because of the conflict.

The coach's response was to say nothing at all, snatch his uniform from his hands and yell at another player that he had a better shirt for him now.

The musical, however, was an exhilarating, fulfilling success. In the excitement, the baseball experience quickly faded. What the coach said or thought didn't matter.

Failure, isolation, hurt, insults. They force our deepest search for strength and assurance.

This weekend's first reading explains that human beings' capacity to provide understanding or acceptance is shallow. True, deep strength will be found only through the one who created us.

In the Gospel, Jesus' Beatitudes tell us not that we must be poor to have the kingdom of God or that we must be hungry to be filled. He is telling us that when we are poor and alone, and when we are hungry — or sorrowing or insulted — is when we find God.

Finding God, we come to the core meaning of our lives.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 - 10

Sunday (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11; **Monday (St. Agatha),** Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday (St. Paul Miki & Companions),** Genesis 1:20 — 2:4, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday, Genesis 2:4-9,** 15-17, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday,** Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday,** Genesis 3:1-8, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday (St. Scholastica),** Genesis 3:9-24, Mark 8:1-10.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11 - 17

Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26; **Monday,** Genesis 4:1-15,25 Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday,** Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius),** Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday,** Genesis 9:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday,** Genesis 11:1-9, Mark 8:34 — 9:1; **Saturday (Seven Servite Founders),** Hebrews 11:1-7, Mark 9:2-13.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Come celebrate with us!

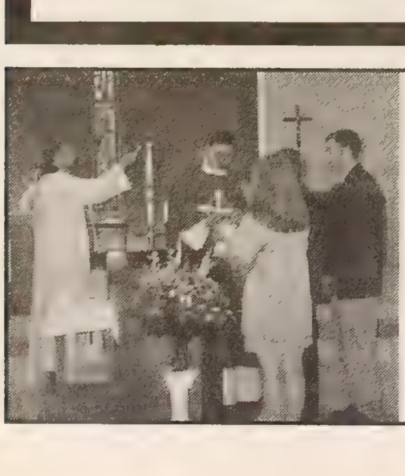
Belmont Abbey College will host a

Harambé Mass

in the Abbey Basilica on Sunday, February 25 at 7 p.m.

Monsignor Mauricio West, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, will serve as celebrant. He will be joined by the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir and the Kabaka Dancers for this special Mass in honor of Black History Month. Harambé is an African word meaning "togetherness" or "unity."

The public is invited to attend.



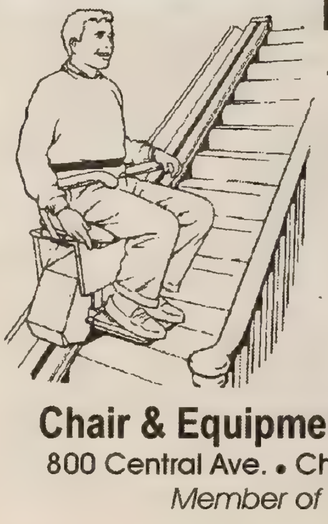
Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Youth Camps
Nursing
Retreats
Campus Ministry
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:

Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586
rockhilloratory.com



Let stairs be *our* problem... not yours!

Ask about our Stairway lifts.

- Easily attached to steps (not walls)
- Folds out of the way
- Fits most stairways (straight & curved)
- Very affordable (rent or buy)
- We install

Chair & Equipment Rentals & Sales, Inc.
800 Central Ave. • Charlotte, NC • (800) 333-8431
Member of St. Thomas Aquinas

The 'Challenge for Education'

Papal message urges media to protect children from harmful programs

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Media professionals, prior to offering violent or sexually explicit films, cartoons and video games as entertainment for children or teens, should ask themselves how young victims of abuse and exploitation would view such products, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his message for World Communications Day, which will be celebrated May 20 in most countries, the pope called for cooperation among media, parents, schools and parishes to protect children from harmful programming and to educate them in choosing their entertainment wisely.

"Beauty, a kind of mirror of the divine, inspires and vivifies young hearts and minds, while ugliness and coarseness have a depressing impact on attitudes and behavior," said the message, released Jan. 24 at the Vatican.

The pope chose "Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education" as the theme for the 2007 celebration.

The theme, Pope Benedict said, is important because of the growing influence of the media over people around the world, and especially over children, in some cases maybe even rivaling the influence of the school, the church and the home.

While acknowledging that most media professionals try to do what is right, he said they often are forced to compromise because of financial pressures.

"Any trend to produce programs and products — including animated films and video games — which in the name of entertainment exalt violence and portray anti-social behavior or the trivialization of human sexuality is a perversion," he said.

"How could one explain this 'entertainment' to the countless innocent young people who actually suffer violence, exploitation and abuse?" Pope Benedict asked.

In choosing what children will watch or listen to, the pope encouraged a mainly positive approach.

"Children exposed to what is aesthetically and morally excellent are helped to develop appreciation, prudence and the skills of discernment," he said.

The example of what parents watch and listen to, and access to children's classics in literature, fine arts and music, will help young people learn to enjoy and prefer what is beautiful, he said.

"So often freedom is presented as a relentless search for pleasure or new experiences," the pope wrote. "Yet this is a condemnation, not a liberation!"

"True freedom could never condemn the individual — especially a child — to an insatiable quest for novelty," he said.

The pope called on the media "to safeguard the common good, to uphold the truth, to protect individual human rights and promote respect for the needs of the family."

Move over sports stars: Collectible Swiss Guard stickers hit market

Album includes Guard history, portraits

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Move over baseball players and soccer stars — an Italian publisher is hoping to hook young collectors on the Swiss Guards.

To honor the guards in their 500th year of service to the popes, the publisher has released a deluxe collector's album with 250 different stickers.

"The Guardian Angels of the Pope" is heavy on images and light on text, but the brief explanations of each sticker are provided in both Italian and English.

The images used were chosen and the explanations written by Giovanni Morelli, the retired Vatican Library employee who served as researcher and curator of the 2006 Vatican exhibition on the history of the Swiss Guards.

Claudio Ventrella, editorial director of Pubblicazioni Collezionare Cultura, said the sticker collection fits perfectly with the company's commitment to using sticker mania to promote appreciation of Italy's culture, including its religious history and heritage.

The company already has sold 200,000 albums and some 20 million stickers in its two series on the saints, he said.

But while the saints' albums and stickers are sold separately through Italian newsstands, the Swiss Guards' special edition is sold in bookstores or over the Internet in a box with the album and all the stickers ready to be affixed.

The album includes the history of the Swiss Guards, illustrated with portraits of all the popes of the past 500 years and the 33 commanders who have led the corps over the course of five centuries.

Vittorio Pranzini, who worked with Morelli in putting the book together, says he has no doubt the more serious collectors will be most interested in the second chapter: a look at how the guards' uniforms have changed through the years.

The album also includes photo-stickers of the daily work and life of the guards as they watch over the pope, patrol the Vatican and train in the use of their medieval halberds.

As the success of the saints' series has shown, he said, stickers are "a winning formula for joining fun and curiosity with culture and faith."

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

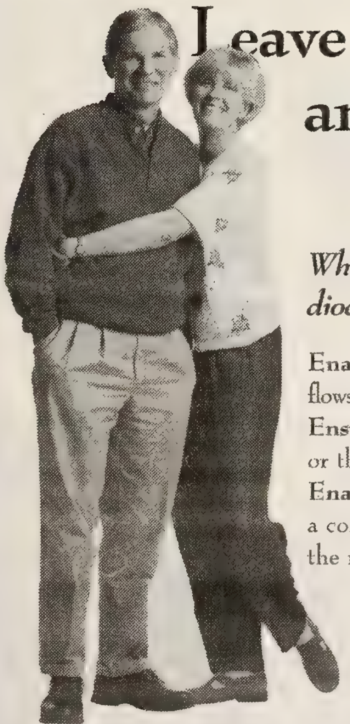
11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)



Leave a Legacy Through an Endowment

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support. Every year, your "legacy" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.
Ensure a Strong Future. Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.
Enact a Lasting Legacy. Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values – your faith and the mission of the church.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Making your will?

Request a free Wills Kit from
Catholic Relief Services.

It will help you practice good stewardship
and create a lasting legacy to help
the poor overseas.

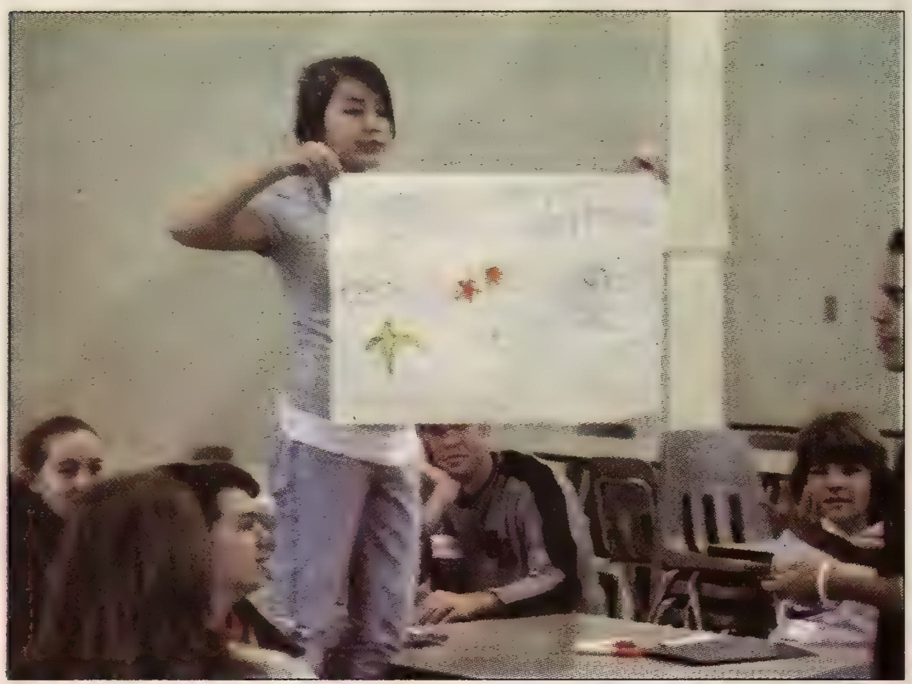
1-800-235-2772 ext.7318

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Young in faith



COURTESY PHOTO

Julie Le holds a poster as Miguel Rodriguez explains the symbols chosen to represent their group, which they named "Team Saints," during a confirmation class retreat at St. Ann Church in Charlotte Jan. 20. Le and Rodriguez were among 32 confirmation candidates attending the retreat.

Preparing to be confirmed

CHARLOTTE — A group of young people have moved a few steps further along in their faith.

Confirmation candidates at St. Ann Church recently participated in a retreat at the church Jan. 20.

The 32 candidates preparing for the sacrament of confirmation participated in the retreat, facilitated by Sister of St. Joseph Judith Monahan, pastoral associate at St. Ann Church.

In one of the retreat's exercises, the members of the confirmation class broke into groups and prepared posters that represented the members of their group.

Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and the Eucharist, in the belief of Catholics, Orthodox and some other churches.

Among Latin-rite Catholics in many countries and most areas of the United States, confirmation usually is administered during the teen years to those baptized in infancy.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Everything you need for a great meeting!

The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

ATTENTION READES! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
If you have photos or information about a parish-, school- or Catholic organization-based event, send them to be printed in The Catholic News & Herald. For submissions, e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org. For story leads, contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@chgarlottediocese.org

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

St. Luke Catholic Church -- Raleigh, NC

A parish of 650 families with well- established Faith Formation programs, seeks two dynamic individuals, soundly steeped in the Tradition of the Church, to fill two full-time positions; offering competitive salaries:

1) Director of Faith Formation
2) Director of Youth Ministry

Please go to parish web site www.stlukeonline.com for application information.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

J.S. Paluch Co., established in 1913, the nation's oldest Catholic Publisher, is now interviewing for the position of Sales Representatives for parish church bulletins Realistic earnings potential of 40K+, health insurance, paid vacation, 401K. Some travel required. Self-motivation a must. Bilingual helpful in some areas. To arrange an interview call Les Black at 800-432-3240. Seniors welcome to apply. EOE

Classifieds

FOR RENT

VILLA: Isles of Palms, SC (Charleston area): 3 BD, 3BA. Resort community. Walk to beach, pool, golf, tennis. Tropical, upscale décor. Extended stay discounts available. 703-255-0572

TOWNHOME: Lovely one-story townhome at Lake Norman. 2 bedrooms – 2 baths. Lots of storage. Walking distance to shopping center. $900/month includes water. Call 704-995-6455.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Warming hearts and bodies

COURTESY PHOTO

Children in the preschool/kindergarten class at St. Charles Borremeo Church in Morganton are pictured with winter coats they collected as part of a January service project.

The class, part of the parish faith formation program, was asked by their catechists to make a list of ways to help others; the children wanted to collect and donate coats to Burke United Christian Ministries, an organization providing daytime group care for adults in need of social stimulation to combat depression, who have dementia or who are in need of supervision.

The children plan to collect and donate books during Lent.

The Magi in Arden

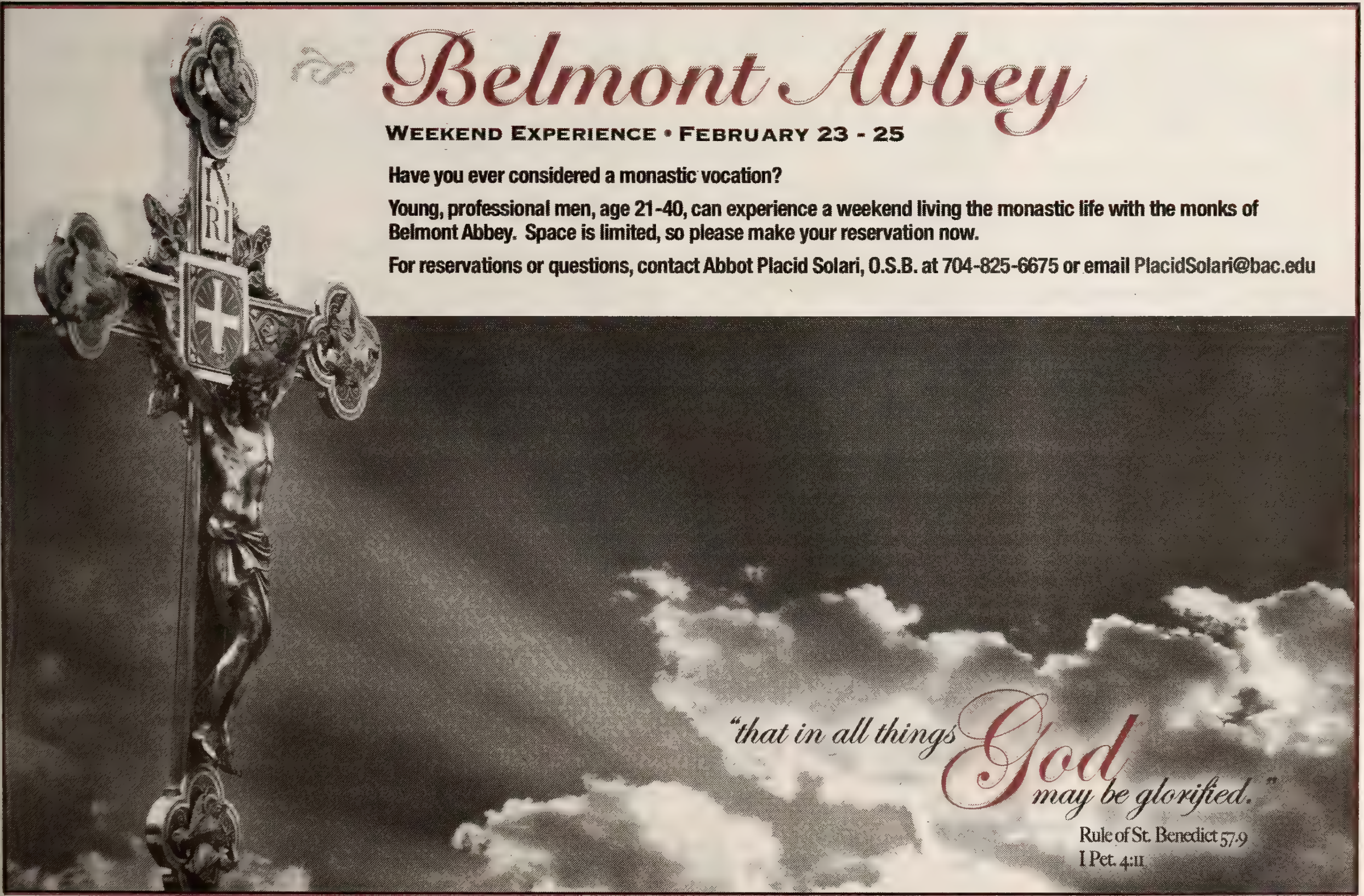
COURTESY PHOTO

Children representing the Magi, or the three Wise Men, present "gold" coins to those participating in the Mass celebrating the Epiphany at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Jan. 7.

After the Mass, celebrated by Father Dean Cesa, pastor, parishioners gathered for a potluck meal and Christmas melodies in the parish hall.

The feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6, marks the manifestation of Jesus as savior to the world.

The New Testament account reveals how the three Wise Men were guided to Bethlehem by a star and were the first to come and adore Jesus.


Belmont Abbey

WEEKEND EXPERIENCE • FEBRUARY 23 - 25

Have you ever considered a monastic vocation?

Young, professional men, age 21-40, can experience a weekend living the monastic life with the monks of Belmont Abbey. Space is limited, so please make your reservation now.

For reservations or questions, contact Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B. at 704-825-6675 or email PlacidSolari@bac.edu

INRI
"that in all things God may be glorified."
Rule of St. Benedict 57:9
I Pet. 4:11

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

God shows up in many unexpected ways

Miracles big and small abound to help us along in life

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

I've always believed that miracles abound, defined, of course, in uncountable ways. I have just lived through an experience that underscores that belief.

In late October, at the end of the 5 o'clock evening Mass in my parish, the priest said in the announcements that a parish nurse would be taking blood pressures for all who wanted to avail themselves of that gratis service. I thought that was so generous, so human.

I hadn't had my blood pressure taken in years, so I decided to meet the nurse to thank her for her generosity and see what my reading was. It took no time at all, for nurse Norma Fogarty recognized me as "the writer," and we had a great conversation.

But most important, she showed concern that my blood pressure was too high. She asked me when I had last seen a doctor.

I couldn't remember but guessed it had been maybe eight to 10 years ago.

She urged me to get a physical.

Well I did, and what Dr. Kenneth Pellegrino, surprised to see me after all those years, found was a nasty surprise, verified by some tests and a CT scan: I had a tumor in my left kidney, probably cancerous.

He sent me to a team of urology surgeons who said the kidney had to be cut out.

Meanwhile I had started doing some investigating on my own and discovered that some urology surgeons in the nation were doing "minimally invasive" urologic surgery. That appealed to me more than cutting out my kidney!

With the help of my college professor sister Jeannette Oppedisano, we started investigating the options. A friend of hers, who had done some work in New York city hospitals, suggested I contact Columbia University Presbyterian Hospital where she knew "cutting edge" kidney surgery was being done.

Since three of my children live in Manhattan, they were anxious to have me close by them if I had to have surgery.

I contacted the urology department there and to my surprise had a very informative phone conversation with Dr. Jaime Landman, the surgeon, who explained to me the innovative procedure he uses. I heard new phrases like "minimally invasive," "laparoscopy" and then terms I understood, like this surgery involves no cutting, it leaves only four "small holes" on the abdomen and removes only the cancer, leaving much of the kidney to heal.

I had the surgery done Jan. 4, was home Jan. 7, had manageable and minimal pain and many signs that I would be my "old self" in a couple of weeks. I need no chemo treatments and I still have two thirds of my kidney left.

I am a witness to the miracles of modern medicine in the hands of a wonderful physician, like Landman. But what was the first miracle here?

One of the medical people I spoke to along the way, who knew Pellegrino had discovered a problem in his exam and sent me for the CT scan, said, "He saved your life."

I smiled and said, "No, Norma Fogarty saved my life."

If I had not seen the parish nurse and not taken her advice after the blood pressure screening, I probably would not have gone to a doctor until body pain forced me to. Then it may have been too late!

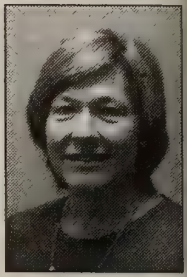
Miracles, big and small, strange and unexpected — they do abound, mostly camouflaged, but always the sign that God shows up in unexpected ways!

'Answer the Call'

DSA a way to answer God's call to service

Guest Column

BARBARA GADDY
GUEST COLUMNIST



In this day of modern technology, many of us know exactly who is calling before we answer the phone. In fact, it is possible to be on the phone with one person and know the identity of someone else who is trying to call in.

When I thought about the theme of this year's Diocesan Support Appeal, "Answer the Call," I couldn't help but wonder how I would respond if I saw God on my phone's caller ID feature.

Why would God be calling me? What could God possibly want from me? Should I answer it, or just pretend I am not home? After all, if it is important, he will probably call back or call me on my cell phone.

However, this is God calling, so not answering the phone is not an option. I must answer the call.

"Hello, God. This is Barbara, but then you already knew that. After all you knew me before I was even born," I would say. "What can I do for you today?"

"There are so many needs in the Diocese of Charlotte. I was hoping you could help," says God. "Our Catholic Church is growing in western North Carolina, and I see so many children, teens and adults who are eager to learn more about their faith.

"I have noticed a large number of elders in our parishes who are eager to worship and socialize with one another. The diocese is now home to thousands of people from other cultures who are struggling to worship and work in a new country.

"I see young people ready to embark on a lifetime of wedded bliss who need preparation for the changes about to take place in their lives. I see people living in poverty, who are in need of help and economic opportunities.

"I counted 22 young men who are called to the priesthood and are in need of seminarian education.

"There are countless people who are seeking counseling and guidance," says God. "There are so many needs, Barbara, and I am calling for your help."

Wow, now I know why I would be a little hesitant to answer the phone.

I know God has given me certain talents that could help in some of the areas he mentioned.

After all, I answered David's call when he asked me to serve on my parish RCIA team. I said "yes" to Deacon Kevin when he asked me to serve as a "Why Catholic?" facilitator. I responded to Frank's call to teach spirituality in the diocesan lay ministry training program.

But unfortunately I don't speak another language, so I can't help in multicultural ministry. I know nothing about counseling, marriage preparation or elder ministry. I would be totally inept at preparing men for the priesthood or the permanent diaconate.

I need to find another way to answer this call.

"I am fairly limited in what I can do," I would tell God, "but I know some wonderful people here in the diocese who can help.

"We have ministries here that respond to all of the needs you mention. In fact, there are 30 ministries with more than 50 different programs that address everything from education to vocations. These ministries are funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

"A gift to the DSA is a way that I can answer your call and support all of these needs," I say.

I get the sense that God would be pleased. I know that my contribution to the DSA will help meet the needs of thousands throughout the diocese.

So from now on when I see God on my caller ID feature, I will answer much like the prophet Samuel: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

Barbara Gaddy is associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT MORE INFO?

The 2007 Diocesan Support Appeal runs Feb. 3-March 11. See articles and information on pages 1, 7, 8 and 9 for more information.

Letters to the Editor

Too much criticism, or not enough?

It was with great disappointment that I read the letters to the editor from my fellow Catholics and their judgments on Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, also a Catholic (Letters to the Editor: "Pelosi's Catholicism, agenda in question," Jan. 26).

I am disgusted with all the judging and not "Catholic enough" viewpoints that they voiced. Is this really modeling the teachings of Jesus? Or is this modeling the current social trend, especially in the television media, to be loud, accusatory, angry and disrespectful?

Let us return to a civil and loving dialogue with one another and recognize that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect.

— David Matvey
Charlotte

I was very impressed with the letters to the editor published regarding the "Catholicism" of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Washington politicians.

After reading the very insightful letter from the eighth-grader, I am wondering what kind of message we are sending to our children and to non-Catholics in this country if we do not take a public stand against those who defame our church and its teachings.

It seems that on one hand we try to teach what Jesus taught, but on the other we say nothing when those in public office go against those teachings, thereby giving our younger generation a very mixed message.

The church can not remain silent any longer. Our children are watching us.

— Linda Diorio

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste. Letters must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Prenatal diagnosis

Medical advances can both help and harm culture of life

The push for prenatal diagnostic tests for pregnant mothers just became stronger. Recently, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) began recommending that every pregnant woman, regardless of age, be offered a choice of tests to determine whether her baby has Down Syndrome.

The reason for this recommendation is, first of all, that although the common practice has been to recommend these tests for women over 35, doctors point out that there is no single event that happens at age 35 to make Down Syndrome more likely. The scale of risk is a continuum.

Secondly, ACOG points out that new methods of testing have been developed that are less invasive. Their top recommendation simply involves ultrasound and a blood test.

Aside from the medical questions, however, many moral questions arise. Are such tests morally permissible? What are they meant to accomplish? Is undue pressure being placed on pregnant mothers to have these tests? Is pressure being put on them to abort?

Pope John Paul II addressed the issue of prenatal diagnosis in his 1995 encyclical, "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life").

Special attention, he said, must be given to evaluating the morality of prenatal diagnostic techniques which enable the early detection of possible anomalies in the unborn child. In view of the complexity of these techniques, an accurate and systematic moral judgment is necessary.

When they do not involve disproportionate risks for the child and the mother, and are meant to make possible early therapy or even to favor a serene and informed acceptance of the child not yet born, these techniques are morally licit.

But since the possibilities of prenatal therapy are today still limited, it not infrequently happens that these techniques are used with a eugenic intention that accepts selective abortion in order to prevent the birth of children affected by various types of anomalies.

Such an attitude is shameful and utterly reprehensible, since it presumes to measure the value of a human life only within the parameters of "normality" and physical well-being, thus opening the way to legitimizing infanticide and euthanasia as well.

The Catholic Church's approach is quite balanced. Diagnosis, not immoral in itself, must have a proper purpose and motive. In some ways, diagnosis advances a culture of life, because the unborn child is medical science's newest patient.

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
CNS COLUMNIST

I have been privileged to participate in conferences of fetal surgeons, and this branch of medicine can serve life in increasingly effective ways.

Yet, every tool can be used for good or for harm. Dr. Jerome Lejeune, a strongly pro-life geneticist who discovered the origins of Down Syndrome, lamented the fact that this knowledge was sometimes being used for a "search and destroy" mission.

And it is no secret that there is a bias among medical professionals to recommend abortion when test results indicate even a hint (sometimes mistakenly) of Down Syndrome, as Brian Skotko of the National Down Syndrome Congress found out when he surveyed 2,945 mothers of children with this condition.

Let's stand both for the advancement of the treatment of the unborn, and against the deadly mentality that pushes to kill the less than perfect.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

A fresh start for the new year

Another year brings many opportunities for planning

Guest Column

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Now that we've begun another year, many of us are enjoying a sense of renewal and the motivation that comes with it. Some of us have resolved to finish tasks and projects left undone before we take on new goals.

If 2007 inspires you to review or begin your estate plan, here's a quick outline experts suggest to help you prepare your will. Reflecting on these questions will allow you to have your ideas recorded in logical order and save you time and expense when you meet with your attorney or financial advisor.

A practical starting point can be the "Four Ps" of estate planning.

1) People — Who is important to you?

Start with those who are dependent on you for financial support: your spouse, children, parents, siblings, grandchildren or others. Record each person's name, age and relationship to you.

Then consider your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocesan foundation or the Diocese of Charlotte, along with anyone else you may want to include in your estate plan.

2) Property — What do you own?

Everyone has an estate, not just the wealthy. Include everything of value in this list, as this is what makes up your estate: your house(s), automobile(s), cash, savings accounts, securities, real estate, life insurance, stocks, bonds and retirement plan assets, art, jewelry and any other property of value.

List the present value of each item, what it cost and any income it provides. List any mortgages or other debts also.

3) Plans — How do you wish to distribute your property?

Jot down your ideas as you answer this question and think about who will receive the property you own. The goal here is to match your property to the people and organizations you decide to include, with loved ones provided for first.

You may want to designate specific items to some, while others would receive a dollar amount or percentage of your estate. You are the only one who can make these decisions based on your desires and the needs of each heir.

4) Planners — Who can help you put your plans in action?

In order for your planning to result in the distribution you intend, it's important to have the best possible professional advice. Your attorney can draft your will and offer suggestions for the very best ways to accomplish your wishes.

Additional financial advisors may be needed as well, depending on the complexity of your estate.

Take advantage of the motivation that comes with the start of a new year. Take time now to do some estate planning, including drafting or revising your will, as you look to those things you have been putting off and begin to focus on goals for this year.

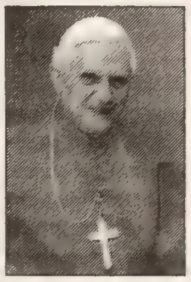
Judy Smith is director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information and a free copy of the booklet "Better Estate Planning," contact Judy Smith at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Pope says he's consoled by stories of apostles, disciples arguing

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said he finds consolation in the New Testament stories of the apostles and first disciples arguing with each other.

Pope Benedict spoke Jan. 31 about St. Paul and St. Barnabas arguing over whether they should take another person with them on a mission.

"So, even among saints there are contrasts, disagreements, controversies," the pope said.

"This appears very consoling to me, because we see that the saints did not drop as saints from heaven. They were men like us with problems and even with sins," the pope said.

"Holiness consists not in never having made a mistake or sinned," he said, but rather it grows with "conversion, repentance, with a willingness to start over and, especially, with the ability to reconcile and forgive."

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 31.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's catechesis, we consider three of the most important companions of St. Paul in his missionary preaching of the Gospel: Barnabas, Silas and Apollos.

Barnabas, a native of Cyprus, was among the first to accept the Gospel, and he defended before the Jerusalem community the sincerity of Paul's conversion.

He accompanied Paul on his first missionary journey, took part in the Council of Jerusalem (cf. Acts 15) and later, after separating from Paul, accompanied the young John Mark to preach in Cyprus.

Silas, also known as Silvanus, was a Jew and a respected member of the early community, entrusted with communicating the decisions of the Council of Jerusalem to the Christians of Antioch.

He was of great help to Paul on his second missionary journey, both in Macedonia and in Corinth.

Apollos, despite his pagan name, was a devout Jew from Alexandria and known as a powerful preacher and teacher in the communities of Ephesus and Corinth.

Reflecting on the example of these three great co-workers of the apostle Paul, dedicated to the Lord and his good news, may we be inspired to a deeper faith in Christ and an ever-more-generous commitment to the spread of the Gospel.

Upon you all, I invoke God's blessings of joy and peace.

A collection of faith

Postcard collection, school support help student fight his cancer

BY MARJORIE WERTZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LIGONIER, Pa. — While sixth-grader Chad Scanlon has been battling a cancerous brain tumor he has kept his focus on other things, including collecting postcards from all 50 states and every country around the world.

The student at Holy Trinity School in Ligonier became intrigued with atlases and geography, so much so that he created his own atlas last summer. He and his family, parishioners of St. Boniface Parish in Chestnut Ridge, traveled to Belgium and several states before he became ill.

"I'm a big geography person and I like postcards because I can see the scenery," said Chad, the son of James and Marie Paule Scanlon.

His U.S. collection includes several postcards of Washington that were sent to him from the office of President George W. Bush. He was working on getting postcards from Africa and Asia.

While he was receiving daily cancer treatments in Pittsburgh, Chad and his mother, who is the school's French teacher, missed a lot of classes. The treatment also caused his hair to fall out. At the time, 20 of his classmates and two teachers either cut their hair or shaved their heads as a sign of support.

Chad said the haircuts made him feel "loved and appreciated."

"It's awesome," he said.

Barbara Sabo, the school principal, said the good deed went beyond the school community because one woman donated pizza to the students and another woman wanted her knitting group to make hats for the students.

Although Chad missed much of the fall semester of school, he is a straight-A student and started to attend school a little more each week, Sabo said. Since winter began, he has been attending school full time and jump-roping when he is not too tired. He hopes to compete with the school jump-rope team in the spring.

When he was missing classes, he had some help with school studies from his mother, his speech, physical and occupational therapists, and some of the Holy Trinity teachers.

CNS PHOTO BY ED ZELACHOSKI, THE CATHOLIC ACCENT

Chad Scanlon, in a blue jacket, a sixth-grader at Holy Trinity School in Ligonier, Pa., is surrounded in 2006 by classmates, friends and teachers who had gotten buzz cuts to support him during his cancer treatments. While Chad has been battling a brain tumor, he has kept his focus on other things, including making a collection of postcards from all 50 states and every country around the world.

"My sister also helps me a lot," Chad said of 10-year-old Sasha, a fifth-grade student at Holy Trinity School.

He said receiving postcards from various locations helped him know that so many people were thinking of him and praying for him. And now, although his interest in geography continues, his career goal of becoming a geographer has changed.

"Now that I've gone through all my physical therapies, I want to be a physical therapist," he said.

WANT TO HELP?
Postcards for Chad Scanlon may be sent to: Holy Trinity School, 327 W. Vincent St., Ligonier, PA 15658.

Space is limited – call today!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

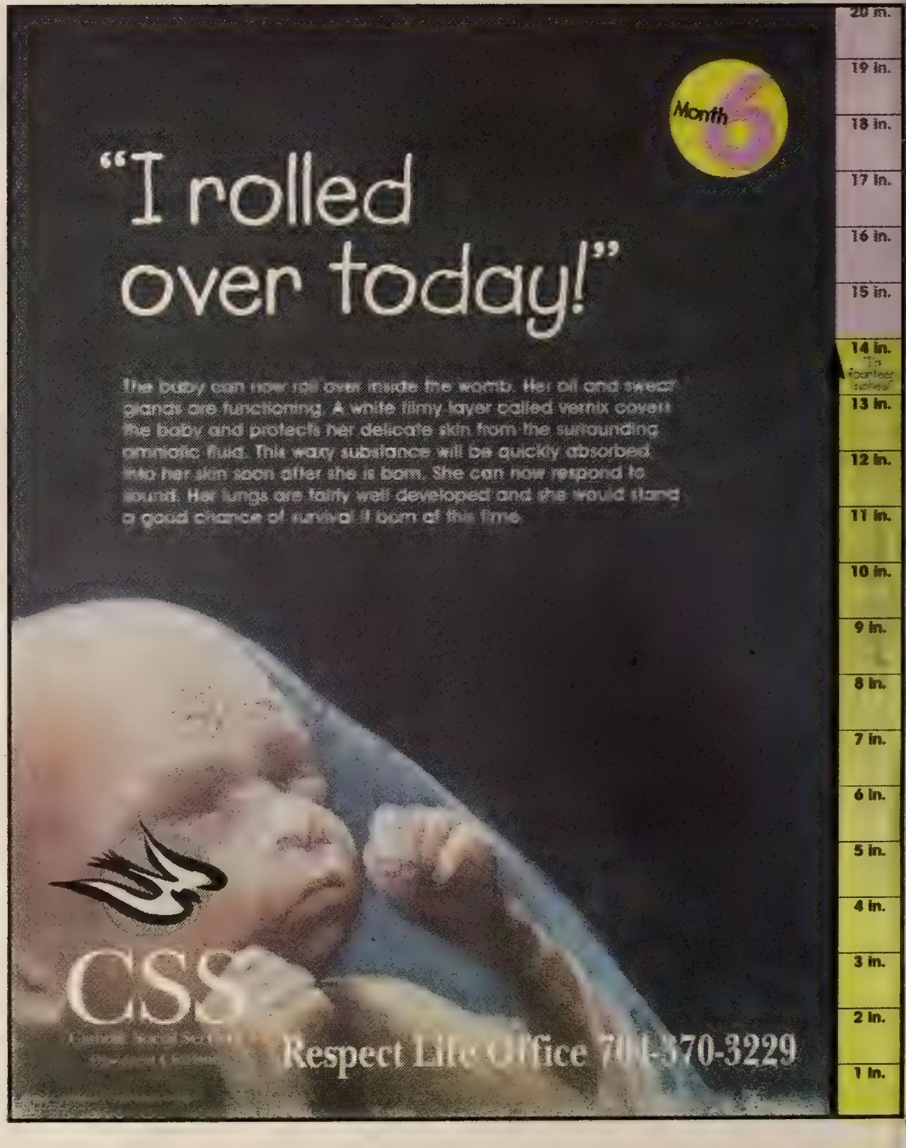
May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

$2,899 from Charlotte includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.
This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.



Month 6
20 in.
19 in.
18 in.
17 in.
16 in.
15 in.
14 in.
13 in.
12 in.
11 in.
10 in.
9 in.
8 in.
7 in.
6 in.
5 in.
4 in.
3 in.
2 in.
1 in.
CSS

"I rolled over today!"

The baby can now roll over inside the womb. Her oil and sweat glands are functioning. A white filmy layer called vernix covers the baby and protects her delicate skin from the surrounding amniotic fluid. This waxy substance will be quickly absorbed into her skin soon after she is born. She can now respond to sound. Her lungs are fairly well developed and she would stand a good chance of survival if born at this time.

Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile
St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville has long tradition of serving many in community
| PAGE 16

FEBRUARY 9, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 № 17

Stewards of the sick

Parishioner helps provide free health care to many

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — For Dr. Colin Thomas, helping others is what God wants him to do.

Thomas relaxes in the waiting room of the Free Clinics in Hendersonville after a morning spent at the local hospice. The retired urologist, and parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, maintains a full schedule of volunteering his time and talents as a board member and fundraiser for both the clinics and hospice.

"When I retired, I made a list of things I wanted to do," he said, before adding with an easy smile, "this wasn't on the

See CLINICS, page 5

Celebrating Catholic schools

COURTESY PHOTO

Seventh-grader Michael Paul Banks helps his "little buddy," third-grader Tim Thompson, with a poster based on the 2007 Catholic Schools Week theme, "Good News in Education," for the Buddies Poster Contest at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Jan. 29.

Diocesan, national schools celebrate 'Good News in Education'

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — For the more than 7,500 students in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, there is good news in education.

"Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education" was the theme for the 33rd annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 28-Feb. 3.

The annual event is designed to build support for

See CSW, page 7

MORE COVERAGE
Pages 8-9 | CSW activities
Page 14 | Vicar for education on the 'Good News in education'

Building bridges of faith

Hispanic ministry promotes intercultural unity

COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners of St. Eugene Church in Asheville re-enact the appearance of Mary to the peasant Juan Diego during a bilingual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration Dec. 10, 2006.

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

ASHEVILLE — Until recently, St. Eugene Church, Asheville's largest parish, had little to offer the Hispanic Catholic community.

In just the past few months, a vibrant Hispanic ministry has taken shape at the 1,000-family church, inviting hundreds of Hispanic Catholics to share in their faith, their parish and their community with their English-speaking neighbors.

During his pastorate in the early 2000s, Father Frank Cancro saw the need for more outreach efforts to the growing Hispanic population in the Asheville area.

In 2005, Father John Schneider assumed the pastorate of St. Eugene Church, and with it Father Cancro's vision for the development of a parish

See MINISTRY, page 13

Catholicism, through the years

Catholic high schoolers share wisdom, advice with grade schoolers

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — When facing an unknown future, sometimes it helps to hear from those who have been there, done that.

"Going to Catholic school is always going to be an integral part of your life. You look back on it and see that

See STUDENTS, page 6

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Dinners honor parishioners, highlight parish diversity
| PAGE 4

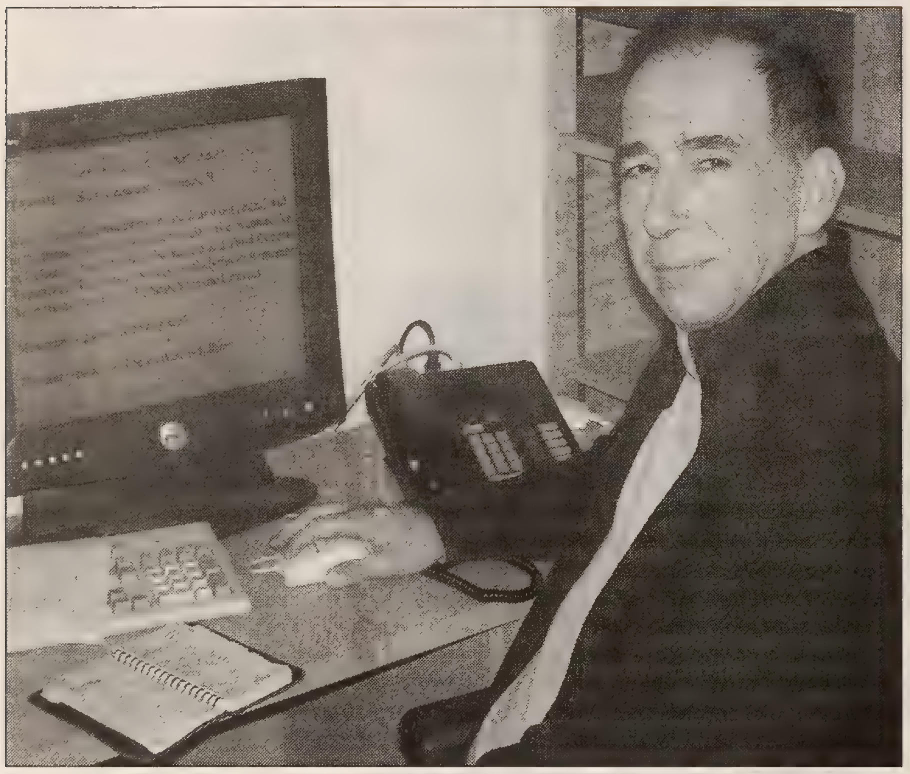
Culture Watch
Vatican defends publisher; novel becomes movie
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
Generating bad news; the marriage miracle
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

A PRIESTLY POET



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL MASTROMATTEO

Father Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, Toronto's poet laureate since 2004, says he has been interested in restoring creativity in society. "Governance must know that creativity opens the door to civic trust, and that civic trust is the foundation of good city building," he said in a recent interview.

Priest finds opportune pulpit in being Toronto's poet laureate

TORONTO (CNS) — The second person ever to serve as poet laureate for Toronto is also the first Catholic priest to hold the title.

It's an opportune pulpit for Father Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, 57, a priest-poet-philosopher who is now spreading ideas about how individuals, government officials and even business leaders can make cities and communities more livable as they give more thought to the "poetry" of their lives.

"I have not been strictly interested in poetry as poet laureate," Father Di Cicco said. "I have been interested in restoring the notion of creativity in the greedy landscape of globalization. The poet is a mediator of faith; the poetic touch is also about saving souls."

Ordained as a priest of the Toronto Archdiocese in 1993, Father Di Cicco was appointed poet laureate in 2004, winning over more than 40 other local writers and poets.

The position was created by Toronto city officials in 2001 to spur greater appreciation for the arts and culture. Father Di Cicco however, has already expanded the office with his determination to review the meaning, purpose and potential of wider civic engagement.

After enjoying success in the commercially tenuous world of poetry, today the much-published priest shares his poet laureate duties with parish work at two churches northwest of Toronto, and contributes poems to The Catholic Register newspaper and to the Sunday edition of the Toronto Star.

Father Di Cicco said poetry means more than the use of nonprose rhyming words.

"Homilies, for example, are poems," he said. "We must think outside the box, and (remember) that poetry is not that which is not prose. That which persuades the mind and heart is poetic.

"Christ's parables are testimony to his understanding that people wouldn't have read poetry even if they had had printing presses. The 'truth' seduces such that his words seduced. Poetry today, even in text, cannot seduce, if it does not allude to the truth," he said.

In line with his views on the importance of art and poetry in the creation of healthier, more sustainable communities, Father Di Cicco has utilized the poet laureate platform to expound his notion of the "urban aesthetic."

In lectures and appearances in Toronto and other North American cities, he has outlined this aesthetic as an effort to extend the truth and beauty of art beyond galleries and museums and as a way to color individual and community interaction.

"Because I'm a poet, I can translate Catholic truths in persuasive aesthetics and accessible rhetoric," he said. "I've always found it a challenge to express the spiritual in a secular world, but then poetry does that."

Father Drinan, ex-congressman, Jesuit and law professor, dead at 86

WASHINGTON (CNS) —Jesuit Father Robert F. Drinan, the first Catholic priest to vote in the U.S. Congress, received praise and censure during his lifetime for his active involvement in politics.

Father Drinan, 86, died Jan. 28 in Washington, where he had been treated for pneumonia and congestive heart failure for the past 10 days.

"Few have accomplished as much as Father Drinan and fewer still have done so much to make the world a better place," said T. Alex Aleinikoff, dean of the Georgetown University Law Center, where Father Drinan had taught since 1981.

"His life was one fully devoted to the service of others — in the church, in the classroom and in Congress," Aleinikoff added.

But others saw Father Drinan as less praiseworthy and his celebration of a Jan. 3 Mass at Trinity University in honor of new Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, a Catholic who supports legal abortion, brought new criticism.

In his blog Jan. 19, Father Richard John Neuhaus said he had been "influential in tutoring Catholic politicians on the acceptability of rejecting the church's teaching on the defense of innocent human life."

Father Drinan represented Massachusetts' 3rd District in Congress for five terms, from 1971 to 1981, but his political career effectively ended May 5, 1980, due to an order from his Jesuit superiors. Father Pedro Arrupe, Jesuit superior general, said the order reflected "the express wish" of Pope John Paul II.

George Weigel, a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, said Father Drinan's reputation was tainted by the fact that he was "on the wrong side" of the abortion issue and played "a pivotal role in the transition of the Democratic Party" from a pro-life party to one that ardently supported keeping abortion legal.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for Feb. 17 will be "Euthanasia vs. a Civilization of Life and Love." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Janice Olive, with Hospice at Charlotte, will present *"Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow"* Feb. 15, 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry building of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The goal of grief is not to forget, but to be able to remember the good and the bad times with less pain. We become reconciled to grief in the years that follow a loss, learning to live a very different life. The one-year mark is not a magic number, but there is hope that it gets better. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The *Hero for Life Award* is a $2,000 pro-life scholarship sponsored by Charlotte Right to Life, recognizing pro-life service and leadership for teenagers ages 14-18. Visit www.charlottelife.org for applications and information. Applications are due Feb. 19. Contact Jason Beckert at (704) 341-5084 or jmbeckert@carolina.rr.com with questions or for more information. The winner will be announced at the Life is Sweet dessert and coffee May 5 at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., will offer the *Catholics Returning Home* program Tuesdays through Feb. 20. The program offers a non-judgmental atmosphere for inactive Catholics to become reacquainted with the basics of their religion and to get answers to any questions that they may have. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Volunteers are needed for a *"40 Days for Life"* Lenten prayer vigil. The vigil will take place outside of the Family Reproductive Health facility at 700 E. Hebron St. A rally will kick off the vigil on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 8:30 a.m. at the facility. The vigil ends at 3 p.m., Palm Sunday, April 1. Sign up by contacting Andrea Hines at HinesAL@aol.com. Specify your preferred dates and times, and include alternatives.

CHARLOTTE — An eight-week study of Pope John Paul II's teaching on sex and marriage, *Theology of the Body: The Church's Teaching on Sex and Marriage*, will be presented Tuesdays through Feb. 27. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Annex at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Babysitting will be provided. A one-hour film presentation by Christopher West will be followed by discussion. Pre-registration is required by calling (803) 548-3356.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., will host a free screening of *Kilowatt Ours* Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. The documentary film addresses the topics of our responsibilities to God's creation and the reversal of climate change. For more information on the film, visit www.kilowattours.org. For directions to the church, and for other information, e-mail Dennis Teall-Fleming at teallfleming@yahoo.com or call (704) 825-9600, ext. 26.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

FEBRUARY 9, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 17

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: Peace means closing economic gap, ending conflicts

Search starts with tolerance, ends with love, archbishop says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Achieving peace implies closing the gap between the rich and poor as well as stopping terrorism and armed conflict, said a Vatican official.

It also implies "stopping a revived arms race and the proliferation of a variety of weapons (and) rejecting the glorification of violence in the media," said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican representative to U.N. agencies in Geneva.

The archbishop spoke to representatives of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist faiths at an interreligious prayer service in Geneva Jan. 30. Catholic News Service obtained a copy of his text.

The archbishop reminded them that millions of people are affected by current wars and, in many cases, a total disregard for humanitarian law.

He said there should be no surrender to the "culture of conflict" or acceptance of the idea that clashes are unavoidable and war is natural.

At the same time, Archbishop Tomasi said, the church is not naive. It recognizes that violence has become an increasingly complex phenomenon and poses unprecedented challenges to the international community, he said.

The search for peace is an orderly process that starts with tolerance, moves toward respect and justice, and culminates in the discovery that the highest vocation of every person is love, said the archbishop.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, and wives of members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in the *Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Feb.12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336)785-0693.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. The group will discuss the Gospel of Luke. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — All engaged and married couples are invited to attend a four-part course on *Natural Family Planning* taught by the Couple to Couple League. Learn how and why to live out the church's teaching on marital love, and discover an effective, healthy and moral alternative to artificial birth control. Classes will be held in the library of Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 West Market St., beginning Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. To register, please contact Scott and Carri Richter at (336) 621-1071.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — *Ash Wednesday* will be observed with an ecumenical service at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 76 Peachtree St., Feb. 21 at 12 p.m. The service, hosted by the Church of the Messiah and St. William Catholic Church, will feature Scripture readings, Lenten music and distribution of ashes. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Secular Franciscan Josephine Rosaschi will speak on "Franciscan Stories" at the Feb. 14 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

WINSTON-SALEM — Do you want to follow the Catholic Church's teaching on contraception? Learn *Natural Family Planning* with the Couple to Couple League beginning Feb. 18 at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., 1:30-3:30 p.m. Its philosophy is in full accord with Catholic teaching, and the method is healthy and effective. Please call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information about classes or NFP-knowledgeable physicians.

WINSTON-SALEM — *The Fraternity of St. Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order* invites anyone interested in learning more about the Franciscan way to life to an open house for new inquirers Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Our Lady of Mercy School media center, 1730 Link Rd. Secular Franciscans are a community of Catholic men and women in the world who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information, call Mary Ellen Humphrey at (336) 722-2293 or e-mail donaldbh@aol.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 18 — 11 a.m.
Diaconate ordination of Tri Vinh Truong
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

Feb. 27 – 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 28 – 7 p.m.
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Charlotte

Pope highlights special vocation of consecrated men and women

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Whether praying behind cloister walls or quietly witnessing to the Gospel in a factory, consecrated men and women have been called by God to dedicate their lives totally to him, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope highlighted the special vocation of consecrated people Feb. 2 in St. Peter's Basilica with religious men and women celebrating the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, and Feb. 3 with participants in an international symposium for members of secular institutes.

The members of the secular institutes include laypeople and diocesan priests who take special vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in order to live "with evangelical radicalism" while holding regular jobs or fulfilling their pastoral ministry, the pope said.

By living completely in the world, he said Feb. 3, the members demonstrate that "the work of salvation is fulfilled not in opposition to, but in and through human history."

They are called to show their co-workers, neighbors and friends that living a life totally devoted to God leads to a concrete commitment to justice, peace and joy, Pope Benedict said.

They are called to defend human dignity and the values necessary for true human fulfillment through their activities in fields "from politics to economics, from education to the commitment to public health, from the service industry to scientific research."

Working in the world, he said, they must embrace all human reality as Jesus did by being born into the world.

"Therefore, feel yourself called by every pain and every injustice, as well as by every search for truth, beauty and goodness, not because you have the solution to every problem, but because every circumstance in which people live and die is an occasion for you to give witness to the saving work of God," he said.

Meeting consecrated men and women Feb. 2 after a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Benedict said that by dedicating their lives totally to serving God and their brothers and sisters, religious "proclaim to a world that often is disoriented, but in reality is looking for meaning, that God is the lord of existence."

Auto blessing

CNS photo by David Mercado, Reuters

Franciscan priest at the Catholic sanctuary of Copacabana blesses a recently purchased used car for a Bolivian family in this November file photo. According to one survey, 71 percent of Latin Americans identify themselves as Catholic.

Catholic Charities volunteers respond to Florida storms' destruction

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — After tornadoes killed 20 people and left hundreds homeless in Florida, some 200 Catholic Charities volunteers were distributing care packages and checking with farmworker contacts to see how the storm affected them.

Catholic Charities was one of 11 faith-based and community partners helping with the relief effort after the storms during the overnight hours Feb. 1-2, according to the state's Emergency Support Functions division.

"This is going to be a long-term process, trying to help families rebuild," said Brenda Loyal, development director of Catholic Charities in Orlando. "Right now, it's day by day."

Catholic Charities of Central Florida, based in Orlando, dispatched a truck Feb. 3 to St. Vincent de Paul Parish in South Wildwood, St. Timothy Parish in Lady Lake and Northlake Presbyterian Church shelter in Lake County.

Knights, Columbiettes honor parishioners in Kernersville

Annual recognition awards highlights individuals' many accomplishments

KERNERSVILLE —Knights of Columbus Council 8509 and Columbiettes at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville recently presented their annual parish recognition awards.

Three parishioners were awarded certificates during a dinner held at the parish Jan. 27.

The David Reinhart Humanitarian Award was presented to Melanie Feeney Lewis, for living her faith within and beyond the parish community.

A Columbiette for 15 years, Lewis is a founding member of the parish respect life committee and spends Saturday mornings praying outside an abortion clinic in High Point. She also raises funds for Room at the Inn of the Carolinas, a Catholic maternity home in Greensboro; and volunteers for the church's ParishCare ministry, which ministers to the homebound and assisted living residents.

The Parishioner of the Year Award was presented to Al Livelsberger, a longtime member of Holy Cross Church.

Livelsberger, a fourth-degree Knight, helped form Council 8509 and served as its first grand knight. He also serves on the parish council and as an usher, has taught faith formation classes, and helps support the Knights' Operation L.A.M.B. and Room at the Inn of the Carolinas.

The Junior Achiever of the Year award went to Eli Robins, a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville. Eli maintains a 4.5 GPA, participates in a high school youth group and has assisted as an altar server, an usher, and with Vacation Bible School.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882. The Columbiettes are the women's auxiliary group.

Courtesy Photo

Eli Robins accepts the junior achiever award from Columbiette Shannon Meyer during an awards dinner at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville Jan. 27.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Come celebrate with us!

Belmont Abbey College will host a

Harambé Mass

in the Abbey Basilica on Sunday, February 25 at 7 p.m.

Monsignor Mauricio West, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, will serve as celebrant. He will be joined by the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir and the Kabaka Dancers for this special Mass in honor of Black History Month. Harambé is an African word meaning "togetherness" or "unity."

The public is invited to attend.

A gala of diversity

Courtesy Photo

Some 125 parishioners and guests of St. Vincent de Paul Church enjoy good food and camaraderie during "Societe International," the fourth annual winter gala dinner dance at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Jan. 20. The event, organized by the parish Women's Guild, consisted of 12 tables each representing a different country such as Peru, Spain, Ecuador, Ireland and Germany as a way to showcase the diversity of the parish. Each country was represented through food, music and decorations native to that country. Some table hosts displayed clothing and items from the represented countries, while informative posters and maps featuring other highlights adorned the parish hall walls .

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Early booking fares for choice of cabin categories are guaranteed until March 16th so call today for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

Parishioners helps provide free health care to many in Henderson County

CLINICS, *from page 1*

list. One thing that was (on the list) was wanting to be open to God's word in my life and allowing it to direct me."

In addition to volunteering his time with Immaculate Conception Church's ministry to the sick and homebound, Thomas felt God directed his involvement with the dream of Dr. Russell Socco, a fellow parishioner who offered his medical office space for the Free Clinics (formerly known as Volunteer Medical Resource Center).

The clinics provide free health care and services to low-income, uninsured residents in Henderson County.

Since Socco's death on Thanksgiving Day in 2006, his wife has continued to allow the clinics to use the office space, which includes three offices and an onsite pharmacy stocked with drug company samples donated by local doctors' offices.

Retired doctors collect the samples regularly so the patients will have the medications they need free of charge.

The clinics' services are appreciated and supported by many in the community. The local printing company doesn't charge Judith Long, the clinic's executive director, for printing work she brings in for the clinics.

The printing company's employees have all used the clinics at one time or another.

"They are so appreciative of the care they receive here, they want to do something," said Long.

The desire to help is evidenced by the donations from many of the patients, some of whom place contributions in the small box hanging next to the reception window.

"Some will put in coins, others will donate $20," said Long.

The small donations add up to keep the clinics running. Operating on an annual budget of $376,000, two-thirds of it is raised with the community donations and the remainder comes in the form of grants.

"Among the challenges, we don't bill anyone and receive no federal money," said Thomas. "Until recently, we didn't receive state money either."

Photo by Kathleen Healy Schmieder

Judith Long and Dr. Colin Thomas are pictured at the Free Clinics in Hendersonville.

The clinics just received a grant from the North Carolina Office of Research, Demonstrations and Rural Health Development to use in case management, said Thomas.

"It makes it easy for the doctors that we have great case management for follow-up, referrals and medications," he said.

From July 2005 through June 2006, the clinics recorded more than 1,300 patient visits, provided case management to 854 patients, arranged 27 surgeries and made 65 referrals for free services by local specialists.

More than 200 volunteers worked a total of 4,700 hours, and the professional services they provided had a monetary value of over $785,000. There are only two full-time and five part-time staff members at the clinic.

"They are the glue who make this place work," said Thomas, who recruits volunteers from his parish.

"The Secular Franciscans have volunteered as a group to do mailings and work on the newsletter," he said.

"There are so many Immaculate Conception volunteers, the clinic is fondly known in the community as 'Offsite Immaculata,'" said Long.

Since the clinics opened in December 2001, they have grown to accommodate the needs of those served, including diabetes, dental, eye and orthopedic clinics.

"We respond to the needs of the community," said Thomas. "Our times are set by when we can get volunteers. The biggest thing we do is set up the mechanisms to make it easy for people to volunteer time and talent."

"This job is a ministry. I get to be with people who, when we say 'we have a need,' they show up," said Long.

A psychiatric clinic was added in December 2006 in response to the mental health care needs in western North Carolina. Currently, the Free Clinics operates the only free psychiatric clinic in the nation covered by the Federal Tort Claims Act, extended by Congress in October 2004 to include free clinics and provide malpractice immunity for health care professionals who volunteer.

"(Coverage under the act) has made it easier to get volunteers," said Thomas.

The clinics' volunteers make all the difference.

"I am so proud of our physicians, nurse practitioners and volunteers who, after a long day at work, come here," said Thomas. "Giving back to people — it's that old story of 'it's better to give than to receive.'"

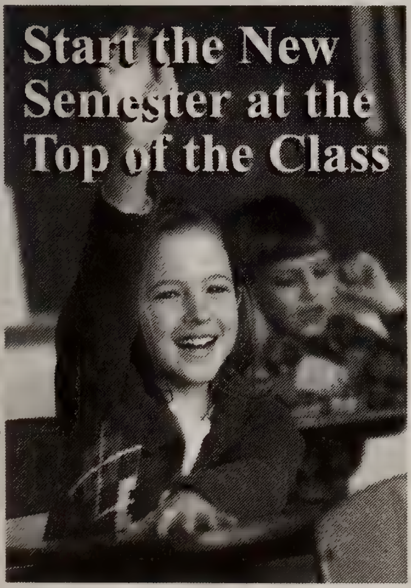
In January 2007, a recent patient sent a letter to the clinic that read: "God has provided you a heart to serve the underserved."

"I believe we are the hands and feet of Jesus," said Thomas. "The question is, how can we best do this?"

WANT MORE INFO?

For information about the Free Clinics in Hendersonville, call (828) 697-8422, or go online at www.thefreeclinics.org.

LAST DAY COMING
to sign up for
IRELAND
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE!!
Thursday, Feb. 22
See back cover of this issue or call (704) 370-3332 now.



Start the New Semester at the Top of the Class

Felicia Susi, Owner/Director
Parishioner, St. Matthew Catholic Church
& Parent, St. Matthew Catholic School student

South Charlotte
(704) 752-4234
www.camdenlearningcenter.com

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
is a personalized
educational center offering
specialized tutoring
for all ages in:

Reading • Phonics
Written Language • Math
Study Skills
SAT/ACT Preparation

Let Camden™ help.

CAMDEN
LEARNING CENTER™
The Academic Edge™

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Catholic high schoolers share wisdom, advice with students

STUDENTS, *from page 1*

it gave you a foundation and help to succeed," said Kirsten Edwards, a senior at Hendersonville High School who graduated from Immaculata Catholic School in 2003.

Kirsten and classmates Matt Hair and Megan Welty returned to Immaculata School in Hendersonville to speak to the students about the transition from Catholic elementary school to the public high school system during the Jan. 28-Feb. 3 observance of Catholic Schools Week.

A survey of the eighth-grade class revealed their thoughts and concern about leaving Catholic elementary school for public high school.

Their apprehensions centered on the unknown world where friends in public schools have already dealt with issues such as drugs, alcohol and premarital sex, as well as the less formidable but challenging issues of larger classrooms, socialization, fitting in and academic ability.

The three public high school seniors addressed those concerns, and shared the concerns and expectations they faced four years ago upon entering high school.

Academically, the 12 high school seniors who graduated from Immaculata School in 2003 have risen to the top of their classes at local public high schools. All of them are enrolled in honors programs, with Kirsten in line to be named valedictorian of the 2007 class.

The three seniors said they plan to go to college.

Matt Hair, older brother of eighth-grader Bethany, looks forward to college at N.C. State University in Raleigh, where has plans to get involved in the local church, join the Knights of Columbus and continue his volunteer work back home in Hendersonville during breaks.

Matt, who plans to become a civil engineer, helps his father in the kitchen each year with the Bounty of Bethlehem Christmas dinner, which is held in the gymnasium of Immaculata School.

Megan Welty also plans to attend N.C. State and aims for a career in fashion design. Kirsten Edwards, a Lutheran, will be attending Meredith College, a Baptist institution in Raleigh, and intends to pursue her medical degree to become an orthopedic surgeon.

All three spoke of Immaculata's quality of education and the foundation it gave them for high school.

"The teachers made everything exciting and interesting, there was never a boring day," said Kirsten.

"They wanted you to learn and wanted to teach," added Matt. "They want you to succeed. The smaller classes here are like a family."

Going from the family environment to the world presents challenges, they said.

"You need to know who you are," said Megan. "It's a double-edged sword because you are exposed to drugs, alcohol and sex."

"I know these children are prepared for high school," said Katie Patterson, a 1970 graduate and secretary at Immaculata.

"The principal at Hendersonville High says our students are always well-mannered and well-educated. I can't wait for them to return after college and tell me what they are doing," she said. "I know they will all be successful."

"Catholic schools were the best thing for me," said Matt. "They taught me good study habits; friends are always there for you and you are never alone. If you get uncomfortable with something, someone is there to help you."

The seniors were happy to offer advice to the eighth-graders.

"I want to set an example that they can be proud that they went to the same school," says Matt.

"I want to share with them that you can come from a Catholic school and be successful in public school," said Kristen.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMEDER

From left, Immaculata School eighth-grader Bethany Hair and high school seniors Megan Welter and Kirsten Edwards are pictured with school secretary Katie Patterson — all graduates of Immaculata School — during Catholic Schools Week.

got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

Schools celebrate Catholic Schools Week in diocese

CSW, *from page 1*

and to recognize the almost 7,600 Catholic elementary and secondary schools nationwide, including the 18 schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Highlights of the week were National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools Jan. 31, during which students from a dozen Catholic schools around the Washington, D.C., area descended upon the Capitol to make a legislative case for Catholic schools on a variety of issues, including educational choice.

Events in the Diocese of Charlotte included student appreciation days, volunteer appreciation days, special Masses, guest speakers and community outreach activities.

"Bad weather on Feb. 1 caused some rescheduling of events, but everyone enjoyed the day off as an additional celebration of Catholic Schools Week," said Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

Cherry; Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent; Patricia Murphy, director of diversity and government programs for the schools; and other schools office personnel visited the schools during the week. Cherry said highlights included a vocations day at St. Mark School in Huntersville.

"Priests, deacons and women religious from the area spent the day in classrooms, talking about their vocational call and answering questions for students," said Cherry.

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Mike Harney, a legislative assistant in the office of Rep. Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., talks with teacher Cindy Schafer and students Andy Nguyen and Alessa Garcia during a Catholic Schools Week visit to congressional offices Jan. 31 in Washington.

Catholic Schools Week is a collaborative undertaking by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"Our Catholic schools across the diocese provide families with the outstanding opportunity for academic excellence enhanced by faith formation," said Principal Gary Gelo of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro.

"This gives our children a solid educational foundation rooted in our Gospel values," he said.

Students at Our Lady of Grace School agreed, and they wrote essays about it.

"I for one think that it is a nice thing that our entire school goes to church with us on Wednesdays," wrote third-grader Sean Farley.

"I like having religion during school hours," wrote kindergarten student Christopher Sharkey.

Catholic schools provide outstanding religious and academic programs within a safe, nurturing environment, said Cherry.

"The daily living of the Catholic faith by the faculty, staff and students, coupled with the high academic achievement, reflects the mission of Catholic schools," she said.

"I applaud our parents on their decision to send their children to a Catholic school. Not only do they receive lessons on the basics to succeed in a business world, but a Catholic education also gives them the values they need to make the world a better place to live," said Principal Kevin O'Herron of St. Matthew School in Charlotte.

"They learn that right is always best and that there is value in being good. They learn that we are all children of God, and that we should care for others accordingly."

Lobbying on the Hill

National Appreciation Day was established to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to the country.

A wave of students from a dozen Catholic schools in the Washington and Baltimore archdioceses and the Diocese of Arlington, Va., visited the Capitol that day. They crowded into a Senate office building's hearing room, about 100 seats too small to accommodate all of them, to get their talking points and marching orders from a panel of highly placed adult leaders in the Catholic education field.

There are close to 7,600 Catholic schools in the United States, and their students "would love to be here doing what you're doing," said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association.

"You're representing all the students in all the Catholic schools across the country," she added. "What you're doing is very important."

"You're going to be our advocates today before the House of Representatives and the Senate on four important issues," said Father William Davis, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who is interim secretary for education for the U.S. bishops.

Father Daniel Coughlin, chaplain to the House of Representatives, told the students to "be proud" and to "say you're grateful, you're grateful to be in Catholic schools."

As part of the day, letters from chief administrators of Catholic education were delivered to their representatives and provided background on Catholic schools to every congressional office. Some of the letters were written by principals, parents and students in the Diocese of Charlotte.

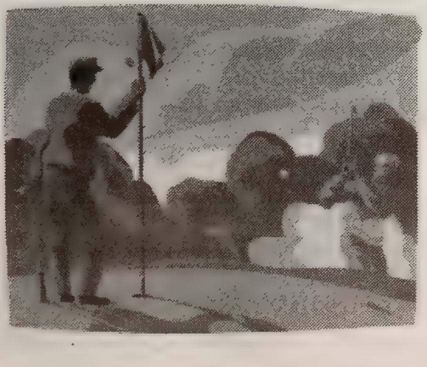
"In addition, we sent abbreviated copies of our 2006 State of the Schools Report and profiles on each of our schools within the individual districts," said Cherry.

"The ability to profess our faith in every word and action throughout the day makes our schools unique," she said.

NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 200,000 educators serving 7.6 million students at all levels of Catholic education.

The USCCB is the national public policy organization of the U.S.bishops.

Catholic Social Services
invites you and your golfing friends to join us!
4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



Monday, March 26 – 11 a.m.
Palisades Country Club - Charlotte
13704 Grand Palisades Parkway

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Honoree: Sr. Eileen McLoughlin, MSBT — former CSS Counseling Supervisor

$125 fee includes cart, box lunch and dinner
Registration or information: 704-370-3232

BOY SCOUTS AND CUBS

All Catholic Troops/Packs,
Individual Catholic Scouts
All interested Scouts or troops

Catholic Camporee 2007!
March 23,24 AND 25
Clear Creek Scout Camp — Midland, NC
Make plans NOW to attend!
Contact: Mark Morris – morrismark@usa.redcross.org
or (704) 535-3563

Science fair, performances mark CSW at Asheville Catholic

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Snow, ice and predictions of more bad weather led to many activities being cancelled for Catholic Schools Week, but little could cancel the students' enthusiasm at Asheville Catholic School.

After a delayed start Jan. 30, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders kicked off celebrations by hosting the school's annual science fair.

First place winner was Patrick Eckerd, who was his own test subject for "The Effects of Different Breakfast Cereals on Cognitive Ability." His conclusion: oatmeal is best to start the day.

Alex Kennedy took second place with "The Sleep Zone." Also his own test subject, Alex concluded that students need at least eight hours of sleep in a cool room each night in order to function well the next day.

Emily Snedeker won third place with her experiment "Mosquitoes Bug Me."

A family appreciation dinner was held that night. Speakers included Grant King, a former Asheville Catholic School student who spoke about the importance of Catholic education; Jan Zyboyovski, who started the school's preschool program and spoke about teaching in Catholic schools; and Frank and Becky Dosier, parents of former students, who spoke about how volunteering made their children's education a family experience.

Student and faculty appreciation day was held Jan. 31. Students were entertained in the gymnasium by Tim Arem, a former Catholic school teacher who works to combat the ever-growing rates of inactivity among youths.

Performing as "T-Bone," a brightly-colored health and fitness character, Arem led the students through his "Healthy Adventure" program.

Teachers then were called to the stage, where they were honored with poems, songs, accolades and roses from their classes.

Thursday's volunteer luncheon was cancelled due to inclement weather, but was rescheduled for the following week, along with a Mass and entertainment honoring students' grandparents.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Eighth-graders rap for the teachers at Asheville Catholic School Jan. 31 during the celebration of national Catholic Schools Week.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with NO BUY-IN FEES
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

School skits in Salisbury

COURTESY PHOTO

Students at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury perform a skit about famous Catholic leaders during the Catholic Schools Week celebration.

Winning artists

COURTESY PHOTO

Winners of the poster contest from the third-, fourth- and fifth-grades at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte display their work during Catholic Schools Week. Pictured are (from left): fifth-graders Anna Binkley and Sophia Kim, who tied for first-place; fourth-grader Hayley Russell, second place; and third-grader Allie Singletary, third place.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER –
A Continuing Silence

8 pm Friday – 3 pm Saturday
March 2-3

A continuing community of prayer support gathers every quarter at the Oratory. Schedule includes Taize prayer, silent contemplation, noon Eucharist, and lunch.

Cost: $35 commuters $65 overnight

Fun on wheels

Courtesy Photo

Pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students from St. Michael School in Gastonia enjoy a trip to a local skating rink to close out Catholic Schools Week, Feb. 2.

Food from fourth-graders

Courtesy Photo

Fourth-grade students at St. Matthew School in Charlotte hold food they collected for the St. Matthew Church food pantry Jan. 28. The collection was part of a Catholic Schools Week activity. The students brought in approximately 100 canned goods and non-perishable items from home. The collection was one of several service projects performed during the week, which included writing letters to troops serving overseas.

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Retirement isn't
what it used to be.
PLAN accordingly.

Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church

100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397

http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SmithBarney

© 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

Local football hero visits during Catholic Schools Week

BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — What do the quarterback of the Wake Forest University football team and Catholic Schools Week have in common?

It is the celebration of the community with a Jan. 30 visit from Riley Skinner, quarterback for the Wake Forest University Demon Deacons football team and hero for the many Wake Forest fans at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem.

Skinner told the students that he loved to play sports as a boy and that while in high school, football became his favorite sport.

However, "a lot of people doubted if I'd be able to play college football," he said, as he was not the biggest or the fastest player.

"I prayed to God to ask him if I should follow my dream and try to play in college, or go another way," said Riley. "I believed that if I trusted in God and worked really hard, I'd come out all right."

The Demon Deacons had a school-record breaking number of wins last fall — the team took the ACC championship, which the school last won in 1970, and made a first-time appearance at the Orange Bowl Jan. 2.

Skinner also spoke to the students about the importance of listening.

"I learned that you've got to listen to your teammates and you've got to listen to your coaches. And the same goes for in the classroom," he said. "People older than you have a lot to teach you, and I spend a lot of time listening to them."

He emphasized the importance of teamwork.

"A lot of times in football, a person will think that he can win on his own," said Skinner, but "teamwork is very important. In the classroom, work with your friends."

"Always do things with a loving heart and help those around you," he said.

"God," said Skinner, "has given me a lot of opportunities and blessed me with things others don't have."

While playing a sport and doing well academically is hard work, he said, "it is an honor for me to be able to play for Wake Forest."

Other Catholic Schools Week activities at St. Leo the Great School included an alphabet quiz bowl; a visit by Wally the Warthog, mascot of the Winston-Salem class-A baseball team; career day for the middle school grades; a pizza and bingo night for families; a teacher luncheon; and a snow day.

Photo by Susan deGuzman

Wake Forest University quarterback Riley Skinner signs autographs for students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem during Catholic Schools Week.

Parochial patriotism

Courtesy Photo

Students at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury wave American flags in honor of the United States of America during a Catholic Schools Week celebration.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Vatican publishing house defends choice of Doubleday for papal book

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican publishing house defended the choice of Doubleday as the English-language publisher of Pope Benedict XVI's new book on Jesus.

The book, "Jesus of Nazareth: From His Baptism to His Transfiguration," is scheduled to be released March 27 in North America.

Citing Doubleday's "respectful editorial curriculum," the Vatican publishing house said that when it contracted with the Italian publisher Rizzoli to handle the international translation and publication of the book, it expected Rizzoli to negotiate individual language rights with "the most important world publishing houses."

The Vatican statement, issued Jan. 30, came in response to a front-page article in the Italian newspaper Il Giornale saying the English rights to the pope's new book will be in the hands of the same publisher responsible for "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown.

Il Giornale said the assignment of rights to Doubleday, a division of Random House, which published Brown's book, occurred despite Vatican officials' recent complaints about how some publishers seem to enjoy making money from books that attack the church and the Christian faith.

The Vatican statement said Doubleday's catalogue also includes "Journal of a Soul: The Autobiography of Pope John XXIII" by Blessed Pope John XXIII, "Gift and Mystery" by Pope John Paul II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

London Opus Dei head complains to BBC over depiction on TV show

LONDON (CNS) — The director of Opus Dei in London has formally complained to the British Broadcasting Corp. over an alleged "defamatory portrayal" of the organization in a television police drama.

The director, Jack Valero, said two episodes of "Waking the Dead," shown on the BBC One channel Jan. 21-22, depicted Opus Dei members as violent and hypocrites.

"In these programs Opus Dei was portrayed as an organization of murderers, thieves and adulterers who justify and cover up evil actions while hiding behind a veneer of hypocritical piety and penitential rituals of self-flagellation," Valero said in a Jan.23 letter to the BBC.

Valero told the BBC it was wrong to name Opus Dei and then attribute fictional characteristics to its members. He said it would have been more fair to invent an imaginary organization for the storyline.

He said the BBC's depiction appeared to have been lifted straight from the pages of "The Da Vinci Code," the international bestseller by U.S. author Dan Brown. The book, which Opus Dei members felt depicted them in a negative way, was made into a 2006 film starring actor Tom Hanks.

Opus Dei, founded in 1928 in Madrid, aims to spread throughout all sectors of society an awareness of the call to holiness in ordinary life.

Valero also accused the publicly funded BBC of breaching its own guidelines committing it to avoid the perpetuation of "prejudice and disadvantage which exist in our society."

"We hope that the BBC will investigate the matter and apologize," Valero said in a statement Jan. 23. "But more importantly, we want the corporation to think carefully before choosing again to portray us in this irresponsible way."

"Waking the Dead" is one of Britain's most popular police dramas about unsolved cases.

A BBC spokeswoman told Catholic News Service Jan. 25 that the complaint had not yet been received.

"We will be replying directly to whoever has complained," she said. "We won't be making public the findings of our inquiries straight away."

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 18, 2007

Feb. 18, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1)1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
2) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
3) Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

God's love, grace should fill our hearts

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"It won't fit," I whined to my mother.

The five-pound bag of flour on the kitchen counter was simply too big for the canister I'd been instructed to fill. Busy as she was with the thousand and one steps required for baking, she looked at me patiently.

"Yes, it will," she said. "That canister holds five pounds of flour and a little more, if you know what you're doing."

Clearly, I didn't, so she coached me. Following her directions, I poured in flour about half way to the top, closed the canister and shook it vigorously, then lifted it slightly and let it drop a few times.

Grudgingly, I saw that there was now more room but remained skeptical. When, eventually, all five pounds had been transferred safely to the canister, I was amazed despite myself.

That image of measuring ingredients for baking comes to mind when I hear Sunday's Gospel story where Jesus urges us to "give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down and overflowing, will be poured into your lap."

The command he gives just before this is perhaps the most daunting in the Christian Gospel: to love our enemies, to forgive our persecutors, to leave the mysterious work of judging hearts to God.

Could any challenge be more sobering? Could any command be more counterintuitive, any standard of behavior more crucifying to embrace?

For we have looked into our own capacity for forgiveness, for mercy to those who have injured us, and we are all too aware of its limits.

We shudder to think of all we have to let go of before we can be filled up: resentment, grudges, entitlement, moral superiority.

The good news is that God pledges to find room in our hearts and lives and spirits for the mercy and grace we need to become so generous, so filled with love. And God is not stingy when it comes to grace.

Questions:

Who has been an example of unstinting forgiveness in your life? What is one way you can practice the discipline of suspending judgment of others?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Give and it shall be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over" (Luke 6:38ab).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 11-17

Sunday (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26; **Monday,** Genesis 4:1-15,25 Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday,** Genesis 6:5-8, 7:1-5, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cyril and Methodius),** Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday,** Genesis 9:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday,** Genesis 11:1-9, Mark 8:34–9:1; **Saturday (Seven Servite Founders),** Hebrews 11:1-7, Mark 9:2-13.

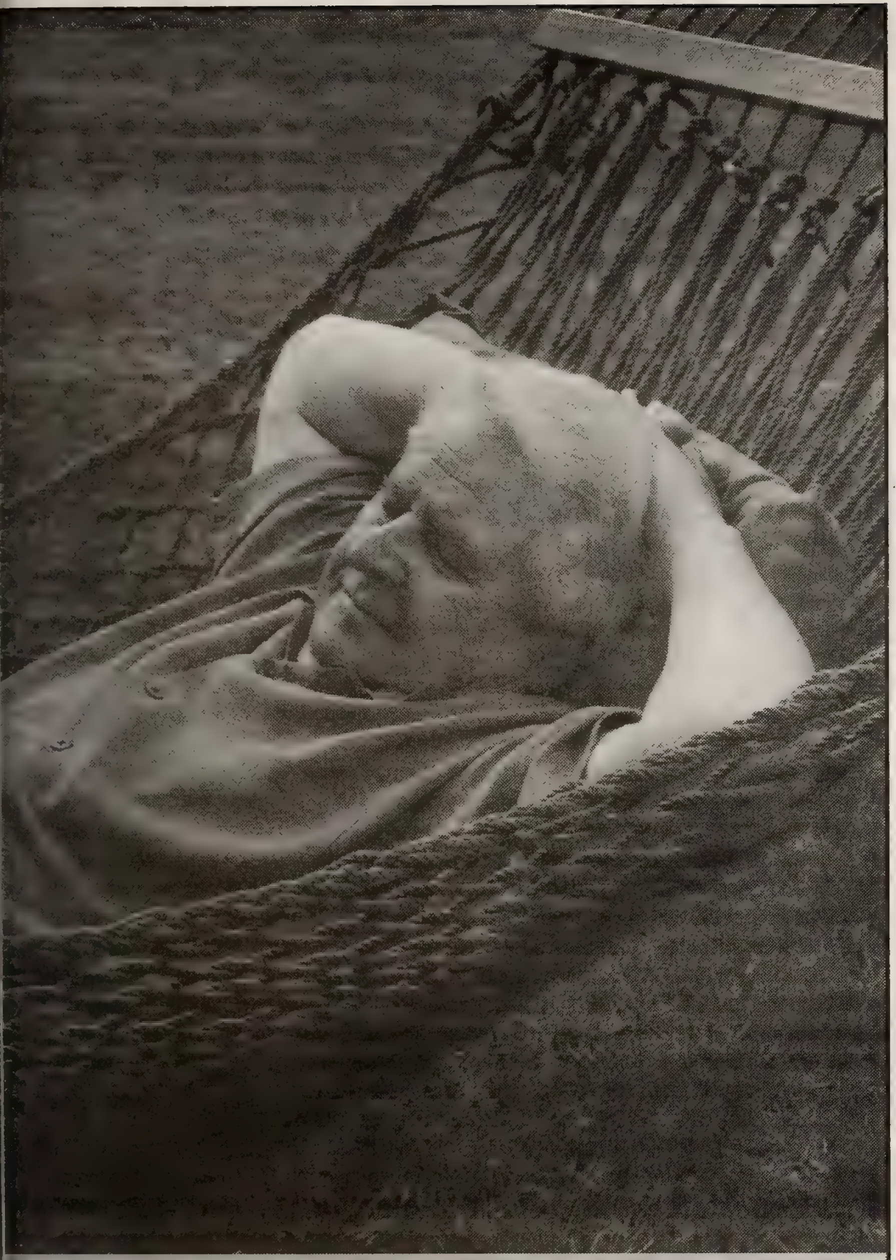
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 18-24

Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38; **Monday,** Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday,** Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (The Chair of Peter),** 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Polycarp),** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church



Retired.
Not retiring.

For Phil, wellness means relaxing without a care in the world. Having more time to exercise his mind and listen to his spirit gives him a sense of inner harmony. It's the simple joy of living, and Phil knows he'll find it here. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Ret2

Catholic University grad brings his mom's novel to life on the screen

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — David Paterson, a graduate of The Catholic University of America, has brought his mom's novel to life on the big screen.

Paterson co-wrote the screenplay and co-produced the new movie, "Bridge to Terabithia." He steered his promotional tour to Washington — he was raised in the suburbs of the city — to include a visit to the school with a free preview screening of the film.

"I had actually made a promise to Catholic (University) that I would come here and meet with the students," Paterson said.

The distributor, the Walt Disney Co., is releasing the film Feb. 16.

Having participated on panels at film festivals such as Sundance, Paterson said, "I like talking to the students ... and the young filmmakers."

Paterson started out as a theater major at Catholic University, as he was already acting professionally during his teenage years.

"I wasn't sure that I was even going to college," he said. "I applied to three universities. Two of them accepted me."

One was Catholic University and the other was the College of William and Mary in Virginia.

He ultimately wound up with a history degree from Catholic University after three separate stints over five years.

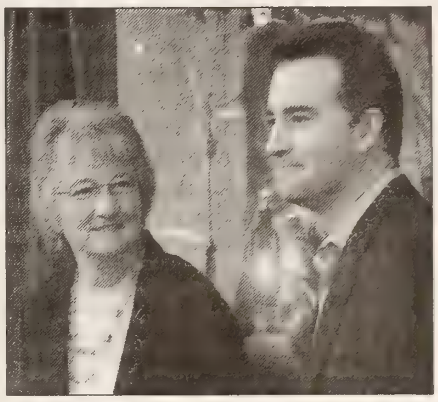
"College requires money, which neither I nor my parents had any large quantity of at the same time," Paterson said.

His mother is children's novelist Katherine Paterson. She wrote "Bridge to Terabithia" 30 years ago, and it continues to be a popular book among the young set.

David Paterson said, "I have been waiting to make this (movie) for 17 years." One of his conditions was that the movie studio "was not going to betray the book. ... Ninety-nine percent of the time, when they 'interpret' something it's a bomb."

The book, which won the Newbery Medal in 1978, is a fantasy/adventure story about friendship and the power of imagination.

Paterson has another vested interest in "Bridge to Terabithia." It was written about him.



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS PIZZELOO, REUTERS

Katherine Paterson, author of the novel "Bridge to Terabithia," poses with her son, David Paterson, at the premiere of the story's film version in Los Angeles Feb. 3.

"When I was 8 years old, I was very much withdrawn. I loved to draw. I loved to run. I was fully in love with my music teacher," just like the young male protagonist in the book and movie, he said. "I was scared by my father. He was a (Presbyterian) minister. He worked for God."

In the midst of this, "a new girl came to school. Her name was Lisa Hill. We became fast friends. ... That summer, before third grade, she was killed. She was struck by lightning," Paterson said. "I was told my friend was gone, and that I would never see her again. And I never did."

"She wrote it for me," Paterson said of his mother's book, "but she also wrote it for therapy for herself."

Because the story was so personal, Katherine Paterson asked her young son for permission to publish the novel. David Paterson consented but only if his mother dedicated the book to Lisa; Katherine added David's name to the dedication as well.

Paterson said he got some notoriety out of the book. He recounted people telling him: "You're the original Jess (the male character's name)? That's really cool."

That was on the same scale, he added, as someone saying, "'That's a really cool scar,' but it doesn't say anything about how I got that scar."

The publicity team behind the movie has asked writers not to reveal the plot elements near the film's end. Paterson was asked why that is, considering the movie is essentially the same as the book, which has been in print since 1977.

"Even if every person who read 'Bridge to Terabithia' saw it — and brought five people — the film would still lose money," he replied. "We have to reach out to audiences that have never read the book or heard of it."

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden
A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation
OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM
(828)687-7714 or call for appointment
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Homily at the Mass for North Carolina participants in the national March for Life

Editor's note: This is the text of Bishop Jugis' homily at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22.

From the Bishop

BISHOP
PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

On behalf of Bishop (Michael J.) Burbidge and myself, we greet everyone who is attending this Mass, especially all those who are here from North Carolina, representing parishes and Catholic schools across the entire state.

Embryonic Stem-Cell Research

One new issue we North Carolinians must pay attention to this year is embryonic stem-cell research. Hopefully you have already heard your pastors addressing this topic, or have read inserts in your Sunday bulletins.

One of our representatives in the North Carolina House has already reacted publicly to our call for action on this issue by saying: "You are talking about something that is microscopic."

You see, the battle line is already drawn by the terminology that is used, choosing not to call the human in his or her embryonic stage a human being or a new human life, but rather "something." Here we have an example of the relativism about which our Holy Father has spoken, where each person subjectively defines for himself what is truth, what is reality.

But we respond: How can one human being say to another human being — at any stage of his or her development — "your life is less valuable; your life is less important; your life can be sacrificed for another purpose"?

A new human life has indeed begun at conception, with his or her own unique genetic make-up, which is neither that of the father nor of the mother, but is uniquely and genetically different, and already beginning the course of his or her own personal life.

As we gather today, we are mindful of the work which lies ahead of us in North Carolina this year. Please take the time to write a quick note to your senators or representatives in the North Carolina Legislature.

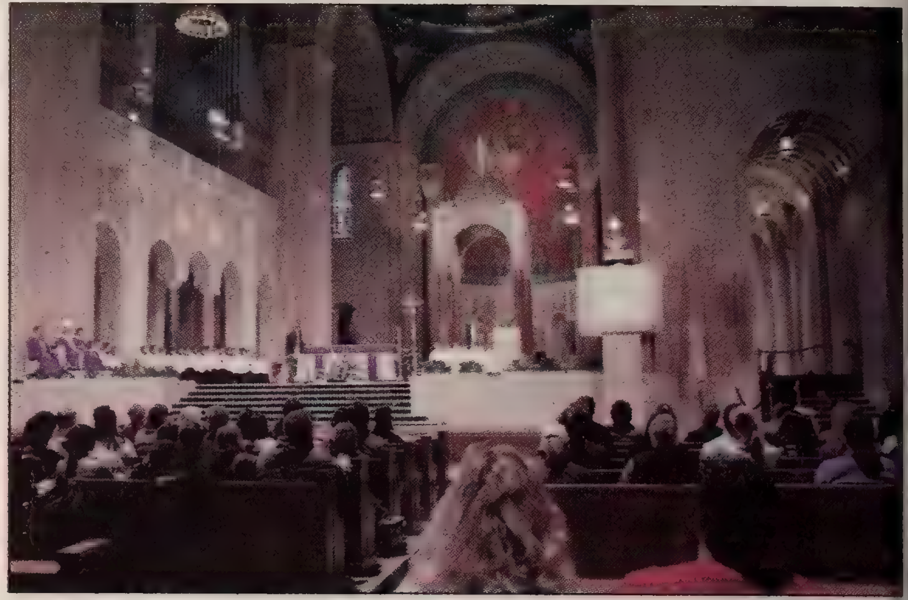
Prayer and Penance

Today, Jan. 22, is a national day of prayer and penance for the sin of abortion in our land; hence we use violet vestments at this Mass. Through our acts of penance we beg God to have mercy on us and on our country, and to come to heal us.

Jesus calls us to do penance. He said to His disciples: In my name, penance for the remission of sins is to be preached to all the nations (Luke 24:47).

What Jesus said to His disciples then, He says to us today: Blessed are you who mourn — for the sins of humanity — for you shall be comforted (Matthew 5:4).

We are doing penance for the sin of abortion. We have made sacrifices to be here to show our love for the unborn. It is a sacrifice to brave inclement weather conditions to come to Washington for this day.



COURTESY PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis delivers his homily at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., before the national March for Life Jan. 22.

There are hardships which we endure, which we offer up patiently and joyfully, without complaint. God sees and blesses that penance which we have voluntarily undertaken.

Over the years I have met people who have told me that they fast regularly as penance for the sin of abortion.

Many of you pray regularly and do sidewalk counseling outside abortion clinics to show a loving response in the face of death and destruction, and you experience the world's hostility and rejection.

Blessed are you when men insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely for Jesus' sake. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in exactly the same way. (Matthew 5: 11-12).

Three teenagers I met after a confirmation Mass in Asheville last year told me they go to pray every month at the abortion clinic.

This day is a day of prayer and penance — and every day is a day of prayer and penance — for our country to have a change of heart regarding the destruction of the unborn.

What sacrifices and penances can you do personally to contribute to this powerhouse of prayer besieging heaven for mercy and conversion of hearts?

Participating in the March for Life

Why are we so eager to come to Washington each year? When I visit parishes in the diocese, people say that they look forward to the March for Life in Washington. Why do we look forward to the march even though it entails some hardship and sacrifice?

It's because the cause for innocent human life is absolutely true. It is absolutely right. It is absolutely reasonable.

The human life that has just been conceived, or is in the embryonic stage, or at any stage of development, is a human being in every instance. Yes, this is truth. The cause for innocent human life is true. There is no gray area.

We are eager to come to the march every year because here is Christ. Jesus is here! The mystical body of Christ is always eager to come together to be with the head of the body: Christ Jesus. He unites us in himself. He unites us in truth — He who is the way, the truth and the life.

The presence of Jesus is very evident in this gathering — the love of Christ, the mercy of Christ, the compassion of Christ, the joy of Christ, the grace of Christ are present here. Why wouldn't that living presence of Christ be attractive to us, and make us want to be here with Him each year?

At Mass He feeds us with His Body and Blood to ensure that His presence stays alive in us, and that we remain rooted and grounded in Him.

What Jesus said to His apostles the day of His resurrection, He says to us today: Peace be with you. The Father sent me, and now I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20: 21-22).

Jesus is Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:5).

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
IGLESIA CATOLICA DE SAN JOSE
ASHEBORO, NC

COURTESY PHOTO BY MARIA PINCUS

Pictured is the group of youths and adults from St. Joseph Church in Asheboro who attended the pro-life rally and march in Raleigh Jan. 13. Bishop Peter J. Jugis spoke at and participated in the rally..

Classifieds

FOR RENT

VILLA: Isles of Palms, SC (Charleston area): 3 BD, 3BA. Resort community. Walk to beach, pool, golf, tennis. Tropical, upscale décor. Extended stay discounts available. 703-255-0572

TOWNHOME: Lovely one-story townhome at Lake Norman. 2 bedrooms – 2 baths. Lots of storage. Walking distance to shopping center. $900/month includes water. Call 704-995-6455.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Ministry promotes unity

MINISTRY, *from page 1*

Hispanic ministry.

Last year, a group of Anglo parishioners found out that a group of Hispanics, mostly from Guatemala, were gathering in the church's chapel for a weekly prayer group.

Most of the members of the prayer group had been part of the parish for two years, even though the church did not offer a Spanish-language Mass.

Recognizing the need to reach out to their Hispanic brothers and sisters in faith, a small group of Anglos and two Hispanics formed the Latino Advocacy Group, according to Antonio Garcia, diocesan Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Asheville Vicariate.

"The advocacy group has been a great help," said Garcia. "They have built a bridge between the two communities."

The first Spanish-language Mass was celebrated in late October 2006 with 150 congregants. Today, about 300 Hispanic Catholics regularly attend the weekly Mass.

"The people who are showing up are surprisingly varied — from the well-educated middle-class to the very poor, uneducated," said Father Bill Rickle, director of the Institute on Migration, Culture and Ministry. "They also come from a wide variety of countries."

Hispanic ministry is one of the ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte supported by your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

The institute, which is hosted by Loyola College in Baltimore, focuses on helping immigrants transition from their native countries to the United States. It also gathers information from many areas in order to understand how best to help the Hispanic community.

The institute also promotes community development and integration of immigrants into the mainstream of the Catholic Church and society.

"We're particularly happy because this ministry gives us a chance to assist the diocese, while doing what we do best; it's a good fit for all of us," said Father Rickle.

Part of the institute's work in Asheville is providing a priest, Jesuit Father Bill Ameche, to coordinate Hispanic ministry efforts.

Courtesy Photo

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott follows a group discussion during the first diocesan Encounter for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry at St. Therese Church in Mooresville in 2005.

The most important thing in building a cohesive parish is for each group — Hispanics, Anglos, African Americans and others — to make the others feel welcome, Father Ameche said.

At St. Eugene Church, this is happening on both sides. Anglo parishioners are at each Spanish-language Mass to greet worshippers. And when the Hispanics organized a celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Anglos attended in large numbers as well, bringing 625 area Catholics together as one.

"Once the Hispanics feel welcome by the Anglos, they feel welcomed into the parish," said Father Ameche.

As the needs of Hispanic parishioners have arisen, the parish has taken steps to meet those needs.

Catechism classes are taught in Spanish to about 30 children preparing for first communion. Another 30 children, who have already received that sacrament, attend "community classes" to further their religious education, said Father Ameche.

When the Anglo parishioners learned that the adults wanted to improve their English, they began offering English classes concurrently with the children's classes.

Starting in a few weeks, Spanish classes will begin for English-speakers.

The goal of Hispanic ministry throughout the diocese is to "make connections and share their gifts" with the rest of the church, said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director for diocesan Hispanic ministry.

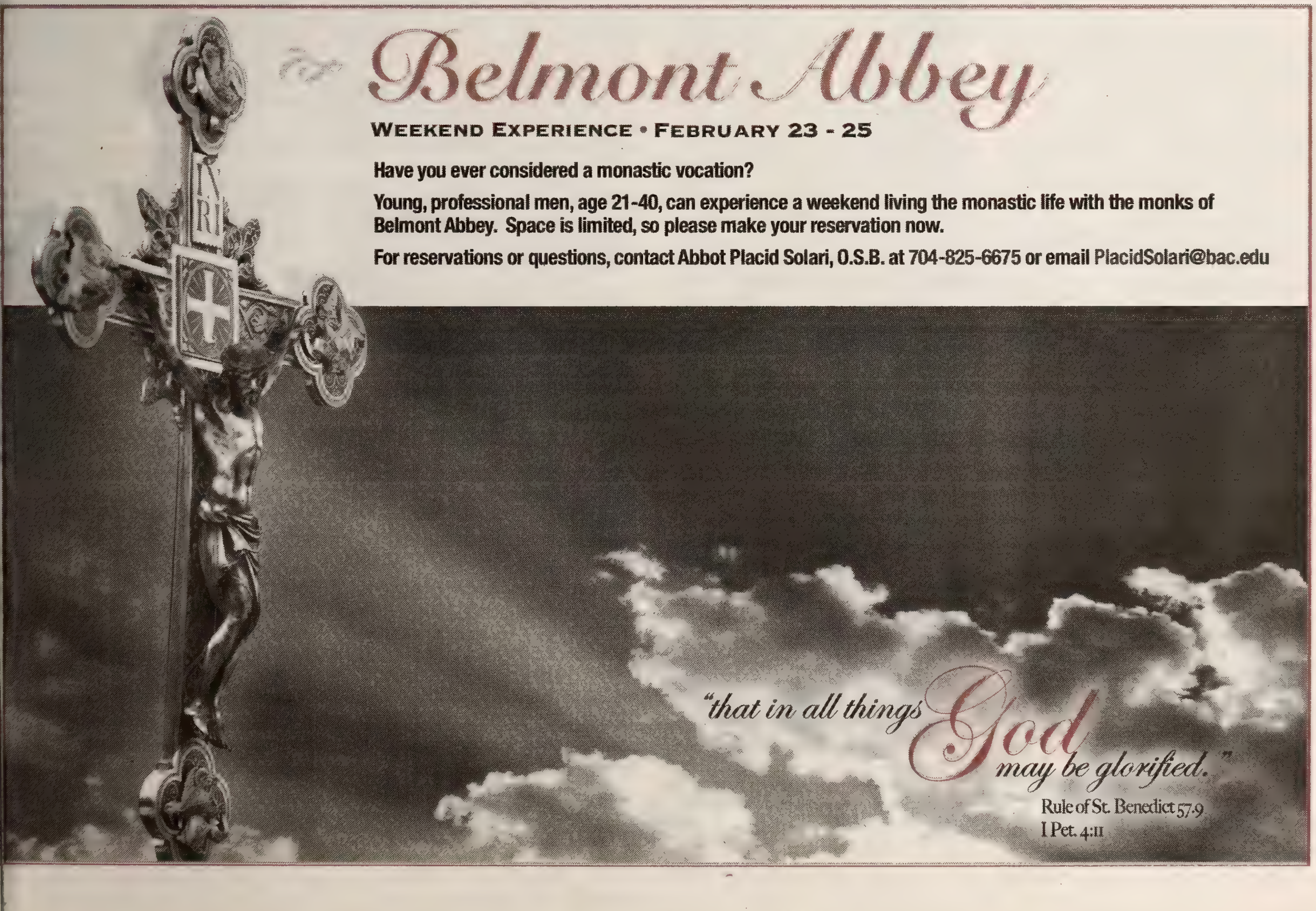
"Our vision is that the Hispanic community takes its rightful place, at all levels, in all the parishes of the Diocese of Charlotte," said Sister Inkrott.

By embracing minority populations of Catholics, the diocese is made stronger through their diverse talents and shared beliefs, she said.

Sister Inkrott hopes Hispanics will continue to play a significant role in building the kingdom of God, and inspire other minority communities of Catholics to follow their example.

"Hispanics are a blessing to the whole church," Sister Inkrott said. "With their gifts, and our gifts, we can build a beautiful church — one that isn't like any church before it."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.



Belmont Abbey

Weekend Experience • February 23 - 25

Have you ever considered a monastic vocation?

Young, professional men, age 21-40, can experience a weekend living the monastic life with the monks of Belmont Abbey. Space is limited, so please make your reservation now.

For reservations or questions, contact Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B. at 704-825-6675 or email PlacidSolari@bac.edu

"that in all things God may be glorified."
Rule of St. Benedict 57.9
I Pet. 4:11

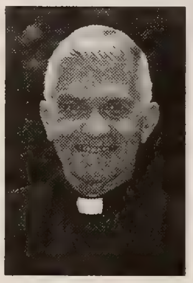
Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The Good News in Catholic education

Catholic schools, teachers help faith live, thrive

Guest Column



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

I recall so vividly the first day that my mother brought me to the Cathedral grammar school in Boston. As a six-year-old, I experienced a sense of anxiety as she introduced me to Sister Ruth.

The fact that I was soon to be enveloped by a strange setting with kids I didn't know was far from comforting. Yet, my feelings of confusion and helplessness did not go unnoticed as Sister Ruth, while taking me in her arms, shared the truth in love.

She said so simply, "Jimmy, Jesus loves you and so do I."

That memorable moment set the stage for the 12 years of Catholic schooling that would follow for me. As the days, months and years unfolded, I came to realize and appreciate that Jesus did, does and will love me unconditionally.

I grew in my recognition that each of my teachers mirrored his care and compassion on my behalf. I grew in my understanding that the Catholic school was a grace-filled environment within which the vision, values and virtues of Jesus himself not only were taught but were lived.

During these formative years, I was reminded again and again that I should cultivate the intellectual and affective components of my life; that I should develop my talents and skills; that I should allow Jesus to minister to me and through me.

What a blessing it was for me to be in a setting founded upon the person and message of the risen Lord.

After having been ordained 10 years, I served for a decade as the director of religious education for the 212 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Boston. While exercising that role I participated in the process of ensuring that the schools would never be perceived as simply "private."

I welcomed the privilege of reminding teachers that they were implementing a public ministry within the church as they took seriously their responsibility to teach as Jesus did. Time and again I quoted the words of Pope Paul VI when he wrote, "People today don't believe teachers. They believe witnesses. If they do believe teachers, it is because they are witnesses."

Since my arrival in the Diocese of Charlotte in 1995, it has been an honor for me to communicate and collaborate with so many devoted and dedicated teachers within this diocese.

Their conviction that Jesus is Lord and their commitment to serve in his name have been exemplary and inspiring. They have labored zealously to create and cultivate an environment within which the person and message of the teacher are viewed as the very foundation of the grace-filled setting that is the Catholic school.

Many years have passed since I entered first grade. How times have changed in the interim. As in the past, it must never be forgotten that Jesus loves us and sends us, regardless of our age, to share that love with others as we exemplify his peace and justice, compassion and forgiveness.

Is it any wonder, then, that we acknowledge the Good News in Catholic education during this year's Catholic Schools Week?

Father Hawker is vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte, and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Letter to the Editor

Visible witnesses in women religious

I found an omission in the article on women religious by Staff Writer Karen A. Evans very telling "Tomorrow's sisters today," Jan. 12.

While the article was well-written, it does not mention something that is common to some orders of women religious: that they are radically living out the evangelical counsels with a radical orthodoxy coupled with a visible witness — a habit.

These young women are giving themselves to our Lord and are unafraid to witness to him in everything they do and in all circumstances in which they do it.

To me, this is the hope for the coming generations of Catholics. This willingness to witness through a radical, sacrificial and visible life will inspire more vocations more effectively than a hundred talks about vocations.

Let's pray that these young women — and the young seminarians who are beginning to live their vocations in an equally radical way — continue to have the support of their bishops and the people they serve.

— Jane Kodack
Greensboro

Generating bad news

Honesty, accountability generate positive change, trust

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The winding river of my communications career has taken me around several bends when it comes to sharing bad news.

In the public sector, when I worked for a school system, bad news took the form of low test scores that were dutifully buried beneath a haystack of statistics that made the bad needles a little hard to find.

In the corporate world I learned that unless the CEO is sporting handcuffs, bad news is generally ignored.

The place where I now work — the gathering place of admitted sinners, the Catholic Church — is where I've found more candor than at any other stopping point in my career.

Forthrightness, as demonstrated with the release three years ago of the John Jay study of sexual abuse by clergy, can be painful. In apologizing for the sin and crime of sexual abuse, the church conducted a far reaching study of the problem and its causes.

A new study from Villanova University in Pennsylvania brings another round of scrutiny. The issue this time is parish finances.

The Villanova study, as reported in the Jan. 26 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, found that four out of five diocesan finance officers who answered a national survey said they had experienced at least one case of embezzlement of parish funds within the past five years. In 11 percent of those dioceses, the amount pilfered from individual churches was more than half a million dollars. Ouch!

The authors of the report, Robert West and Charles Zech, demonstrated an anti-Catholic bias when they sought funding from the Presbyterian-based Louisville Institute. The first pandering sentence of their grant proposal reads, "Compared to their Protestant friends, U.S. Catholics know very little about the financial operations of their church, which has the general reputation of neither being transparent nor accountable in its finances."

So much for starting with an open mind.

Despite the underlying bias of the authors, the report was published through the Catholic Villanova University. Why, you may ask, does the church keep supplying the media with bad news about itself?

What the church is doing, and doesn't get much credit for, is acting in an open and honest manner. Like the John Jay report, the Villanova study presents valid statistics for a very large but not unique organization — the Catholic Church.

Will we see the same level of financial honesty and openness from other Christian denominations and non-profits? Hope so. Doubt it.

Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, plays a lead role in implementing accounting systems that ensure the integrity of the collections in the diocese.

"It is very important for us to be forthright to our parishioners with our accounting and financial processes," said Weldon in a recent interview for docPod, the diocesan podcast.

Weldon also serves as chairman of the national advisory Accounting Practices Committee, a lay group of certified public accountants convened to advise the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The committee recently presented bishops with a list of recommendations that will take greater financial accountability down to the parish level.

The recommendations, most of which have been implemented in the Diocese of Charlotte, include:

— Sending the bishop a letter signed by all members of the parish finance council, certifying that approved budgets were made available to parishioners for review;

— training for clergy and laypeople responsible for finances;

— policies that cover conflicts of interest, protecting whistleblowers and prosecuting fraud cases.

Weldon said the frontline for financial accountability in Catholic churches is the parish finance council.

"The parish finance council is the single best internal control that exists at the parish level," he said.

Weldon stressed the importance of regular meetings and comparisons of actual expenditures against what was budgeted.

As the Presbyterian Church USA learned last summer when it fired its number two finance officer for — you guessed it — embezzlement, the systems that well-meaning accountants put in place sometimes can be circumvented by determined con artists.

The question for each of us as we read these press accounts and place our envelopes in the offertory basket is: Do I trust this organization?

The churches in this diocese have earned that trust. Bill Weldon is working to ensure that trust for all the nation's 19,000 Catholic parishes.

David Hains is director o communications of the Diocese o Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@ charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is availabl at www.charlottediocese.org.

The blessings of Cana

A thank you to the miracle of marriage

Peace of Mind

LORI FOX
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Gospel of John tells us about the very first miracle that Jesus performed in public.

Jesus — an invited guest at a wedding celebration that was well underway — was pulled aside from all of the merriment by his mother. Mary asked him if he would please do something to save the dignity of the bride and groom, as they had run out of wine to serve.

Jesus asked that large earthen vessels be filled with cold clear water. After being filled, these same vessels began pouring out wine that was sweet and abundant.

In addition to this miracle, what if another miracle that day in Cana was also Jesus showing us what is possible when a man and woman join together in the sacrament of marriage?

When two people come together to join hearts and lives in the "vessel" of marriage and invite the most powerful of all special guests to their celebration, what emerges from this union is nothing short of miraculous — and the world tastes the sweetness of their blessings.

Consider the following:

— Marriage can create tender healing for the jagged scars of past relationships.

CNS PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GREG TARCZYNSKI

It is marriage that "becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa," said Pope Benedict in his first encyclical, "God is Love."

Hearts are mended and become open to the world to give and receive more love than ever before.

— Marriage can create joy. With deep compassion and commitment to happiness comes gaiety and excitement for each day. When the song of laughter rings through the air, all the world is emboldened to face life's challenges.

— Marriage can create wealth. The combination of material and spiritual resources builds homes and communities that comfort, nurture and inspire.

— Marriage can create life. A brand new person comes into existence and the world is changed by his or her very presence.

The true miracle of the wedding at Cana is as alive and real today as it was on the day of that wonderful party that Jesus attended. With the marriage of two souls comes the power to create something fine from nothing at all, and all the world is better for it.

So here's to you, Valentines — lift your goblets high and see with gladness all that you have brought us. May your cups runneth over.

Lori Fox is counseling supervisor for Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The 'American Idol' approach to dreams

Success requires both talent and perseverance

Our Turn

THERESA J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

What's up with all these "American dol" contestants making fools of hemselves on national television, "humiliations set to music," according to recent Washington Post article.

Some think the wannabe stars have t coming to them for appearing on the how. And what the heck are parents and riends doing encouraging "horrendously ocally challenged, camera-unfriendly erformers?" asked Beliefnet's pop-ulture blog titled "'American Idol' and ur Culture of Lies."

Jennifer Crocker, a professor of sychology at the University of Michigan ho focuses on self-esteem issues, ays parents shouldn't encourage their hildren to believe they will become merica's next idol if there's no chance.

"Telling your kid they're great can reate more vulnerability," says Crocker n a Newsweek interview about the elevised stoning sessions.

"Some people think kids can't stand hear anything negative so they only ive them praise, but research shows hat those are the kids who are the most ulnerable when they experience a etback," she said.

But aptitude and skill have so little do with dreams and who gets to live heirs out.

"Success is 99 percent perspiration nd 1 percent talent," my business-savvy father told me back when I was unloading Thin Mints as a Brownie Girl Scout.

"The only thing that separates the winners from the losers is perseverance," he said.

Dr. Seuss received 27 rejections before "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street" was published; a skinny, 5-foot-11 Michael Jordan was cut from his varsity basketball team; Colonel Sanders drove from restaurant to restaurant with his pressure cooker and famous recipe of 11 herbs and spices before he made history with Kentucky Fried Chicken; and didn't some opinionated jerk tell Katie Couric in her early days that she didn't have a face for television?

I certainly wasn't born with the ability to write. My eighth-grade English teacher Mrs. Kracus read aloud my essay as an example of how not to write. My SAT scores were so low (especially verbal) that I lied about them for 18 years.

Any aptitude test I took suggested I pursue a career in math or science. I hardly enjoyed Plato and Hemingway.

Oh yes, and my "American Idol" moment? When I asked a professor in grad school to write a letter of recommendation for me.

I was applying for a job as an editor of a Catholic magazine. This priest, much like the conceited Simon Cowell, took me outside in the hall to drop the bomb.

"I'm sorry," he said, squinting his small brown eyes that shot daggers through my heart. "I can't do that. It is just that you ..., you don't use words correctly."

Had I been on a televised set, I may have responded like Jessica Rhodes, the wannabe singer who walked off the stage in tears after a cruel Cowell said: "I don't want to patronize you, but it's never gonna work for you, darling."

"No way. Please no, please!"

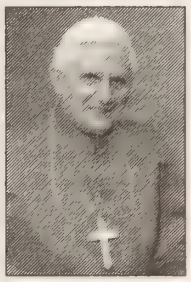
I don't know. Maybe all dreamers are fools to some extent because dreams aren't grounded in reality or logic. If they were, I'd be a math professor or an engineer for NASA (remember, my math and science scores were higher than English), not writing about the poor suckers on "American Idol" who just got the punch, the forget-about-it talk that almost made me drop the pen (and my dream) back in grad school.

Jessica Rhodes and clan might need a reality check, a few vocal lessons and some pointers on style and performance. But they shouldn't be told their dreams are unattainable.

Talent doesn't make a star. Perseverance does.

Pope says early church grew thanks to commitment of married people

The Pope Speaks



POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — From the earliest days of Christianity, the faith was nourished and the church grew, thanks to the commitment of believing married couples, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Continuing what he described as a verbal "portrait gallery" of important figures in the early church, the pope focused his Feb. 7 general audience remarks on Priscilla and Aquila, a married couple who assisted St. Paul in his ministry in Corinth, Ephesus and Rome.

The couple not only opened their home to St. Paul, but also to all local Christians, hosting the community's gatherings to read the Scriptures and share the Eucharist, the pope said.

The faith proclaimed by the apostles, he said, took root in the lives of the people thanks to the commitment of couples and families, "and it always will be only in this way that the church grows."

Pope Benedict said Christians today should follow the example of Priscilla and Aquila.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 7.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In today's catechesis, we consider a married couple, Priscilla and Aquila, who played an active part in the early church, and particularly in the ministry of St. Paul.

The apostle first met them in exile in Corinth, and then again in Ephesus and finally in Rome. At Ephesus, they instructed Apollos in the faith and in every city they opened their home to the local Christian community for worship.

Paul praises them in his Letter to the Romans as his "fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I, but also all the churches of the gentiles give thanks" (Rom 16:3-4).

This remarkable tribute bespeaks their great influence in the apostolic church and reminds us that we ourselves have received the faith through the witness of countless committed Christians like them.

Priscilla and Aquila show us the important role played by married couples in the life of the church. Every home is called to become a "domestic church" in which family life is completely centered on the lordship of Christ, and the love of husband and wife mirrors the mystery of Christ's love for the church, his bride (cf. Eph 5:25-33).

St. Philip the Apostle Church has long tradition of serving parish and community

PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville has been enriching the spiritual lives of area Catholics for nearly 140 years.

STATESVILLE — The year was 1870 when Benedictine Father Mark Gross, who was working in Greensboro, celebrated the first Mass in Statesville.

That Mass marked the beginning of formal Catholic gatherings in the Iredell County town, and laid the foundation for the establishment of St. Philip the Apostle Church.

Father Gross celebrated those first Masses in the home of J.L.P. Roueche, using a handmade chest of drawers as an altar. Celebrations continued in the home on special occasions until 1898.

That year a chapel was built and placed under the patronage of St. Philip in memory of Philip Barton Key, a Catholic Confederate Army officer who had become a successful businessman in the 1890s in Statesville.

Key's wife, a great-granddaughter of the niece of Martha Washington, decided to build a chapel in tribute to her late husband, himself a relative of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Built in 1898, the church was dedicated and blessed in January 1901 by Benedictine Bishop-Abbot Leo Haid of Belmont Abbey. Thus, the 63-year Benedictine pastorate in Statesville continued. Mass was celebrated monthly until 1924, when Mass was offered twice a month.

In 1933, St. Philip Church was placed under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Raleigh. The Order of Franciscan Friars Minor, with priests living in a Lenoir priory, was assigned to Statesville.

St. Philip had its first resident pastor, Franciscan Father Arnold Waters, in 1940, and a friary was built and dedicated in Statesville the following year. At that time, the parish consisted of 85 registered parishioners.

Parish formation continued throughout the 1940s. Children's catechism classes began in 1946 when Sisters of Mercy from Salisbury visited once a week, while the resident priests taught the older youths.

The Catholic Women's League was founded in January 1948 to serve the church and its altar; it later played a significant role in organizing a variety of parish activities.

The golden anniversary of the founding of St. Philip Church was celebrated in October 1948. Abbot Vincent Taylor of Belmont Abbey presided at the jubilee Mass. Father Arnold returned for the occasion.

The Franciscan pastorate at St. Philip Church lasted into the 1960s. In 1956, a former Lutheran church in town was purchased and renovated for use by the ever-growing Catholic community in Statesville.

In 1965, pastoral care of the parish transferred to diocesan priests. The priesthood of the Diocese of Charlotte assumed the responsibility in 1972 upon the formation of the new diocese.

A three-phase expansion project for a new multipurpose parish center, a rectory and a church at a new location were being discussed in the 1970s. Then-Bishop Michael J. Begley approved that plan in 1977.

Late the next year, the bishop dedicated the new center, complete with a worship space, auditorium, classrooms, educational and recreational rooms, a cry room, reconciliation room, office and kitchen.

A rectory was constructed in 1979, thereby completing the second phase.

With the Catholic population still increasing, St. Philip Church continued the building project, this time in the mid-1990s. Then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the new church in October 1995 for a thriving Catholic community in Iredell County.

The completion of construction — a project spearheaded by former pastors Father Edward Beatty, Father Joseph Waters and Father Paul Gary — also marked the development in parish and community outreach, which over the years has included a daycare formerly operated by Sisters of the Daughters of the Church, a food closet ministry and ministerial work to the county's Hispanic population.

In July 1996, Father Peter Fitzgibbons, a former U.S. Army chaplain, was appointed pastor of St. Philip Church. A member of the U.S. Army Reserves, Father Fitzgibbons was deployed to Kuwait in February 2003.

Father Fitzgibbons returned from the Middle East in 2004 and is now assigned to Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle.

On Oct. 25, 1998, Bishop Curlin celebrated a special Mass to commemorate the parish's 100th anniversary.

Outreach at the parish and community levels continues with parishioners participating in the food closet, altar guild, blood drives and other efforts.

Each year, SPIRIT, St. Philip Church's high school youth group, cooks and serves meals at the Fifth Street Ministries soup kitchen in Statesville.

The pastorate and parishioners of St. Philip the Apostle Church continue the Catholic tradition in Iredell County, a tradition enriched by the influence of the Benedictine, Franciscan and diocesan pastoral service.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH
4525 Camden Drive
Statesville, N.C. 28677
(704) 872-2579

Vicariate: Salisbury
Pastor: Father Kurt Fohn
Permanent Deacons: Deacon Charles Brantley
Number of Families: 420

Father Kurt Fohn

NOTICE: LAST DAY TO REGISTER - Thursday, Feb. 22!!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

$2,899 from Charlotte includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.
This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 18

Parish Profile

St. Dorothy Church home to many Catholics since WWII

| PAGE 16

For women and children

Fetal pain legislation just one of life-related bills before Congress

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The last pro-life bill to be considered by the 109th Congress became one of the first introduced in the 110th Congress when Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., reintroduced the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act.

The legislation, which died in the House of Representatives Dec. 6 when it failed to receive

See **CONGRESS**, page 9

'Short course' for long, faithful journey

Cursillo movement strengthens faith of many in diocese

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The worldwide Cursillo movement is growing in the diocese.

Through friendships, small-group meetings and three-day miniconferences, the movement has instructed thousands of participants how to evangelize in their communities.

"It's for Catholics in good standing … who are interested in changing their environments for Christ," said Butch Mayer, Cursillo lay director in the diocese, who led an information

See **CURSILLO**, page 12

Dear Valentine …

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Brooke Dandurand, a fourth-grader at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, works on a Valentine's Day card Feb. 13.

LOVERS' HOLIDAY ORIGINATES FROM WISE, CARING ITALIAN BISHOP

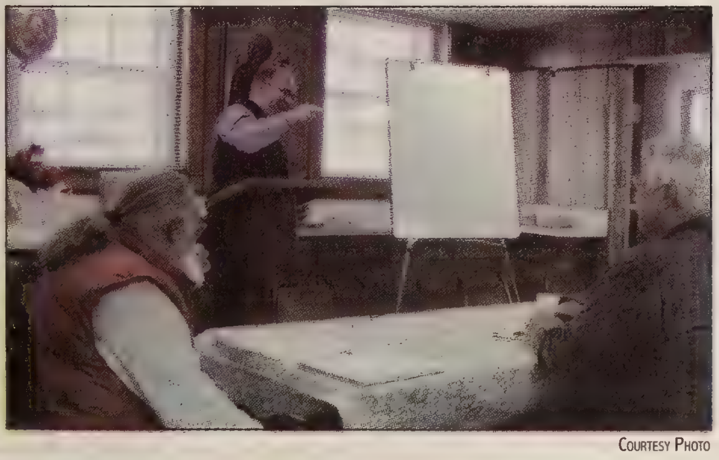
LONDON (CNS) — The man behind Feb. 14, when lovers around the world exchange cards and gifts, has been largely forgotten on his own feast day.

Such little significance is attached to the memory of St. Valentine that even in the Spanish capital of Madrid in 2005 only a handful of people visited the Church of St. Anton, where what is believed to be his skeleton is kept.

The relics are said to be those of the bishop of Terni, Italy, who was just 20 years old when he was consecrated by St. Felician of Foligno, Italy, in 197 on the orders of Pope Victor I.

For 73 years, this St. Valentine built up his diocese in the face of persecution: preaching, tending to the sick and visiting Christians jailed for refusing to renounce their faith. In 270, St. Valentine was incarcerated. While in prison, St. Valentine was beaten and finally beheaded, at the age of 93, on the orders of the prefect of Rome.

Training the faithful in western N.C.



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City, speaks to students in the Lay Ministry Training Program Feb. 10. This is the first year the program has been offered in Bryson City.

Lay ministry program now offered in Smoky Mountain Vicariate

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

BRYSON CITY — For the past 16 years, lay people in the Diocese of Charlotte have had opportunities to expand their knowledge of their Catholic faith through the diocesan Education Vicariate's Lay Ministry Training Program.

Unfortunately for some

See **MINISTRY**, page 5

Battling prejudice

LOCAL CATHOLIC HAD FRONT-ROW SEAT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN ST. LOUIS

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: The main subject's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

CHARLOTTE—Elizabeth Ryan's early life was like that of many others. She grew up in a middle-class Catholic home in south St. Louis in the 1930s and '40s and was educated at all-white Catholic schools.

See **RIGHTS**, page7

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#4200836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Written offenses

Edwards' bloggers stir criticism

| PAGE 8

Culture Watch

Palestinian tensions in novel; 'Apprentice' star speaks

| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives

Operation Rice Bowl; people, not products

| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FOUNDED ON FAITH AND FRIENDSHIP

CNS PHOTO BY KERRY MYERS

Father William Evans, an Australian navy chaplain who served in World War II and died in the 1960s, dreamed of thanking the United States for saving his life along with more than 600 shipmates. His dream was fulfilled with the building of the Regina Coeli Memorial Church in Sydney. Father Evans was the first parish priest at the church, dedicated to "Australian-American friendship in war and peace."

Australian priest seeks American ship's crest to honor WWII battle

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — An Australian parish priest has been looking for the crest of an American destroyer to display in a church honoring the friendship between Americans and Australians.

Father Paul Hilder of Regina Coeli Memorial Church in Sydney would like to add the crest of the USS Patterson to the church's memorabilia commemorating the ship, which saved 627 Australians of the HMAS Canberra during a World War II battle.

The church's founder and first pastor, Father William Evans, was one of those saved during the Battle of Savo Island off the Solomon Islands in August 1942.

However, Father Hilder said he has been unable to make contact with any crew members of the ship, which was decommissioned in 1945 and later was sold for scrap.

"I think it would be fitting to honor the ship and its crew by having its crest on the wall of the chapel," Father Hilder said. "I'm sure Father Evans would like to have seen it displayed in his beautiful church."

Father Evans had a deep affection for the United States and Americans after the Battle of Savo Island, when a large Japanese naval force destroyed the HMAS Canberra. The USS Patterson, with help from the USS Blue, rescued the Canberra's survivors.

More than 1,000 Allied personnel died in the battle, and 700 were wounded. The Japanese sank two American cruisers, and the cruisers HMAS Canberra and the USS Astoria were so badly damaged that they eventually sank.

The experience had a great effect on Father Evans, then 36, and it instilled in him a desire to commemorate permanently the friendship between Australia and the United States. The Regina Coeli Memorial Church was the realization of his dream.

A donation from Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York assisted the building of the church. For many years the church sponsored an annual Coral Sea Mass.

The church has a side altar called the American chapel, where an American flag and a glass wall bearing an engraved U.S. coat of arms is displayed with a sign: "To the people of the United States of America. In honor of Australian-American Friendship in War and Peace."

On the other side altar, opposite the American chapel, is the Australian chapel. An Australian flag is displayed with a similar etching of the Australian coat of arms.

Social ministry central to church life, social ministry leaders told

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The church's social justice mission is an integral part of its life, and "this is a time for mission," John Carr, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' secretary for social development and world peace, told a national gathering of Catholic social ministry leaders.

Carr noted that several national figures in Catholic social ministry will be leaving the USCCB staff in coming months as a result of the bishops' recent decision to downsize their national offices.

But he added, "Even if there are fewer of us, the mission hasn't changed. ... The question is not who occupies the boxes, the question is how the mission gets done."

He said the mission remains — to "bring good news to the poor" and to "set the downtrodden free. That mission is our life's work."

Carr quoted from Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), in which the pope says the church "cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice" and "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity.'"

The pope's message, he said, is that Catholics working for social justice "are not inspired by ideologies" but are acting as "persons moved by Christ's love. Faith shapes our politics."

"Jesus made it absolutely clear that the measure of our society is its treatment of the least among us," Carr said.

About 600 people, representing diocesan social ministry programs and Catholic organizations engaged in social ministry across the country, attended the Feb. 11-14 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering. The annual meeting features wide-ranging discussions on social justice and public policy issues and lobbying members of Congress on immigration reform, poverty and a variety of other domestic and international issues.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity Secular Franciscan Order* will meet Feb. 25, 1–3 p.m., in the classroom area at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave., West. For more information, contact Joanita M. Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209.

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, 564 Long Shoals Rd. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Volunteers are needed for a *"40 Days for Life"* Lenten prayer vigil. The vigil will take place outside of the Family Reproductive Health facility at 700 E. Hebron St. A rally will kick off the vigil on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 8:30 a.m. at the facility. The vigil ends at 3 p.m., Palm Sunday, April 1. Sign up by contacting Andrea Hines at HinesAL@aol.com. Specify your preferred dates and times, and include alternatives.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a support group for separated or divorced women and men. All are welcome to join us for encouragement and discussion with others making similar journeys at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center, Room 114. If you have any questions, call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

CHARLOTTE — The *Healing Prayer Group* will pray with you in the name of Jesus for your healing, be it mental, spiritual or physical. Come and know the gentleness and unconditional love of the Lord. We meet the third Monday of each month in the St. Matthew Church chapel, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Barbara Gardner at chlt5nc@aol.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., will begin the 2007 series of our *Hope of Seeing Everyone Again* (HOSEA) program. It is a program to invite Catholics who have distanced themselves from the Catholic Church, for whatever reason, to return. This small group will meet Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., through March 14 to get a sense of the modern-day church, to discuss various issues and concerns and to receive pastoral referrals and guidance. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220.

STONEVILLE— The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat*, led by Father Louis Canino, at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center March 1 at 10 a.m. Carpools will leave from St. Paul the Apostle Church parking lot, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, by 9:15 a.m. For more information, please call Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet Feb. 22, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

FEBRUARY 16, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 18

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: World must balance social justice, development

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official urged the international community to examine moral challenges raised by the globalized economy, including the increasing vulnerability of migrant workers and the extreme poor.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, papal nuncio to the United Nations, said globalization places new demands on a traditional responsibility: balancing social justice with economic development.

He spoke Feb. 8 at a meeting of the Commission for Social Development of the U.N. Economics and Social Council at the United Nations.

Archbishop Migliore said migrants have become an important source of labor around the world and deserve "equal pay and equal protection under the law, not least because the jobs they do are often the ones that no one else wants."

Many migrant workers are forced to work away from their families, and legal arrangements should be made to allow families to reunite, he said.

"Too often a lack of normal family life leads to evils such as human trafficking and prostitution on the margins of migrant communities. The market for such modern slavery could be undermined by allowing families to live together in the receiving country," he said.

Archbishop Migliore said the U.N. commission should also give attention to the very poor, who are present in every country and routinely excluded from the right to work and shunned by those with work.

The archbishop said it is now common to outsource production to poorer countries far from where goods are consumed. The practice, often motivated by pressure for higher profits, has brought work to many in the developing world, but has inevitably disturbed job sectors in richer countries, he said.

and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Day of Prayer* ecumenical worship service will held March 1 at 7 p.m. at Corinth Reformed Church, 150 16th Ave. NW. The bilingual service is themed "United under God's Tent" and was written by Paraguayan Christian women. The service is sponsored by more than 15 area churches, including St. Aloysius, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph Catholic churches. Child care will be provided and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes meet at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or e-mail stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — *Ash Wednesday* will be observed with an ecumenical service at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 76 Peachtree St., Feb. 21 at 12 p.m. The service, hosted by the Church of the Messiah and St. William Catholic Church, will feature Scripture readings, Lenten music and distribution of ashes. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — *The Fraternity of St. Clare of the Secular Franciscan Order* invites anyone interested in learning more about the Franciscan way to life to an Open House for new inquirers Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church meeting room, 1730 Link Rd. Secular Franciscans are a community of Catholic men and women in the world who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus Christ in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. For more information, call Mary Ellen Humphrey at (336) 722-2293 or e-mail donaldbh@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Secular Franciscan Betti Pettinati-Longinotti will speak on "Art and Prayer" at the Feb. 28 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 18 – 11:00 a.m.
Diaconate ordination of Tri Vinh Truong
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

Feb. 27 – 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 28 – 7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Vatican stats confirm growth of church, especially in Asia, Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The latest Vatican statistics confirm that the church's population and ministerial workforce are continuing to shift to developing countries, especially those in Africa and Asia.

Figures released Feb. 12 showed that the overall number of Catholics increased to nearly 1.12 billion at the end of 2005, an increase of 1.5 percent from the previous year.

The Catholic growth rate was slightly higher than the rate of overall population increase, which was 1.2 percent. Catholics now represent 17.2 percent of the global population, the Vatican said.

The church's population grew fastest in Africa, where the number of Catholics increased 3.1 percent in 2005, about half a percentage point higher than the overall population growth rate on the continent.

In Asia, the number of Catholics was up 2.7 percent, and in the Americas up 1.2 percent. In Europe, there was a very slight increase in the number of Catholics, the Vatican said.

Similar geographical differences were reflected in the number of priests and seminarians.

The number of Catholic priests around the world was 406,411 at the end of 2005. That was an increase of 520, or about 0.1 percent, over the previous year.

Broken down by continent, the increase was 3.8 percent in Asia and 3.6 percent in Africa. Europe and the Americas showed a decrease of about half a percentage point in the number of priests, while the number dropped 1.8 percent in Oceania.

The global distribution of priests continued to swing slowly toward Africa and Asia, which at the end of 2005 had 20.3 percent of the world's priests; in 1985, that number was about 11 percent.

Europe continued to lose priests and was home to 48.8 percent of the world total; in 1985, Europe had 58 percent of the world's priests.

The distribution numbers were relatively unchanged for the Americas, which have about 30 percent of the total number of priests, and for Oceania, which has about 1 percent of the total.

Regarding seminarians, the Vatican said that globally the number increased 1.2 percent in 2005, from 113,044 to 114,439. Africa led the way with an increase of 3.46 percent, followed by Asia with 2.9 percent.

The Americas had an increase in seminarians of 0.6 percent, while Oceania remained virtually unchanged. In Europe, the number of seminarians dropped 1.9 percent.

For every 100 seminarians in the world at the end of 2005, 32 were from the Americas, 26 were Asian, 21 African, 20 European and one from Oceania, the Vatican said.

Voting habits

CNS PHOTO BY JOSE MANUEL RIBEIRO, REUTERS

Nuns wait in line to cast their ballots during a nationwide referendum on abortion in Fatima, Portugal, Feb. 11. The referendum on legalizing abortion for the first 10 weeks of pregnancy was approved by 59.3 percent of voters but was not valid due to low voter turnout.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 9 issue, the incorrect photo was used to identity Father Kurt Fohn with the parish profile for St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville.

In the Feb. 2 issue, Burke United Christian Ministries was incorrectly described as an organization providing daytime group care for adults with depression. It provides services and housing to people in need.

The Catholic News & Herald regrets the errors.

COOKING UP GRATITUDE

Knights show appreciation for wives at annual dinner

KERNERSVILLE — The Knights of Columbus recently showed support to the ones who help support them most — their wives.

Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville held its annual ladies appreciation dinner Feb. 10.

Twenty-eight people attended the dinner, with the meals prepared by council members and served by fourth-degree Knights dressed in formal attire. Long-stemmed roses were presented to the wives.

"It took a little extra time for the untrained 'waiters' to accomplish their duties, but I think the wives were too busy enjoying the evening to notice," said Fred Hogan, council publicity chairman.

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882, offers support for pro-life issues, the handicapped, vocations and other service-orientated ministries.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Knights of Columbus, visit www.kofc.org.

COURTESY PHOTO BY FRED HOGAN

Members of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville prepare meals for their wives before the annual ladies appreciation dinner Feb. 10.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

Come celebrate with us!

Belmont Abbey College will host a

Harambé Mass

in the Abbey Basilica on Sunday, February 25 at 7 p.m.

Monsignor Mauricio West, Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, will serve as celebrant. He will be joined by the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir and the Kabaka Dancers for this special Mass in honor of Black History Month. Harambé is an African word meaning "togetherness" or "unity."

The public is invited to attend.

Lunch, with love

COURTESY PHOTO

Youths from the confirmation class at St. Ann Church in Charlotte prepare lunches to be delivered to the Urban Ministry Center in Charlotte Feb. 12.

The youths wanted to perform a group service project that would have a positive impact on the Charlotte community. After purchasing the needed items, the youths made and delivered 300 meals to the center, which offers daytime services to homeless people.

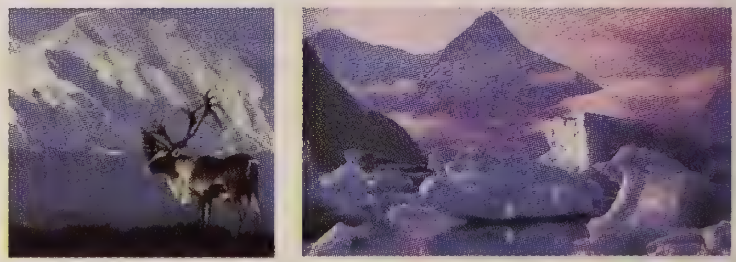
Confirmation is one of the three sacraments of initiation, along with baptism and the Eucharist. Confirmation is usually administered during the teen years to those baptized in infancy.

Join the Diocese of Charlotte

and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the

ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!

August 17-25, 2007



Your 8-day excursion includes:

* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Early booking fares for choice of cabin categories are guaranteed until March 16th so call today for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

Lay ministry program now offered in Bryson City

MINISTRY, *from page 1*

Diocesan Support Appeal
2007

Evangelization and lay ministry training are two of the ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte supported by your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Catholics living in the outer reaches of the 20,647-square-mile diocese, access to lay ministry classes had been difficult.

In its first two years, the program was offered in Hickory and Maggie Valley. Since 1993, it has been available only in Charlotte, Greensboro and Arden, just south of Asheville.

For Catholics in such far-west towns as Murphy, traveling to Arden means a 230-mile roundtrip, 12 times each year for classes.

"When we realized that quite a few people in Murphy, Waynesville and such areas wanted to enroll in lay ministry, we looked for a more convenient location for them," said Frank Villaronga, director of diocesan evangelization and ministry formation.

In September 2006, 14 men and women enrolled in the lay ministry program offered at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City.

"This has been the best thing to happen to me in a long time," said Michael Kaufmann. "I can't tell you how much I appreciate having the program in Bryson City."

Kaufman is a parishioner of St. William Church in Murphy and serves as the faith formation coordinator for Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission in nearby Hayesville. He said he plans to incorporate what he learns into his lay ministry classes into his faith formation classes.

The Lay Ministry Training Program is comprised of 12 meetings each year, covering such topics as Scripture, Christology, theology and history of the Catholic Church, Vatican II, liturgy and sacrament, morality, social ministry and the "nuts and bolts" of ministry, Villaronga said.

Completion of this program is a prerequisite for men applying to the permanent diaconate program in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Lay ministry isn't just learning about your faith," said Villaronga. "It's a formational program, and the idea behind lay ministry is that participants are in the program in order to answer their baptismal call to ministry."

The class in Bryson City is comprised of people of all ages, many of whom are already involved in some kind of activity or formal ministry in their parishes — prison ministry, catechesis, feeding the homeless — and others who are exploring various ministries.

"It's been a very positive, very practical program," said Duane Balsley, who enrolled in the lay ministry program with his wife, Kathleen.

Balsley, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville, said he looks forward to using his lay ministry education in local ministries.

COURTESY PHOTO

Participants discuss Christology during their lay ministry class in Bryson City Feb. 10.

"Before lay ministry was offered in far-west North Carolina, a whole section of the church was cut off from this opportunity," said Matt Newsome, a parishioner of St. Mary Mother of God Church in Sylva.

"I'm really glad this program is being offered in our neck of the woods," said Newsome, who is considering entering the diocesan permanent diaconate program after he completes his lay ministry training.

"If people can't come to lay ministry, then lay ministry needs to come to them," Villaronga said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?
The Lay Ministry Training Program is now accepting applications for 2007-08. For more information, contact Frank Villaronga at (704) 370-3274 or e-mail favillaronga@charlottediocese.org.

Enriching their faith

PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Participants take part in a faith formation "enrichment day" at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Feb. 3. Approximately 100 catechists and faith formation teachers, mostly from the Northern Region of the Diocese of Charlotte, took part in the event's 12 classes, which included topics such as Scripture, morality, youth ministry and prayer. The diocese's Northern Region includes parishes and missions in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

docPod
It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
This episode: Money, Money, Money
Subscribe today — It's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org

Father Denis Hackett dies after brief illness

Conventual Franciscan priest served at parish in Winston-Salem

BRANCHBURG, N.J.—Conventual Franciscan Father Denis Hackett, who served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died peacefully Feb. 11 in Branchburg, N.J., after a brief illness.

Born in Elizabeth, N.J., Father Denis professed his first vows as a Conventual Franciscan friar in Rensselaer, N.Y., Aug. 13, 1968, and was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, N.Y., May 11, 1974.

He served as pastor and associate pastor at a number of churches in New York, New Jersey and North Carolina, including as pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, Infant of Prague Church in Jacksonville, N.C., and Blessed Sacrament Church in Burlington, N.C.

Father Hackett also served as vicar provincial of the Immaculate Conception Province of the Conventual Franciscan Friars from 1991 to 1994.

He was guardian and pastor at St. Catharine of Siena Church in Seaside Park, N.J., when he became ill.

At the time of his passing, he was a member of the Franciscan community at St. Francis Friary in Staten Island, N.Y.

Conventual Franciscan Father Denis Hackett

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Feb. 16, with interment in Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery in Trenton, N.J.

Father Hackett is survived by two sisters, Alice Hackett and Atonement Sister Patricia Mary Hackett; a brother, Kevin Hackett; as well as his many Franciscan brothers; and several nieces, nephews and numerous cousins in Cleveland, Ohio and County Mayo, Ireland.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Father Hackett may be made to Conventual Franciscan Friars, P.O. Box 629, Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following assignments:

Priestly Assignments

— Father Christopher Roux, as parochial administrator of St. James the Greater Church, Hamlet; and Sacred Heart Mission, Wadesboro — effective Feb. 1, 2007

— Augustinian Father Russell Ortega, as pastor of St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte — effective Feb. 11, 2007

Permanent Deacon Assignments

— Deacon Roland Geoffroy, to St. Matthew Church, Charlotte — effective Nov. 30, 2006

— Deacon Paul Liotard, to Holy Angels Church, Mt. Airy — effective Dec. 20, 2006

— Deacon Matt Reilly, to St. Philip the Apostle Church, Statesville — effective Feb. 2, 2007

2007

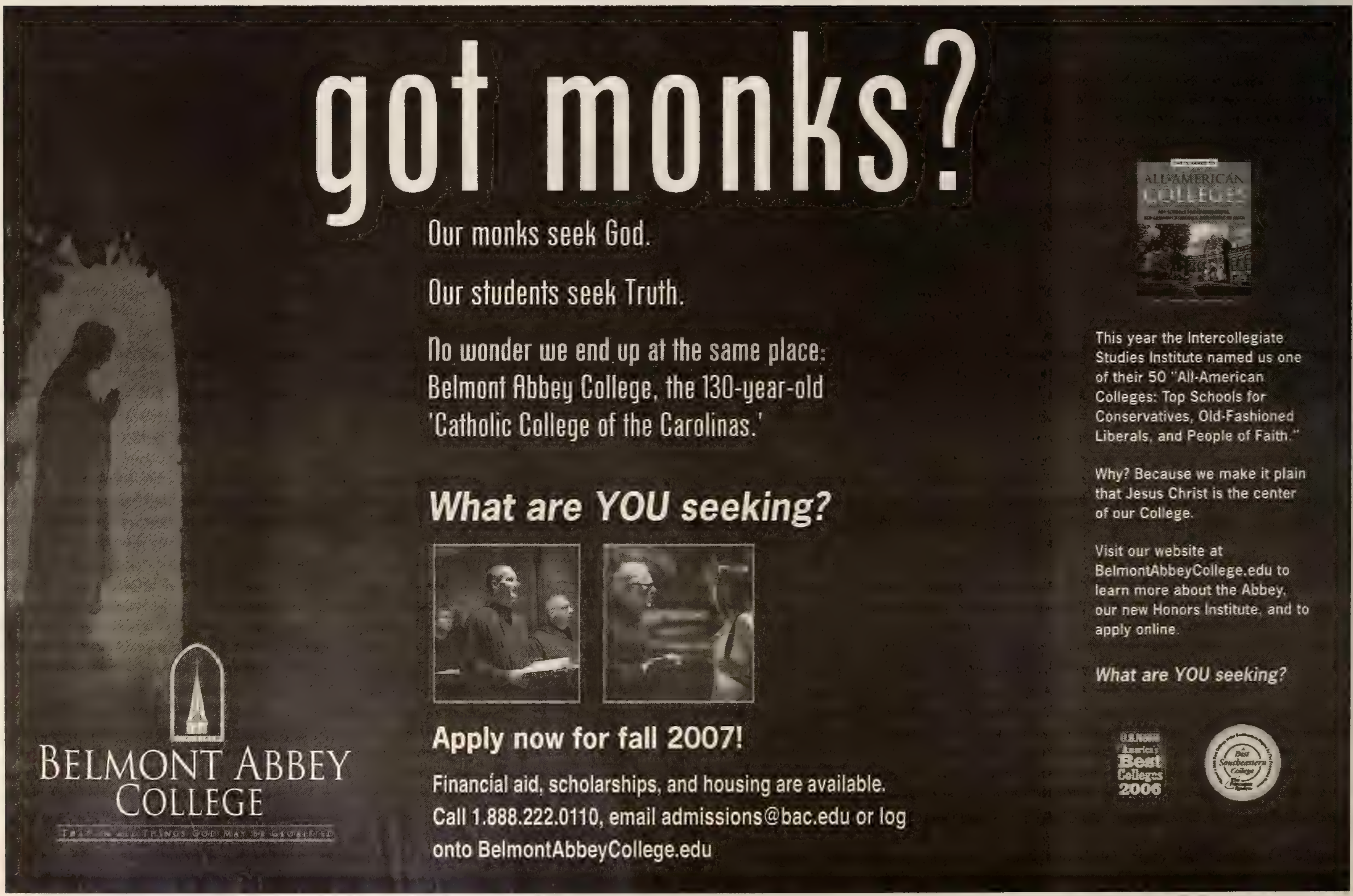
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

Mark your calendar now
for the third
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress –
Charlotte Convention Center

SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

Visit the Web site
www.GoEucharist.com
for the latest information about
programs and speakers, as well as
opportunities to volunteer.



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place: Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old 'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available. Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

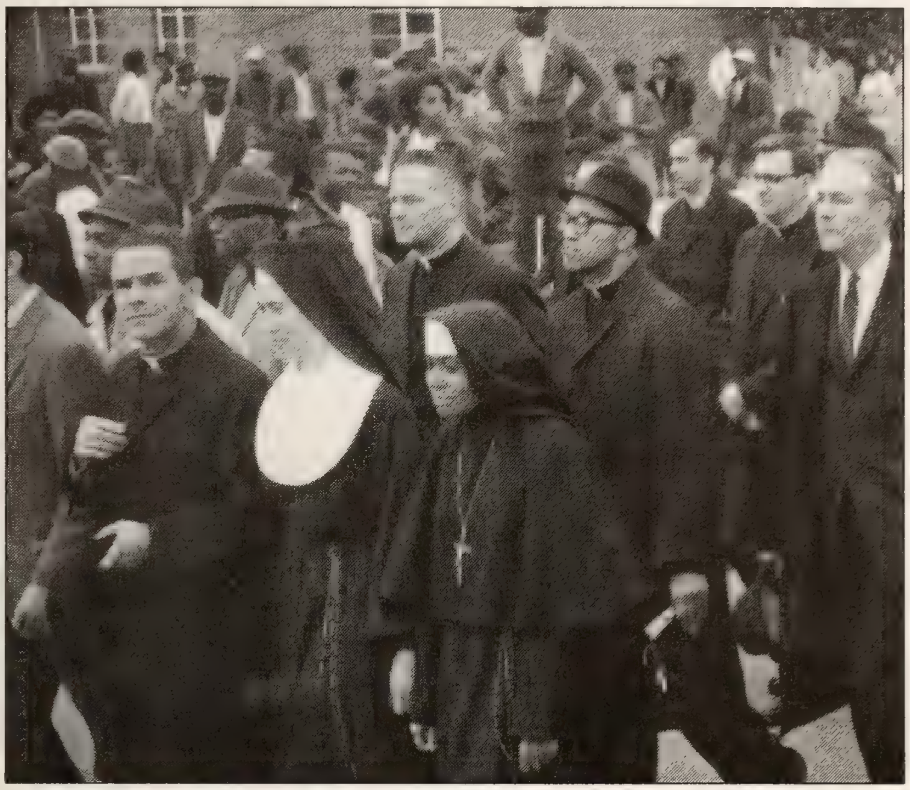
Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

‘It is a sad fact that Christians are as divided as we are today.’

Local Catholic had front-row seat for civil rights movement in St. Louis



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. LOUIS REVIEW

Clergy, nuns and lay people from St. Louis join in a civil rights march in Selma, Ala., in 1965. Father Edward J. O’Donnell, who later became a bishop, marches in the second row, second from right. In a recent interview, retired Bishop O’Donnell called the Selma march the “most dramatic” event in which he had ever participated.

RIGHTS, *from page 1*

Her first exposure to racial integration came in the early 1940s, when the sisters who staffed Immaculate Conception School invited black students from another Catholic school to attend classes at the school for a few days.

Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter, who later became a cardinal, went to St. Louis in 1946 and instructed all pastors to end racial segregation in schools.

According to Ryan, the sisters at her high school, Loretto Academy, wanted to integrate their school immediately, rather than abide by the five-year timeline set forth by Archbishop Ritter.

“They had considered all the problems and even set up scholarships to cover students’ tuition,” Ryan said.

“(But) there was one problem — how would we accept it?” she said. “Since it was voluntary, (the sisters) said it would be less cruel to ‘not invite’ them than to issue an invitation and then have the white girls treat them badly.”

Ryan said the sisters left the decision up to the students. If a significant number of them objected to the integration, the school would remain segregated until Archbishop Ritter mandated it.

“(The sisters) said, ‘Think it over and if you object, tell us the truth … we won’t tolerate you mistreating them,’” Ryan said.

“(The white) girls were quite snobbish and cruel to certain other white girls,” she said. “We didn’t hear of it again.”

By the start of the next school year, a group of Catholics who opposed Archbishop Ritter’s plan appealed to the apostolic nuncio in Washington — to no avail — and threatened to file civil lawsuits.

The threat didn’t scare the archbishop, but it did make him mad. According to archdiocesan records, he sent a letter to all parishes on Sept. 21, 1947, which said in no uncertain terms that those who took part in these lawsuits would face automatic excommunication.

The letter said those who opposed desegregation were “gravely misled” and that Catholics were obligated to follow their bishops on serious beliefs including the “equality of every soul before almighty God.”

The next day, a St. Louis Post Dispatch editorial sided with the archbishop saying he had “shown himself to be a man of courage and a man of determination.”

In 1948, Archbishop Ritter ordered the desegregation of all St. Louis Catholic schools.

Eyewitness

A decade later, Ryan was working in the records office of the St. Louis Police Department.

While there, she saw first-hand the types of crimes committed by people of all races. Black-on-white and white-on-black crimes were uncommon, but when they did happen, the city reacted violently.

Ryan recounted one such story.

A young married white woman told her husband, then the police, that she had been raped by three black men. In actuality, she had been with her boyfriend.

“Something made the police suspicious, and the next day they arrested her for making a false report,” Ryan said.

The St. Louis newspaper had already reported the rape when the accuser was arrested.

“The city was so angry that if an arrest (of the supposed rapists) had been made, there could have been a lynching,” Ryan said.

According to Ryan, of about 2,000 rape reports she saw, only two were committed by black men on white women, and two by white men on black women.

Taking an active role

While still employed by the St. Louis Police Department, Ryan joined other members of her parish in the efforts to encourage blacks to register to vote.

“A woman would bring me pages from the phone book, and I would call every house, asking if they had registered to vote,” she said.

On election days, Ryan would again make phone calls, reminding people to vote and arranging transportation to the polling stations for anyone who needed a ride.

“We were allowed to leave work two hours early to vote,” she said. “I would go home and start making my calls. Sometimes, I would be so busy, I wouldn’t get to vote myself.”

Ryan said she never told her supervisors or coworkers at the police department about her civil-rights work.

“What I was doing wasn’t illegal, but neither did I make a big deal out of it,” she said. “If you marched in demonstrations and got arrested, or showed what would have been considered bad behavior, you would have been fired from the police department.”

By the early 1990s, Ryan and her daughter were living in Gaston County. Ryan became aware of anti-Catholic sentiments in the area, primarily perpetrated by Bible Baptist Ministries in Cherryville.

Taking up where she left off in St. Louis, Ryan turned her attention toward battling anti-Catholicism through a series of letters to the editors of The Gaston Gazette, The Charlotte Observer and The Catholic News & Herald.

“Since childhood, I have always been taught to respect the religious beliefs of others,” wrote Ryan in one such letter to The Gaston Gazette. “It is a sad fact that Christians are as divided as we are today.”

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

The Catholic Shoppe
AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

1st Anniversary Celebration
Sale
throughout the month of February*

We have books for all ages, religious and inspirational artwork, statues, rosaries, jewelry, medals, crosses, crucifixes, prayer and greeting cards, music, audio books on CD’s, DVD’s, sacramental and general gift items and so much more!

Conveniently located 10 minutes from Charlotte
on the Belmont Abbey College campus
I-85 Exit 26

*In Store Purchases only

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri 10:00am - 4:00pm
Tuesday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Saturday 10:am - 1:00pm

704.461.5100 ◆ CATHOLICSHOPPE@BAC.EDU

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

‘My intention is never to offend anyone for his or her personal beliefs.’

Written offenses

Blog writers stir criticism after joining presidential campaign staff

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY KEITH BEDFORD, REUTERS

U.S. presidential candidate and former Sen. John Edwards speaks during a program to honor the late civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in New York Jan. 14. Edwards told reporters Feb. 9 that he was personally offended by messages two of his campaign bloggers wrote in the past criticizing the Catholic Church, but will not terminate their employment. However, one recently resigned.

WASHINGTON — Anti-Catholic Internet writings of two employees of former Sen. John Edwards’ presidential campaign have triggered a firestorm in the online community, but the candidate said he would keep the women on his staff.

Amanda Marcotte and Melissa McEwan both operated Web logs, or online commentary pages known as blogs, before being hired by the Edwards campaign.

Edwards, a Democrat and former U.S. senator from North Carolina, was the running mate of Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., in the 2004 election and is running for his party’s presidential nomination in 2008.

Beginning with a Feb. 6 press release, William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, demanded that Edwards fire the two women because some of the writing they did before they were hired criticized the Catholic Church in sometimes grotesque and obscene terms.

Donohue called them “anti-Catholic, vulgar, trash-talking bigots,” and quoted from several comments written by each woman during 2006 on their generally satirical blog pages.

His critique was picked up by an assortment of other online commentators. For several days blog pages ranging from the Democrat-leaning Daily Kos to the Republican-leaning National Review Online fed and expanded a debate about free speech rights and religious bigotry.

The women’s blogs, Pandagon by Marcotte and Shakespeare’s Sister by McEwan, were dissected and quoted. Previous actions by Donohue on topics such as gay rights, the role of secular Jews in Hollywood and Christmas displays also became fodder for the online debate.

In a Feb. 8 statement, Edwards said that the sentiments in some of Marcotte’s and McEwan’s postings on their blog pages “personally offended me. It’s not how I talk to people and it’s not how I expect the people who work for me to talk to people.”

“Everyone is entitled to their opinion,” Edwards’ press release said, “but that kind of intolerant language will not be permitted from anyone in my campaign, whether it’s intended as satire, humor or anything else.”

Edwards said he would not fire the women, however, adding that he believes “in giving everyone a fair shake.”

He said both women had assured him that “it was never their intention to malign anyone’s faith and I take them at their word.”

However, Marcotte resigned Feb. 12. On her blog, she wrote that the criticism “was creating a situation where I felt that every time I coughed, I was risking the Edwards campaign.”

In statements posted on Edwards’ campaign Web site as well as on their own blogs, Marcotte and McEwan apologized for offending people.

“My writings on my personal blog, Pandagon, on the issue of religion are generally satirical in nature and always intended strictly as a criticism of public policies and politics,” wrote Marcotte. “My intention is never to offend anyone for his or her personal beliefs.”

McEwan wrote that she does not expect Edwards to agree with everything she has written on her blog.

“We do, however, share many views, including an unwavering support of religious freedom and a deep respect for diverse beliefs,” McEwan wrote. “It has never been my intention to disparage people’s individual faith, and I’m sorry if my words were taken in that way.”

Alexia Kelley, executive director of the Catholic Alliance for the Common Good, weighed in, saying in a statement that the group “condemns these and all religiously intolerant remarks.”

She said the group — a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded to advance Catholic social justice teachings and the common good — accepts Edwards’ assurances that religious intolerance has no place in his campaign.

Kelley, who briefly served as director of religious outreach to the Democratic National Committee during the 2004 election and also worked for the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Campaign for Human Development, said that with Catholics comprising more than a quarter of the U.S. public, “neither John Edwards nor any other candidate can afford to take this constituency for granted.”

“We hope this unfortunate incident will initiate a deeper conversation on the part of all presidential candidates regarding the broad range of issues and values of primary importance to the Catholic community, including the Iraq War, a concern for the poor, human life and dignity, the availability of health care and a commitment to the common good.”

Donohue, however, was not satisfied with Edwards’ response.

In a Feb. 9 press release he vowed to immediately launch an advertising and public relations campaign directed at Edwards on “the incredible double standard that exists regarding bigotry in American life ... that will keep this issue afloat for the remainder of the year.”

David Hains, communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte, believed enough attention has been given to the blogs, and bloggers in general.

“The bloggers’ main purpose seems to be to remind us that a free press is often annoyingly wrong,” he said. “However, since these two particular writers have apologized for their offensive comments, we as Catholics are called to accept that and move on.”

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

LAST DAY COMING
to sign up for
IRELAND
DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE!!
Thursday, Feb. 22
See back cover of this issue or call (704) 370-3332 now.

Celebrate Catholic Schools!
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden
A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation
OPEN HOUSE — Tues., Feb. 20th at 7 PM
(828)687-7714 or call for appointment
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com
A Day with the Acts of the Apostles
Thursday, March 22 OR Saturday, March 24
9 am to 4 pm
Dr. Peter Judge
Our Lenten Scripture Day will highlight the Acts themes in the Easter season liturgies. The day includes noon Eucharist and lunch.
Dr. Judge teaches Religion and Scripture at Winthrop University.
The same program is offered both days.
Cost: $35 – includes lunch

Fetal pain bill one of many before Congress

CONGRESS, ***from page 1***

the two-thirds majority needed to break a procedural impasse, would require that women undergoing an abortion at least 20 weeks into their pregnancy be informed that an abortion causes pain to the fetus.

"It's a scientific, medical fact that unborn children feel pain," said Brownback as he reintroduced the bill Jan. 22.

"We know that unborn children can experience pain based upon anatomical, functional, psychological and behavioral indicators that are correlated with pain in children and adults," he said. "Mothers seeking an abortion have the right to know that their unborn children can feel pain."

The bill also would give women the option of choosing anesthesia for their unborn child to lessen his or her pain during the abortion.

In the 109th Congress, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., had sponsored the House version of the legislation, called the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act. The U.S. bishops had remained neutral on the bills, but they will work for passage of the latest legislation, said Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information in the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Maggi Nadol, director of Catholic Social Service's Respect Life Office in the Diocese of Charlotte, said belief in the sanctity of life includes both the mother and her child.

WANT MORE INFO?

There are a number of online sources for information on pro-life issues, including:

— The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment Web site provides information on legislation. www.nchla.org

— The N.C. General Assembly Web site provides legislative information and contact info for state representatives by zip code: www.ncga.state.nc.us

— The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site has a link for "Life Issues": www.usccb.org

— Rachel's Vineyard retreats, sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte, are held for those in need of post-abortion healing: www.rachelsvineyard.org

— The Priests for Life provides resource material: www.priestsforlife.org

"Working for legislation that assists a woman facing social and economic pressures promotes respect for life in a very tangible way," said Nadol. "Faith in action calls us to work in varied ways, including the political process."

As such, the USCCB will weigh in the other life-related legislation proposed in the first weeks of the 110th Congress.

Life-related legislation

McQuade said the pro-life secretariat will be working for passage of legislation that would make "truly constructive changes in the lives of women and their unborn children."

One such proposal is the Pregnant Women's Support Act, to be introduced sometime soon by Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn. The legislation will provide resources "to help women make life-affirming choices for themselves and their children," McQuade said.

Among its many provisions, the bill will expand eligibility for the State Children's Health Insurance Program and for the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program, and provide assistance to victims of domestic violence.

Pregnant and postpartum women are among those most likely to experience domestic violence, studies have found.

LIFE
FE
E
tion

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

With the U.S. Capitol in the background, pro-life supporters gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during the 34th annual March for Life in Washington Jan. 22. The last pro-life bill to be considered by the 109th Congress became one of the first introduced in the 110th Congress when Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., reintroduced the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act.

The legislation also includes provisions that will require medical professionals to provide information about abortion and alternatives to abortion that leads to truly "informed consent," McQuade said.

Also receiving the bishops' support in the 110th Congress will be the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Pregnant and Parenting Student Support Act, introduced in the 109th Congress by Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C., and Rep. Melissa A. Hart, R-Pa., who is no longer in Congress.

By offering housing, day care and academic accommodations to those who are "pregnant or parenting while pursuing their education," the bill will give students choices beyond the usual "abort or drop out of school," McQuade said.

The USCCB also supports the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, which "came awfully close to passing last year," McQuade said.

It would make it illegal for an adult who is not a minor's parent or legal guardian to take the minor across state lines for an abortion in order to avoid her own state's parental notification or consent laws.

The legislation is called the Child Custody Protection Act in the House.

McQuade said the pro-life secretariat also would continue to work for passage of the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, which would guarantee the conscience rights of individuals or institutions who choose not to participate in abortions, and will work to keep in place several provisions that prevent federal tax money from being used to pay for abortion.

The USCCB will oppose efforts to expand federal funding of stem-cell research involving human embryos and will support the Alternative Pluripotent Stem-Cell Therapies Enhancement Act, which would fund "lots of kinds of legitimate stem-cell research" that does not destroy embryos, she said.

Another goal will be approval of the RU-486 Suspension and Review Act, also known as Holly's Law, which will remove the abortion pill from the market until its safety can be reviewed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Holly Patterson, 18, died in California in 2003 after taking RU-486.

Deceptive bills

Some other bills before the 110th Congress might sound pro-life or pro-woman but are deceptively named, according to McQuade.

For example, the Prevention First Act says its goal is to "expand access to preventive health care and education programs to help protect women's reproductive health, reduce unintended pregnancies, prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and provide women with the tools they need to make the best decisions possible for themselves."

But that bill puts a "heavy emphasis on contraceptive mandates" and does not support pregnant women at all, McQuade said, adding that the USCCB will actively work for its defeat.

She also called the legislation unethical, because it would force pharmacists and hospitals to offer emergency contraception in violation of their conscience rights.

Also touted as a compromise bill by both supporters of keeping abortion legal and those who oppose abortion in Congress is the Abortion Reduction and Pregnant Women Support Act.

"They believe that to reduce abortions you need to increase access to contraception," McQuade said. "But that doesn't work. Study after study has shown that abortions actually go up, not down, when there is more contraception."

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:

- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

A different perspective

Journalist says he tries to convey Palestinian tensions in novel

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Journalist Matt Beynon Rees was interviewing the family of a Palestinian gunman killed by an Israeli sniper in a West Bank cabbage patch when his idea of a Bethlehem-based detective novel was conceived.

"It was so dramatic," Rees said, recalling the start of the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, in 2000.

"I was seeing so much of how people react dramatically in that situation, but I knew it would all end up being just a colorful first paragraph in my story. I thought I really needed to do something with this," he said. "That is when I began to develop Omar Yussef as a character."

Yussef is the main character in "The Collaborator of Bethlehem," the first of Rees' three-part mystery series. The book was released in the U.S. Feb. 1.

Yussef, a Muslim, is a married, middle-aged history teacher at the Dehiyshe refugee camp. He is pulled into a dangerous attempt to exonerate a former Christian student accused of collaborating with Israel.

Yussef has Christian friends, business associates and works with Christians, said Rees.

"When I talk to people in Bethlehem, that is the Bethlehem they grew up with and the Bethlehem they want to live in," said Rees, who worked for more than a decade in the region with Newsweek and Time magazines.

Rees, born in Wales, was Time's Jerusalem bureau chief for six years.

The basis of the book is culled from actual events during the start of the intifada, which he covered as a journalist.

"Everything is based on what Christian Palestinians told me or recounted," he said.

Rees said that in news reports Muslim-Christian tensions quickly turn into a "he said, she said" account, but in his novel he wanted to "take reality and get into people's heads and show what it (the tension) feels like."

He said that as a mainstream journalist he often felt restricted about the kinds of stories he could write. Editors in Washington or New York were reluctant to cover stories that other news outlets were not covering or that were too complicated, he said.

"Ironically, the journalist is much worse equipped to show the (Palestinian) reality and the reality of Christians in Bethlehem (than a novelist) in part because it is such a touchy subject with such intricacies," Rees said.

"In this book I feel able to nail the subject, to put it across in a way I wouldn't be able to in journalism or in a nonfiction book," he said. "It is very different from how it is reported in the media. That certainly is the case with the Muslims and Christians in Bethlehem."

He said it became clear that the intifada increased the Muslim-Christian tensions that already existed.

Rees said he did not shy away from tackling the topic of Muslim-Christian tensions, considered one of the touchier subjects of Palestinian society. People want to present a facade of unity, he said, but a big part of people's silence is fear.

"The big enemy is Israel, and there is a desire to show that there aren't any internal Palestinian issues on a broader level," said Rees.

However, he said, the current violence and bloodshed in the Gaza Strip between the Palestinian factions Hamas and Fatah show that the facade is not reality.

"I wanted to place that in a murder-mystery context, to have an outsider accused. In terms of power in Bethlehem the Christians in many ways are outsiders," he said.

He described the books as part of the trend of "anthropological murder mysteries," where readers get to see how people in different places live. People are fascinated about what goes on in the region, but are bored with mainstream news coverage, he said.

"The book gives you a different perspective," he said.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: FEB. 25, 2007

Feb. 25, First Sunday of Lent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15
2) Romans 10:8-13
3) Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Story of faith can inspire faith in others

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I was sitting in the waiting room of the intensive care unit a few weeks ago, seeing about my father who had been in a farming accident that easily could have killed him.

As he remembers it, he called out to Jesus to save him while waiting for help, and when the emergency vehicles pulled up to prepare him for transport to the hospital, he knew that he had been heard. He also realized that God still has a purpose for his life, and so he looks forward to his recovery with great expectation.

As concerned friends and relatives trickled in and out of ICU throughout the weekend, my mother and my siblings told my dad's tale repeatedly, each time refining the details as the story took shape, always ending with thanks to the Lord for sparing his life.

It has become our family story of salvation (one of many) by a God whose angels must surely have been present to protect him from serious harm. And although I took digital photographs, it is the verbal retelling of the story that truly sparks the imagination and causes its hearers to marvel at God's goodness.

Another salvation story is featured in today's first reading from Deuteronomy. It's not a long narrative, but it features concrete historical details — a place, a time and a people — that make the event of God's salvation more than simply wishful thinking or a tall tale. In its retelling to each new generation, it becomes their own profession of faith and a motivation to again give thanks to God.

The psalm and the epistle to the Romans each pick up the theme of calling upon the Lord and being answered — a subsequent retelling of the story of salvation for future generations of believers. In the Gospel, Jesus himself drew from this collective memory by responding to the devil's seductive claims with the Scriptures he had learned from childhood.

Armed with the sure knowledge of his Father's ability to save, Jesus was able to withstand temptation and proceed to his earthly ministry in power and single-mindedness.

Each of us probably has a story of deliverance, perhaps against the odds, which convinced us that we, too, have been preserved for a larger purpose. Remembering that story — and retelling it — gives glory to God and strengthens the faith of its hearers.

Questions:

What is your story of deliverance in all its rich detail? When did you last inspire another person to faith with the telling of your story?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 18-24
Sunday (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38; **Monday,** Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday,** Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (Ash Wednesday),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (The Chair of Peter),** 1 Peter 5:1-4, Matthew 16:13-19; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Polycarp),** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 25–MARCH 3
Sunday (First Sunday of Lent), Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Ester's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday, St. Katharine Drexel),** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes Youth Camps Nursing
Retreats Campus Ministry Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO The Oratory
P O Box 11586
rockhilloratory.com Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

CNS PHOTO BY FOX FAITH

Liana Liberato and Henry Thomas star in a scene from the movie "The Last Sin Eater."

'Sin Eater' leaves you slightly unsatisfied

BY HARRY FOBRES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — "The Last Sin Eater" (Fox Faith) is an engaging if rather unexceptional and colorless adaptation of Francine Rivers' novel.

Set in 19th-century Appalachia, he film is about a guilt-ridden girl Liana Liberato) who, blaming herself for her younger sister's death, seeks out a mysterious mountain man (Peter Wingfield) alleged to be able to take upon himself the sins of others.

Learning that Jesus is the only source of forgiveness after her meeting with a Bible-preaching stranger (Henry Thomas), she helps rid the community of its collective guilt with the help of the son (Soren Fulton) of an abusive father (Stewart Finlay-McLennan).

Director Michael Landon Jr.'s film is short on period atmosphere but holds your interest despite plot improbabilities.

The performances are above-average for this genre, especially the two youngsters and Louise Fletcher as a wise woman who knows something of the community's mysterious past, and along with some decent plot twists, there are fine Christian messages about redemption, reconciliation, and renewal.

Some nongraphic violence, murder and domestic abuse.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Join Other Roman Catholics July 21 or August 11, 2007

National Parks Tour of the Golden West

2-Week Tour from $1048*

Visit 6 Western National Parks + More!

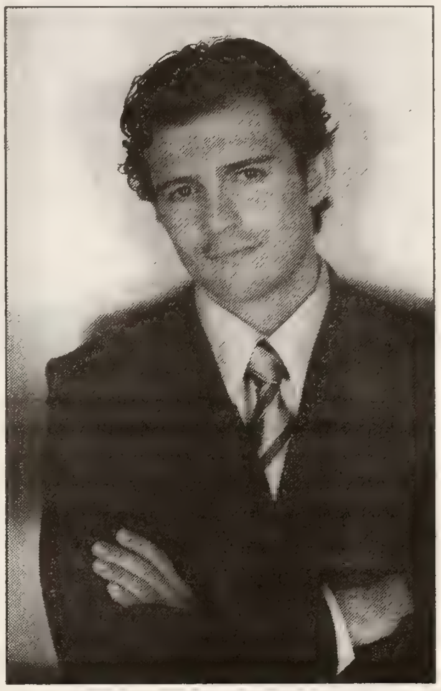
Join other Catholics on this terrific 15-day motor coach tour departing (your choice) July 21 or August 11, 2007. Fly round-trip to Salt Lake City and visit six national parks: Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks. You'll also visit Fresno, CA; Reno, Carson City, Pyramid Lake, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, and Las Vegas, Nevada; Liberace Museum; Ethel M Chocolate Factory; a city tour of Salt Lake City including Mormon Square, The Beehive House, Great Salt Lake; Kennecott Copper Mine; and more! Prices, including taxes, baggage handling, and daily escorted sightseeing, start at only $1048* (per person, double occupancy). For optional airfare from Charlotte add $600.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

Reality show star urges teens spend less time on TV, more on issues

BY JOAN KURKOWSKI-GILLEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



CNS PHOTO BY VIRGINIA SHERWOOD, NBC

Tarek Saab, a Maronite Catholic and daily communicant who appeared on NBC's "The Apprentice," recently spoke at a youth rally 2007 in Texas.

FORT WORTH, Texas — Tarek Saab became an instant celebrity after appearing on NBC's "The Apprentice," one of the most highly rated and critiqued shows on network television.

He spent 10 weeks on the reality show last year before hearing the words "you're fired" from the program's executive producer and host, Donald Trump.

While the 27-year-old lost a chance to work for the high-profile financier, he gained valuable insight into the power of fame and its impact on society.

He feels the culture "is totally, undeniably addicted to entertainment." He urges young people to spend less time on entertainment and more on the world around them.

"It's no mystery that those in the entertainment world have a strong voice with youth. I'm trying to do something positive with the voice that's been given to me," he said.

A Maronite Catholic and daily communicant, Saab uses his business acumen and new visibility to advance pro-life causes across the country.

The show opened doors for him, he said, "and gave me a platform from which to speak about faith to other young people," he said.

He is the CEO of his own company in Fort Worth called Lionheart, which sells Christian apparel for men. He co-founded it with David Colletti, 27, a practicing attorney and Lionheart's chief operating officer. The two met as students at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Saab spoke in mid-January at the Life Revival Youth Rally 2007, which drew more than 375 teens and their parents.

Selected as a cast member for the fifth cycle of "The Apprentice" after a production crew visited his office at Texas Instruments in Dallas, Saab told his audience that he was surprised to find himself showered with attention just days after the first show aired.

"Every day I'd go on the Internet and see my face splattered on the screen and people talking about me on blogs," he explained. "There were different articles in the newspapers too. ... People are really captivated by reality TV, and that's a little bizarre."

Saab, who does not own a television set, advised his listeners to stop spending so much time on entertainment and start thinking about what's really happening in the world around them.

"There's a lot going on out there (that) we need to know about," he said. "In the past 50 years, there's been a complete disregard for the dignity and sanctity of life."

Besides abortion and teen pregnancy rates having an effect on society, he said, there are other issues young people need to study, including infanticide, euthanasia and embryonic stem-cell research.

"Why do we need to know about these things? Because, as my father used to say, 'Evil happens when good men do nothing,'" Saab continued. "And the only way to stop evil starts with a change of heart and a change of behavior."

"One of the ways we protect those around us from evil in today's environment is to change the way we act," he pointed out. "Pornography and how we look at and treat women is part of that.

"We need to recognize that some of the entertainment we're addicted to, and some of the things society tells us are perfectly fine, are really not good for us," he said.

He called women the heart and soul of the family and the world.

He counseled the teenage girls in the audience to show their respect for life through chastity and respecting the physical nature of womanhood.

He also urged his young listeners to study and know their Catholic faith, read the lives of the saints for inspiration and receive Christ in the Eucharist.

"I don't see how you can be a man and not be pro-life," said Colletti, who grew up in Philadelphia and attended Catholic high school there.

"One of the greatest things God called men to be is defenders of women and children. We're called to defend life, especially innocent life," he said.

Contributing to this story was Susan Brinkman in Philadelphia.

Cursillo strengthens faith of many

CURSILLO, *from page 1*

meeting about Cursillo at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Charlotte Feb. 9.

"But it starts with personal effort," he said.

Cursillo — Spanish for "short course" — is a lay Catholic movement that began in the 1940s in Mallorca, Spain, when a group of men dedicated themselves to help young men in their community to know Christ better.

The movement spread to Latin America and Hispanic communities in the United States, beginning in Texas in the 1950s. In the early 1960s, the movement in the United States established meetings and courses in English.

Thanks to then-Bishop Michael J. Begley, the first bishop of Charlotte, the movement was already established in the Diocese of Charlotte when it was founded in 1972.

"Bishop Begley actively promoted the Cursillo movement in the diocese," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis. "The presence of Cursillo in our diocese is a testimony to his commitment to developing the spiritual life of the laity."

Bishop Jugis joined Cursillo in 1985. "Cursillo provides the person with a plan for living his or her Christian life," he said. "I am proud of the good work that Cursillo does."

Catholics become part of Cursillo when they attend a weekend retreat that emphasizes living out their faith in their daily lives.

"The weekend helps you to get away from the worldly distractions and focus on your faith," said Mayer, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

"When you find balance with your faith and everything else in life, that will help carry you through," he said.

Those who complete the weekend are called "Cursillistas" because Cursillo is a movement, not an organization.

"The movement is two parts," said Mayer. "The weekend is the first part, but then we must live it past the weekend. You become part of a community that is very active with faith."

Cursillistas are encouraged to bring their faith into their homes, neighborhoods and workplaces.

They are also encouraged to find a spiritual director, meet with a small group of other Cursillistas on a weekly basis and attend "ultreyas," monthly evening prayer and discussion meetings.

Deacon Ron Steinkamp of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro is currently serving as the Cursillo spiritual advisor in the Diocese of Charlotte. He and his wife, Bette, have been Cursillistas since their weekend retreats in the Diocese of Richmond, Va., in the early 1980s.

"It was a powerful experience that I recall with great appreciation to this day, 25 years later. It profoundly influenced me," said Deacon Steinkamp.

"We moved to North Carolina in 1988 and immediately looked up the local Cursillo as a means of staying in a Christian community that wished to change environments for Christ," he said. "We knew if we found Cursillo, we would find a group of like-minded Catholics."

Looking for a way to re-energize his faith, Mayer attended his Cursillo weekend retreat in September 1994. Since then, he has met weekly with a group of Cursillistas from several parishes, some for the last 12 years.

"We have a method to follow on a weekly basis," said Mayer, indicating the movement focuses on a "tripod" of piety, study and action.

"It's a life of growing in holy commitment to God's grace, a life of formation in the ways of the Lord through study, and a life of action in our daily environments with the purpose of influencing them for Christ," said Deacon Steinkamp. "It is a normal Christian life that is urged, and this life is lived with the support of fellow like-minded Christians."

Yet the path is individualized to the participant, said Mayer.

"It doesn't require you to be a scholar, but you must have a deep love for your faith," he said. "It requires commitment to advancing your faith and prayer life. When you do that, action comes easily."

It is estimated there are 1.5 million Catholic Cursillistas in the United States — with 250 groups in 12 regions. Courses are given in several languages, including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Portuguese and Korean.

A worldwide estimate of Cursillistas was not available, but the movement is found in more than 60 countries. Forms of the movement have spread to Protestant churches.

In 2002, the movement asked the Vatican for official recognition as an association of Catholic faithful.

While Cursillo has brought "abundant fruits of conversion and holiness of life," Pope John Paul II said, the sign of a movement's maturity is its harmony with and commitment to the local and universal church.

More than 1,500 people have attended Cursillo weekends in the Diocese of Charlotte since the 1970s, said Mayer, but there is no way to track the number of Cursillistas who have moved into the diocese.

Currently, four Cursillo weekends — two for men, two for women — are offered each year. A men's weekend is scheduled for March; a women's weekend is scheduled for April.

Catholics interested in going on a Cursillo weekend need to be sponsored by a Cursillista. The sponsor is then responsible for supporting the candidate — praying for the candidate before the weekend and encouraging the candidate to meet in small groups and attend ultreyas after the weekend.

Contributing to this story was Catholic News Service.

WANT MORE INFO?

The men's retreat is March 8-11 at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville. The women's is April 12-15 at St. Therese Church in Mooresville.

For more information, contact Butch Mayer at (704) 845-9858 or Tom Sperrazzo at (704) 341-5552.

ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Catholic Miscellany, an award-winning diocesan newspaper in Charleston, S.C., is seeking qualified applicants for the position of assistant editor. The assistant editor contributes to the copyediting, proofing, design and writing of the weekly newspaper with a circulation of 28,000.

Candidates must have strong English writing and grammar skills with thorough knowledge of AP style; must be design literate and able to work with Quark, Adobe Photoshop/Acrobat; and must be familiar with news and issues related to the Catholic Church. The best candidates should have excellent organizational skills, strong attention to detail, be able to work independently and also be part of a team. A college degree and three years of journalism experience are required.

Salary is negotiable, based on qualifications. Fill out an application at www.catholic-doc.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Room at the Inn, a maternity and after-care program in Charlotte, NC, is seeking a passionate advocate and talented, experienced leader as its next Executive Director. Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm life from the moment of conception, Room at the Inn seeks to help young women and children move toward a new life of hopeful, independent, and healthy living by providing a safe haven for single, pregnant mothers and their children, born and unborn.

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will perform a range of management activities in the oversight of a pre- and post-natal residential facility, on-site counseling services, a college outreach program and an extended after-care program. The Executive Director will use considerable independent judgment in decisions that influence areas of organizational operation and will advise the Board of Directors in planning and policy matters. Initially, the director will be extensively involved in a capital campaign scheduled to launch publicly in summer 2007.

The successful candidate will have proven leadership and managerial skills, demonstrated ability to develop key external relationships, compassion, ability to relate to people of diverse backgrounds, and financial management skills that include the ability to clearly communicate budget, revenue and expenditures. Outstanding communication skills and comfort level with public interaction are essential. Bachelor's degree required and at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Background in the non-profit sector and/or maternity home management is a plus.

Candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Ellen Linares, President, Board of Directors, Room at the Inn, 6235 Morrison Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28211 or to RATISearch@carolina.rr.com. Applications and nominations will be accepted until March 16, 2007.

Room at the Inn

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME ARCHIVES ASSISTANT: Diocese of Charlotte. Employee will retrieve, prepare, scan, process, file and ready for destruction archival documents. He/she will perform clerical tasks in the Archives. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office, well-organized, detail-oriented and self-motivated. Neat, legible handwriting, verbal and interpersonal skills are required. Resumes must be received by 5 March 2007 at Diocese of Charlotte, Archives Department, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Honors band hits high notes

MACS students perform in district band performance in Mooresville

MOORESVILLE — Catholic school students recently got to showcase their musical talents.

Nineteen students represented Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools in the annual South Central District Honors Band Clinic, hosted at Mooresville Middle and High School Jan. 26-27.

More than 1,500 musicians representing eight counties tried for the coveted spots in the South Central District's three 100-piece bands: middle school, ninth- and 10th-grade, and 11th- and 12th-grade.

The students rehearsed for two days before performing in a free concert for the public in the high school auditorium Jan. 27.

Selected by audition, the students representing Charlotte Catholic High School and Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte and St. Mark School in Huntersville were:

Katherine Williamson, Christian Bailey, Alexandria Reinhart and James Kressner on flute; Angela Small, Hilary Sharp, Daniel Martinec, John Luttrell and Brian Geiger on clarinet; Kris Bahar on bassoon; Patrick O'Neal on trumpet; Michaela Reinhart and Keagan Maryman on French horn; Kyle Burns and Steven Fawcett on trombone; Bridget Wasowski and Nick Larson on baritone; Ryan Brennan on bass clarinet; and Roger Regelbrugge on percussion.

The Charlotte Catholic High School band will travel to Ireland in March to appear in concerts and parades in Galway and Dublin, including the St. Patrick Day parade in Dublin.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us for publication in your diocesan newspaper. Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

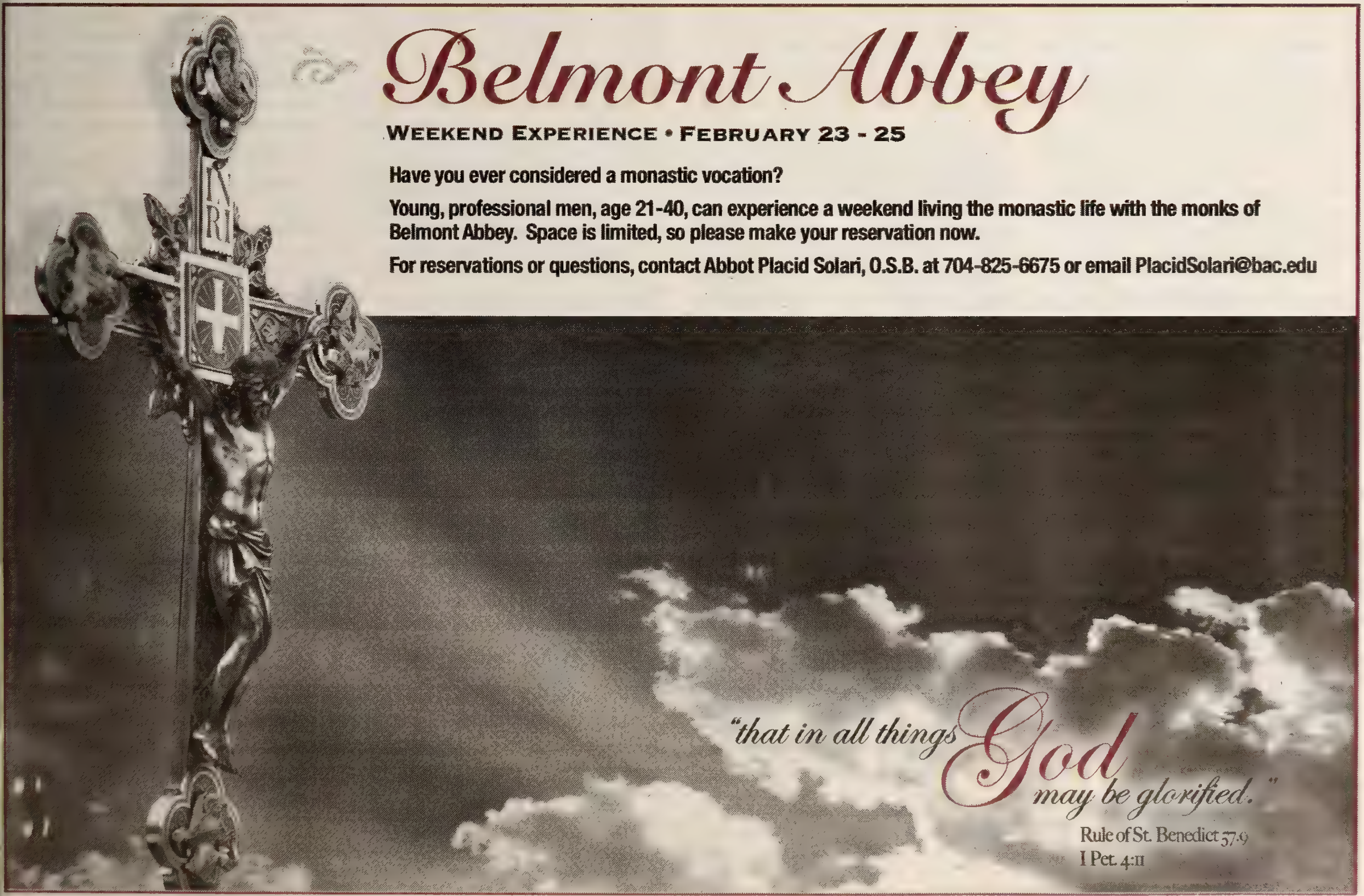
Abuzz about spelling

COURTESY PHOTO

Felix Muniz, a fourth-grader at St. Matthew School in Charlotte, holds his trophy for winning the annual Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools' spelling bee held at St. Ann School in Charlotte Jan. 23. Also pictured is fifth-grade teacher Julie Kerr (left) from St. Matthew School and Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools.

Each MACS school sends one student from each grade to participate in the fourth-through-eighth-grade spelling bee. As the winner, Felix went on to compete against winners from area school districts in the regional Charlotte Observer Spelling Bee, part of the National Scripps Howard Spelling Bee program, at ImaginOn in Charlotte Feb. 14.

Catherine Schulter, a middle-school student from St. Mark School, was the runner-up in the MACS spelling bee.



Belmont Abbey

WEEKEND EXPERIENCE • FEBRUARY 23 - 25

Have you ever considered a monastic vocation?

Young, professional men, age 21-40, can experience a weekend living the monastic life with the monks of Belmont Abbey. Space is limited, so please make your reservation now.

For reservations or questions, contact Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B. at 704-825-6675 or email PlacidSolari@bac.edu
INRI
"that in all things God may be glorified."
Rule of St. Benedict 57.9
I Pet. 4:11

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Stuck on Valentine's Day — for good reason

Compliments are forces of nature that can have lasting affect

Coming of Age

KAREN OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST

Valentine's Day has come and gone. The candy hearts are disintegrating. The teddy bears are slumbering in their dark closet corners.

So why is it still on my mind?

Honestly, the Valentine's Day tradition I most look forward to has nothing to do with pink-painted romance, a little winged cherub or his saccharine attacks on unsuspecting passersby.

It can't be bought in a store or reserved in a restaurant. But it is guaranteed to build bridges, make friends and earn you enough smiles to fill the entire month.

I'm talking about compliments.

In elementary school, I was teased up, down and sideways. That always ceased for a bright moment on Valentine's Day when we were required by our teachers to write those small, folding cartoon valentines to all 24 children in our class.

A compliment had to be attached. That meant I had to write a nice thing about all of the people that called me names, and they had to write something nice about me.

The bully, Frank, said he "liked my red shirt." The teaser, David, said he "thought I was nice."

On Valentine's Day, we all smiled at each other. We weren't enemies at all. We were just ordinary kids who liked candy, jokes and holidays.

After the holiday, unfortunately, the bullies went back to their old habits.

Years later I couldn't help but wonder, What if they hadn't?

In high school, my friends and I got a kick out of exchanging cartoon valentines with compliments in them, much like we did in elementary school. I carried them around for weeks on end in my backpack, and whenever I needed encouragement I'd take a peek.

Compliments are a force of nature. A single compliment can brighten someone's day, week or — in some cases — year. Compliments are a breath of fresh air when people are feeling stale or weighed down. They can help give an out-of-breath soul a second wind or assist some to look at themselves or a problem they are having in a different light.

Compliments shouldn't stop with friends and relatives, but also can be given to people like David and Frank to build bridges, knock down walls and create connections between people that didn't exist before.

Compliments bridge the gap between jock and geek, skater and prep, teacher and student and parent and child.

It doesn't matter if you spent Valentine's Day alone or if you brought roses to your sweetie at school. Compliments can brighten anybody's day.

Perhaps there's someone in your class who deserves some extra kudos for doing a great job on a paper or presentation. What about the girl who always feels a little self-conscious about her appearance? Complimenting clothing that looks good on her will go a long way.

Did your teacher succeed in explaining a concept that was confusing you? That could merit a compliment too.

Valentine's Day is often an occasion that's all about reaching out to the ones we love to tell them how much they mean to us. What about reaching out to those who are hurting and those who need our attention?

We can redefine our notion of "valentine" to something that extends much further than the schmaltzy, greeting-card, chocolate-gooey February custom as we've known it.

So that's why I'm still talking about Valentine's Day. If we keep this up all year round it could be a pretty wonderful world to live in.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Questions about the Apostles' Creed

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. The Apostles' Creed is my favorite prayer, but I have some questions. Who really wrote it, and when? Are the different parts articles of faith

I understand it went through changes; could you print the original version? It says that Jesus will come as judge. Is that the frightening, final judgment we learned about? (Illinois)

A. You ask many large questions, but the following thoughts should help. This prayer of faith is called the Apostles' Creed not because it was written by the apostles, but because the teachings it included go back to apostolic times.

In the sixth century a legend arose that, after Pentecost, before they departed on their mission to preach the Gospel, the apostles gathered and wrote the creed they would preach.

Some claimed that each apostle wrote one of the 12 articles. Peter said, "I believe in God the Father almighty." Andrew said, "And in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord," and so on.

We know this did not happen. For one thing, while the Apostles' Creed had long been popular in the West, even in the 15th century (according to the Archbishop of Ephesus at the Council of Ferrara in 1438) the Eastern churches knew nothing of this creed.

Most doctrines in the Apostles' Creed were part of the profession of faith required of converts to Christianity from earliest times. The creed in its present form appears, however, only in the eighth century.

Beginning in the later Middle Ages it was for several centuries part of the ceremony of baptism. The Apostles' Creed, divided into three parts, is again the form for the profession of faith in the revised baptism rite after Vatican Council II.

We don't know the exact wording of the earliest formulas of this creed. Most likely there were many varieties in use by early Christian communities.

The truths in the Apostles' Creed are certainly articles of faith; all Christians hold them as foundational beliefs of our religion. Pope Benedict XVI recently described the creed as "a tiny summa (summary) in which everything essential is expressed." (Homily at Regensburg, Germany, Sept. 12, 2006)

"It is merely an expansion of the formula for baptism," he said, "that the same Lord entrusted to his disciples" when he told them to go and baptize in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19).

Interestingly, in that same homily, our Holy Father spoke specifically about fearing the final judgment by Jesus. The judgment mentioned in the creed, he said, often makes us fearful.

On the other hand, he continued, "doesn't everyone want to see justice eventually rendered to all those who were unjustly condemned, to all who suffered in life, who died after lives full of pain? Don't we, all of us, want the outrageous injustice and suffering that we see in human history to be finally undone, so that in the end everyone will find happiness and everything will be shown to have meaning?"

Faith in the judgment is not meant to instill fear, he noted, but to call us not to waste our lives, misuse them or spend them simply for ourselves, but to accept responsibility and concern for our own salvation and for the salvation of the whole world.

The more we know about the Apostles' Creed, the more it can become what it is for you, an authentic and powerful prayer.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor

Actions make sisters, not headwear

In response to "Visible witnesses in women religious" (Letters to the Editor, Feb. 9).

I minister across the street from the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. Many are good friends of mine.

While I don't see many sisters in habits, I do see over and over the sisters witnessing to the charism of mercy and compassion, justice and peace. They are in the habit of witnessing to the mission and values of Jesus.

It is not a matter of what they wear but how they live. Sisters over the years have made decisions for themselves as to how to dress. The rest of us should have profound respect for them all.

— Oblate of St. Francis de Sales
Father Joseph Zuschmidt,
pastor,
Queen of Apostles Church, Belmont

Operation Rice Bowl 2007

Lenten program offers ways to help needy around globe

Guest Column

TERRI JARINA
GUEST COLUMNIST

Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) 2007 Operation Rice Bowl literature states that we can "put our faith into action by reaching out in solidarity with all members of our human family." Defining "solidarity" is a continuing challenge for me.

Webster sums up solidarity as a fellowship. Other sources equate solidarity with unity, cooperation and community. A colleague views solidarity as "when two or more groups of people (from different ethnic or religious backgrounds — but not limited to these) come together to reach a common goal."

She sees this action as a way "to achieve or work toward understanding each other and (ultimately) achieve peace." This view makes sense to me.

How can U.S. Catholics "work toward understanding each other" around the globe? One way is by participating in Operation Rice Bowl (ORB).

Lent and the CRS ORB program both begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, and conclude with Easter, Apr. 8. Operation Rice Bowl participants pledge to pray, fast in solidarity with those around the world who suffer from hunger, learn about the global community and the challenges of poverty overseas, and give sacrificial contributions to those in need.

The countries featured in the 2007 CRS ORB promotional materials are Mexico, Pakistan, Angola, Cambodia, Niger and the United States (specifically, the Diocese of Albany, N.Y.). The free Home Calendar Guide offers simple, daily opportunities for families and individuals to learn about people and issues in our global community.

The calendar guide includes personal stories from beneficiaries of CRS' overseas programs, Lenten reflections and activities, and recipes of simple meatless meals from the different countries.

Food security is one of the unifying elements of the CRS projects and programs funded by ORB.

In almost all instances, CRS-sponsored food aid programs are carried out through networks of Catholic, faith-based, secular and governmental counterparts and partners overseas. CRS works to ensure that food aid is used to promote and preserve the physical welfare and economic development of the people they serve.

In order to promote long-term food security, food aid must be complemented by policies and programs that promote access to food by poor and vulnerable people. These policies and programs may include investments in agricultural development aimed at small-scale producers, or trade policies that protect small-scale producers against unfair competition.

CRS believes that food aid — both imported and locally purchased — can effectively be used to meet relief and development objectives, and also can mitigate and prevent the need for some emergency responses.

The majority of the ORB collection goes to the national CRS office in Baltimore, Md., for anti-poverty programs worldwide. From the smaller portion that we keep in the Diocese of Charlotte, the diocesan CRS committee sponsors a grants program for local initiatives at Catholic parishes, schools and other Catholic organizations.

CRS ORB grants up to $1,000 will be awarded for projects or programs with a focus on domestic or international issues. Applications will be available March 1, 2007, and must be postmarked by May 15, 2007.

A second way to "work towards understanding each other" is to apply for a CRS ORB grant. These grants of up to $1,000 will be awarded for projects or programs with a focus on domestic or international issues.

Terri Jarina is a program director for parish social ministry with Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte, and diocesan coordinator of Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl program.

For ORB grant info or applications, visit www.cssnc.org/cchd_crs or ccontact Jarina at (704) 370-3234 or thjarina@charlottediocese.org.

Persons, not products

Children are gifts and cannot be discarded nor demanded

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST

On Feb. 22, 1987 — that is, 20 years ago — the Catholic Church gave our society a tremendous gift, and it's time to open it again. It was a clear trumpet blast of truth and compassion, a ray of Gospel light on problems that continue to be some of the most vexing of our time.

The gift was a document called "Donum Vitae" (Latin words that mean "The Gift of Life"). Issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and approved by Pope John Paul II, the document's fuller title is "Instruction on Respect for Human Life in its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation: Replies to Certain Questions of the Day."

The document is not long; it can easily be read in a single sitting. It talks about the tiniest human beings: who they are and how they come to be. It talks about how we treat zygotes and embryos — two categories to which each of us reading this article once belonged.

It emphasizes the fact that each person has both a right to life, and a right to come into life in the proper way — not as the result of a scientific project in the lab, but as a result of the union of two people lovingly united in body and soul.

Among the questions the document tackles are the following: What is the relationship between science and ethics? Must the embryo be treated as a person? Is every human being a human person?

Is pre-natal diagnosis morally acceptable? Is experimentation on human embryos and fetuses morally acceptable? What is the church's objection to in-vitro fertilization and surrogate motherhood? May embryos be frozen?

How does the church look upon infertile couples? In what way may medical science assist the act of procreation? What is the responsibility of lawmakers toward the human embryo?

The document does not simply lay down "dos and don'ts," and it is not a condemnation. Rather, it places these teachings in the context of our personal relationship with God, who loves us.

"Donum Vitae" says:

"It is out of goodness — in order to indicate the path of life — that God gives human beings His commandments and the grace to observe them: and it is likewise out of goodness — in order to help them persevere along the same path — that God always offers to everyone His forgiveness. Christ has compassion on our weaknesses: He is our Creator and Redeemer."

The document reminds us that every human being must be treated as a person both inside and outside the womb.

"How could a human individual not be a human person?" the document asks. Even "human embryos obtained in vitro are human beings and subjects with rights."

And in regard to the church's absolute prohibition on procured abortion, "Donum Vitae" declares, "This teaching has not been changed and is unchangeable."

In short, children are gifts, and therefore can neither be discarded nor demanded. They are persons, not products. Let's learn anew the message of "Donum Vitae"!

Father Frank Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

Pope says church could not have grown without women's contributions

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Highlighting the fidelity and responsibility of women in the early Christian community, Pope Benedict XVI said the church could not have grown and developed as it has without the contribution of women.

"The history of Christianity would have had a very different development if it had not been for the generous support of many women," he said Feb. 14 at his weekly general audience.

Pope Benedict said that as he neared the end of his audience series on the apostles and early church leaders, he wanted to focus on "the many female figures who played an effective and precious role in spreading the Gospel. Their witness cannot be forgotten."

The pope said the women who helped spread the Gospel and ensure the growth of Christianity — such as Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, Joanna, Susanna, Priscilla and Phoebe — should be known, honored and remembered.

Pope Benedict did not get into questions such as the ordination of women to the priesthood and diaconate.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 14.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today, as we near the end of our reflections on the earliest Christian witnesses in the New Testament, we turn our attention to the women who played an important role in spreading the good news.

Above all, we remember the Virgin Mary, who cooperated in a unique way in our redemption.

As a faithful disciple of her son, Mary manifested her complete trust in him at Cana. She received a special mission from him at the foot of the cross to be the mother of all disciples.

Others who assisted Our Lord were Mary Magdalene — the first to announce his resurrection — as well as Joanna, Susanna and the sisters Mary and Martha.

St. Paul writes that in the early church it was normal for a woman to prophesy under the influence of the Spirit (cf. 1 Cor 11:5). In his Letter to the Romans, Paul refers to Phoebe as "diakonos," showing that she had a unique responsibility in the early Christian community.

Indeed, the history of Christianity would have developed much differently if it were not for the generous contribution made by so many women. Today, let us give thanks to God who, through baptism, continues to use the gifts of both men and women for the good of the entire church.

St. Dorothy Church home to Lincoln County Catholics since World War II years

ST. DOROTHY CHURCH
148 Saint Dorothy's Lane
Lincolnton, N.C. 28092
(704) 735-5575

Vicariate: Gastonia
Pastor: Father Matthew Buettner
Number of Households: 200

Father Matthew Buettner

LINCOLNTON — St. Dorothy Church began in 1944 with four families who met for Sunday Mass in an old funeral home.

At that time, a Benedictine priest would travel to Lincolnton from Cherryville to celebrate the Mass. Later, St. Dorothy became a mission of St. Therese Church in Mooresville.

St. Dorothy had its first home when a 1,200-square-foot building was constructed on North Aspen Street in Lincolnton in 1958. The building had living quarters for a part-time priest and Mass was celebrated in the living room. The mission was then named St. Dorothy in honor of Dorothy Winter by her husband, a benefactor from out of state.

By the mid-1970s, the church building had been enlarged to make room for the 90 families who were attending weekly Mass. St. Dorothy became a mission of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and two Sisters of the Order of the Daughters of the Church were dividing their time between St. Dorothy Mission and their community in Asheville.

In June 1976, then-Bishop Michael J. Begley granted parish status to St. Dorothy.

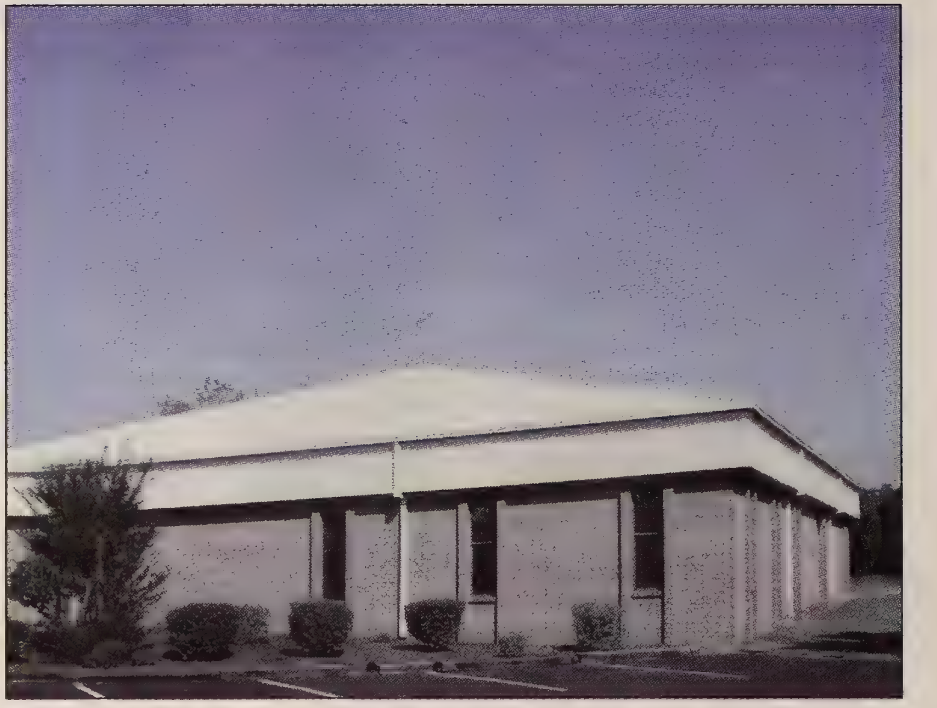


Photo by George Cobb

St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton stands as a testament to the dedication of Lincoln County Catholics.

The 1980s and early 1990s were a time of continued growth for St. Dorothy Church with an influx of Spanish-speaking Catholics, primarily from Mexico and Costa Rica, who now call St. Dorothy Church their home.

In August 1994, then-Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated a new 7,300-square-foot church on St. Dorothy's Lane, a few miles west of Lincolnton.

In 1991, Father Richard Farwell was appointed pastor of the church. In August 1994, a new church building was dedicated, creating room for today's 200 parish families.

Parish activities include Catholic Scripture Study, a weekly holy hour of adoration and Benediction, Spanish prayer groups, Knights of Columbus and others.

St. Dorothy Church is actively involved each year in Lincolnton's Annual Apple Festival and Christian Ministry, the local Christian outreach for Lincoln County. The parish also hosts two festivals a year, with the spring festival preceded by the traditional Forty Hours Devotion during Lent.

In July 2006, Father Matthew Buettner assumed the pastorate of St. Dorothy Church, having served as the parish's parochial vicar for the preceding two years.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

NOTICE: LAST DAY TO REGISTER - Thursday, Feb. 22!!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:

- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

$2,899 from Charlotte includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

Lenten Morning of Reflection

✠

Talks:

"From Hostility to Cosmic Hospitality: A Call to Conversion"
by Sr. Jane Russell, O.S.F.

"The Woman at the Well"
by Fr. David Brown, O.S.B.

Saturday, March 3 8:30 am to noon
Haid Ballroom
Belmont Abbey College

Mass will follow in the Basilica at 11:00 am with Mid-Day Prayer at 11:45 am. While there is no charge, reservations are requested by calling 704-825-6777.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

FEBRUARY 23, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 19

Parish Profile

Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission a Catholic presence in N.C. mountains for half century

| PAGE 16

Tomorrow's hope today

Church worker says millions more Afghans educated today than in 2001

BY REGINA LINSKEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Around 4 million more Afghan children are formally educated today than in 2001, said a church worker.

Afghan children — including girls — go to school in a home, where they sit on the floor and are taught by a teacher, said Sara Bowers, head of the education program for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

The girls and boys "love to draw" so the makeshift classrooms are "colorful places," Bowers told Catholic News Service.

"They are attentive, eager," she said. "You don't find the

See AFGHAN, page 9

Lenten journey begins with ashes

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin places ashes on the forehead of a man and his infant son at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Feb. 21.

Ash Wednesday centuries-old marking of start of Lent

CHARLOTTE — Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, which lasts 46 days, until Holy Thursday.

At Masses, worshippers receive ashes in the shape of a cross.

The symbolism echoes the ancient Near Eastern tradition of throwing ash over one's head, signifying repentance before God.

The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday and mixing them with olive oil as a fixative. Ash Wednesday is observed by fasting, abstinence and repentance — a day of contemplating one's transgressions.

RELATED COVERAGE
Page 15 | Lenten regulations

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Bishop Peter J. Jugis lays his hands on Deacon Tri Vinh Truong's head during his diaconate ordination at St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Charlotte Feb. 18.

Another step toward priesthood

Seminarian ordained to transitional diaconate

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The road to the priesthood is marked by a series of milestones: lector, acolyte, candidacy, transitional deacon and finally, priestly ordination.

Tri Vinh Truong took one of his final steps toward becoming a priest when Bishop Peter J. Jugis ordained him as a transitional deacon at St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Charlotte Feb. 18.

"It was very special to be ordained in my home parish," said Deacon Truong, who is currently studying canon law, theology, systematic theology, homiletics (preaching) and Scripture at Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary in

See DEACON, page 5

Winds of change

Catholic Church's social teaching backs up advocacy on climate change

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Climate change is an issue that not only has personal appeal to Catholics, but also is one for which Catholics have a lot to back them up when they make their pitches to Congress,

See CLIMATE, page 8

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-B P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Knights honored for years of service; father-daughter dance
| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
'Terabithia' author speaks; TV program on religious life
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
Defending the faith; stewardship of creation
| PAGE 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

THE CLERICUS CUP

CNS photo by Damir Sagolj, Reuters

The captain of a Polish team holds the winner's trophy given by Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo at the conclusion of a soccer tournament for priests in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Feb. 14. A hundred Catholic priests from all over Europe competed in an indoor soccer championship organized by the church.

Priests, seminarians to kick off exclusive soccer championship

ROME (CNS) — Students at Pontifical North American College are among those competing in the first Clericus Cup, a soccer championship exclusively for priests and seminarians in Rome.

Seminaries and pontifical universities have fielded 16 teams for the championship series, with 311 players coming from approximately 50 countries. The series is to open Feb. 24 when Pontifical Gregorian University plays Pontifical International College Maria Mater Ecclesiae.

The championship game will be in June.

North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, plays its first game March 3 against Pontifical Urbanian University, an institution for seminarians from mission countries.

North American College had an informal team that occasionally played teams from other seminaries, said Jaime Gil, player and coach.

When the invitation came to enter a team in the Clericus Cup, the response from players at the college was enthusiastic, Gil said.

"I was surprised because we're all busy with our studies, and it's hard to find time to play sometimes," Gil said.

Gil, who was born and grew up in Mexico, said he started playing soccer at age 6. He considered a professional career in soccer and during his high school years was called to join the Michoacan state team.

Gil said he realized that as much as he loved soccer his true vocation was to the priesthood. He turned down the invitation to join the state team, finished high school and moved to Boise, Idaho, to start his formation as a priest.

"This (the Clericus Cup series) is a way for me to do both," he said, referring to his love of soccer and his vocation to the priesthood.

The Catholic Italian Sports Center, which organized the series, described the team from Pontifical Urbanian University as physically strong.

However, Gil said he was not worried by the description.

"Skillswise we're still learning, but we have the advantage that all our players have experience playing team sports. We know how to play as a team," said Gil.

There will be a few technical differences between Clericus Cup games and regular league soccer games. Clericus Cup games will consist of 30-minute halves instead of 45-minute halves.

Referees also will have another penalty option. In addition to the yellow warning card and red expulsion card, they can hand out a blue card, which requires an overly aggressive player to leave the field for five minutes.

Sunday is day of rest, Bishop Baker reminds S.C. Catholics

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston has reminded his flock in South Carolina that Sunday is a day of rest.

In a Feb. 9 letter to pastors and parish life facilitators, Bishop Baker encouraged Catholics to begin the diocesan celebration of 2007 as the Year of the Family by reclaiming the Sabbath for God and family.

"Because we have become distracted, overworked and overcommitted to outside activities, Sunday has become just another workday," he wrote. "I challenge each of you to restore Sunday as a gift from the Father for the family to appreciate one another.

"We have lost the peace that God created for our day of rest, and we all should actively seek ways to invite God into the center of our families," he added.

He quoted from Pope John Paul II's 1998 apostolic letter, "Dies Domini" ("The Day of the Lord"): "Sunday is the day which recalls in grateful adoration the world's first day and looks forward in active hope to 'the last day,' when Christ will come in glory and all things will be made new."

Bishop Baker also made several suggestions to make this a reality:

— Pray a parish rosary once a month followed by a covered-dish dinner with fun activities for youths and children.

— Plan a pilgrimage to a favorite religious site, such as the Shrine of Our Lady of South Carolina-Our Lady of Joyful Hope in Kingstree or to Mepkin Abbey in Monck's Corner.

— Allow a member of the family to share 15 minutes of Scripture reading.

— Refrain from any labor, shopping and any private activity that conflicts with prayer or family involvement on a Sunday.

— Try to organize activities with other parents and adults to enrich faith and friendships on Sundays while children or youths are involved in faith formation.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *St. Matthew Blood Give-In* Sunday will be March 11, 8 a.m.-1: 30 p.m. in the family room of the parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Donors will be required to provide identification, such as a driver license or Red Cross blood donor card. A sign-up table will be in narthex Feb 24-25 and March 3-4. Appointments are encouraged and will be honored. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be taken as time permits. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat,* 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for March 2 will be "The Practice of Fasting." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Peter Church's weekday lunchtime spirituality program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. The program for March 15 will be "*With Jesus in the Desert: Praying through Darkness into Light.*" Bring your lunch, hear a short talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to recharge during the workweek. Sessions are free and everyone is invited. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *Faithful Stewards of God's Creation* will take place in the McCarthy Spirituality Center 101 Mercy Dr., March 3, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The free conference will present church teaching on environmental justice, recent scientific findings, energy-saving ideas, air quality concerns in the Charlotte metro region and how to become more effective advocates. Call (704) 370-3228 by Feb. 26 to register and reserve a lunch Sponsored by Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace in partnership with the Sisters of Mercy NC Peace and Justice Team. For more information on this event, please visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. The group will discuss the Gospel of Luke. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

STONEVILLE— The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual *Lenten Mini Retreat*, led by Father Louis Canino, at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center March 1 at

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

FEBRUARY 23, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 19

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official says Christians need correct, certain consciences

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians will not invoke conscientious objection to defend human life if they have no idea what the conscience is, said speakers at a Vatican press conference.

"Believers need consciences that are true, certain and correct," which happens "with reflection, dialogue and, sometimes, a tiring search," said Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

The bishop and others spoke about the conscience at a Feb. 20 press conference to introduce the academy's Feb. 23-24 congress on "The Christian Conscience in Support of the Right to Life."

Bishop Sgreccia said the conference would look at the right and obligation of physicians, nurses, pharmacists and researchers to declare themselves conscientious objectors when faced with procedures such as abortion, euthanasia or the destruction of human embryos.

But first, he said, participants will look at how the conscience calls people to take positive steps "in service, love and veneration" for every human life.

Bishop Sgreccia said it is clear that the church must teach its members what the conscience is and how it matures correctly.

Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, Australia, said the conscience is not like a new car's satellite navigator — a voice coming telling the driver to turn here, continue or stop there. And it is not simply a gut feeling about the best way to act in a certain situation, he said.

"Too often in recent years those desperate for moral education or guidance have been fobbed off with 'follow your conscience' or 'do whatever seems right to you'" without being helped to understand what a correct conscience is and how it is formed, Bishop Fisher said.

A real conscience is based on a recognition that objective moral truths exist and that some actions are always right or always wrong, he said.

10 a.m. Carpools will leave from St. Paul the Apostle Church parking lot, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., by 9:15 a.m. For more information, please call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and School, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women,* Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The group will be facilitated by parishioner and life coach Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the group is to create a time and a space for women to better connect with their inner wisdom and move forward on their journey in life. For more information or to register, call Lucy (336) 632-1940 or e-mail coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The annual *World Day of Prayer* ecumenical worship service will held March 1 at 7 p.m. at Corinth Reformed Church, 150 16th Ave. NW. The bilingual service is themed "United under God's Tent" and was written by Paraguayan Christian women. The service is sponsored by more than 15 area churches, including St. Aloysius, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph Catholic churches. Child care will be provided and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY. — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Joseph Curran, a 9-year-old parishioner at Holy Cross Church, needs a bone marrow transplant. A *Bone-Marrow Typing Drive* will be at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., March 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friends and family have raised some funds to cover the cost of the typing for those who cannot afford the $25 tax-deductible fee. Minorities will be typed free as the need for minority marrow is extremely high. For more information, visit www.marrow.org or call Pattie Curran at (336) 423-8158 or Melanie Feeney-Lewis (336) 869-5151.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Secular Franciscan Betti Pettinati-Longinotti will speak on "Art and Prayer" at the Feb. 28 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Feb. 27 – 1:30 p.m.
Building commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Feb. 28 – 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

March 1 – 10 a.m.
Foundation board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 2 – 10 a.m.
Finance council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Vatican rejects Call to Action appeal; bishop urges return to church

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — The Vatican's highest court said it has no jurisdiction over a decision by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln that Catholics in his diocese who are members of a dozen organizations were automatically excommunicated.

In the wake of the ruling, Bishop Bruskewitz renewed his invitation to Call to Action Nebraska members to leave that organization and return to full communion with the church.

Rachel Pokora and Gordon Peterson of Call to Action Nebraska had asked the Apostolic Signature, the church's supreme court, to overturn Bishop Bruskewitz's 1996 decision and its affirmation last year by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops.

In a Jan. 27 letter to Pokora and Peterson, which was copied to Bishop Bruskewitz, the court said it had no jurisdiction in the matter.

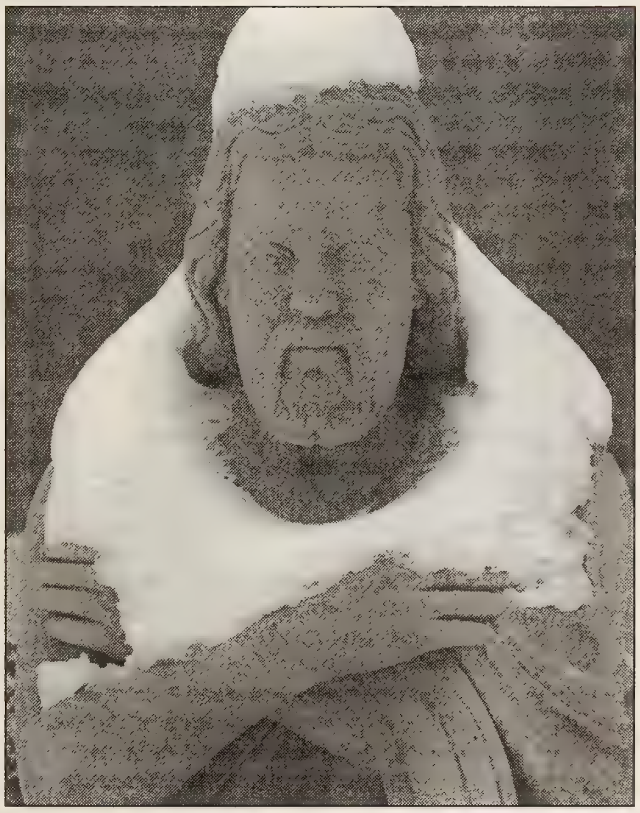
In extrasynodal legislation issued in 1996, Bishop Bruskewitz said Catholics who were members of certain groups would be automatically excommunicated if they did not quit the groups. The penalties applied to members of Call to Action, Call to Action Nebraska and 10 other organizations.Call to Action Nebraska was the only group to ask the bishop to reverse his decision, to no avail.

Bishop Bruskewitz expressed his hope and prayer that Call to Action Nebraska members will soon cooperate with God's grace, repent and return to the church.

Although the Vatican appeal only dealt with Call to Action, the other groups named by Bishop Bruskewitz 10 years ago were: Planned Parenthood, Society of St. Pius X, Hemlock Society, St. Michael the Archangel Chapel, Freemasons, Job's Daughters, DeMolay, Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and Catholics for a Free Choice.

The Hemlock Society works to legalize physician-assisted suicide, and Planned Parenthood and Catholics for a Free Choice both support keeping abortion legal.

Shivering statue?



CNS PHOTO BY SAM LUCERO, CATHOLIC HERALD

A statue of Jesus outside Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Milwaukee appears to be shivering in the snow Feb. 12. A recent stretch of below-zero temperatures and wind-chill factors reaching minus-20 degrees left Milwaukee-area residents shivering as well.

Archbishop tells Pelosi budget must fully fund children's health care

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — "If we do what is right, we can take care of all our children and raise the healthiest generation in American history," Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco told House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

He urged her to "include adequate funding in the federal budget to sustain and expand the highly successful State Children's Health Insurance Program."

He made the comments in a personal letter to Pelosi that was delivered to her Washington office Feb. 12 by George Wesolek, director of the archdiocese's Public Policy and Social Concerns Office.

Archbishop Niederauer advocated "access to affordable health insurance for every child through proven, successful federal-state partnerships" as the "right place to start in tackling the health care challenges facing our country."

The archbishop was to join other religious, civic and health care leaders at a public rally Feb. 22 on the plaza of St. Mary's Cathedral at which a "Report on Children's Health" was to be released.

The report, organizers said, would be presented to Pelosi at both her district and Washington offices.

Two Knights honored for combined 110 years of service

FOREST CITY — The Knights of Columbus Council 12266 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Forest City recently honored two of its members for a combined 110 years of service.

Frank Kraynak was honored for 60 years of service and Larry Gardner was honored for 50 years of service to the Knights of Columbus.

"I was totally impressed with their achievements," said Grand Knight Salvatore Sarate, who presented the men with their plaques Feb. 11.

"Both men have achieved the ripe old age of 89 and are still going strong," said Sarate. "If we had more men in the world like them, we would have fewer problems in the world."

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882, offers support for pro-life issues, the handicapped, vocations and other service-oriented ministries.

Courtesy Photo

Grand Knight Salvatore Sarate (center) presents Frank Kraynak (left) and Larry Gardner with plaques for their combined 110 years of service to the Knights of Columbus at Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

CFCC

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.

THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don't know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don't have time to research even a fraction of them.

Call to learn more about:

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

Dancing the night away

Courtesy Photo

Fathers and daughters enjoy a father-daughter dance held at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Jan. 27.

Fathers, daughters enjoy dance, bonding experience

CLEMMONS — Fathers and daughters from around the Winston-Salem Vicariate enjoyed a father-daughter dance at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Jan. 27.

The event was organized by Chris Bryant, an officer with Knights of Columbus Bishop Charles P. Greco Council 9499 at the church.

"This could be a chance for dads and their little princess of all ages to share an experience that they'll remember forever," said Bryant.

Nearly 150 fathers and daughters from the Clemmons, Winston-Salem and Kernersville areas participated.

"We ate, danced, laughed and smiled. It was magnificent," said Bryant.

Bryant said he was looking forward to organizing another father-daughter dance next year.

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882, offers support for pro-life issues, the handicapped, vocations and other service-oriented ministries.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us so we can publish them in The Catholic News & Herald. Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

Holy Week at the Oratory

April 1 – 7

Individuals and small groups are welcome to join in the prayer and silence, liturgies and hospitality at the Oratory during this Sacred Week. Spiritual directors are available on a limited basis and with advanced scheduling.

Cost: $45 overnight - with no direction
$65 overnight - with direction

Seminarian ordained to transitional diaconate

DEACON, *from page 1*

Emmitsburg, Md.

Most transitional deacons are ordained at the seminaries where they are studying. For the past several years, Mount St. Mary's has permitted their seminarians to be ordained in their home parishes.

Deacon Truong was born in Vinh Long Province, Vietnam. In 1994, his family was granted refugee status, allowing them to immigrate to the United States.

After living for a year in Atlanta, the family moved to Charlotte, where his parents, brother, sister-in-law and nephew still live.

Deacon Truong graduated from St. Xavier University in Chicago and worked for Baxter Health Care for several years. But a vocation to the priesthood continued to call to him.

"I've wanted to be a priest since I was about 10 years old," he said.

"Tri, I wish to express to you my gratitude and my deep admiration for your 'yes' to Jesus," Bishop Jugis said during the ordination Mass.

During the rite of ordination, Bishop Jugis called forth Deacon Truong to make the promise of celibacy and the vow of obedience. The candidate then lay prostrate on the floor while the bishop, the concelebrating priests and deacons serving prayed the litany of the saints.

Seminarian education is one of the ministries supported by your contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Following the litany, the bishop laid his hands on Deacon Truong's head and asked the Holy Spirit to descend upon him. Msgr. Mauricio W. West, diocesan chancellor and vicar general, then vested Deacon Truong with the dalmatic and stole.

Finally, Deacon Truong knelt before the bishop, who placed the Book of Gospels in his hands. The new deacon then assisted with the liturgy of the Eucharist.

Deacons are permitted to preach, assist priests at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist; officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals; and administer blessings during certain liturgical rites. Transitional deacons are men enrolled in seminaries who intend to be ordained as priests.

"As a deacon, Tri has important work to do for the Lord," Bishop Jugis said during his homily. "He will help the bishop and priests in three special ministries: the ministry of the word, the ministry of the altar and the ministry of charity."

"He will proclaim and preach the good news of Jesus Christ — the good news that has the power to save souls," the bishop said.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Deacon Tri Vinh Truong distribute Communion during Mass at St. Joseph Vietnamese Church in Charlotte Feb. 18. During the Mass, Bishop Jugis ordained Deacon Truong to the transitional diaconate, the last step before he is ordained a priest in June 2008.

"The gift that Jesus gave us at the Last Supper — his own body and blood, his real presence — is administered to us through the ministry of the priest, assisted by his deacon," said Bishop Jugis. "What a privilege the deacon has to be at the priest's side during Mass, administering to the people the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation."

"You are to imitate Jesus as you give yourself for the salvation of your brothers and sisters," the bishop instructed.

"My greatest spiritual influence has always been my prayer life," said Deacon Truong, who will be ordained a priest in June 2008. "I want to bring Christ's love to the people."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

The Catholic Shoppe
AT BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

1st Anniversary Celebration
Sale
throughout the month of February*

We have books for all ages, religious and inspirational artwork, statues, rosaries, jewelry, medals, crosses, crucifixes, prayer and greeting cards, music, audio books on CD's, DVD's, sacramental and general gift items and so much more!

Conveniently located 10 minutes from Charlotte
on the Belmont Abbey College campus
I-85 Exit 26

*In Store Purchases only

Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri *10:00am - 4:00pm*
Tuesday *10:00am - 6:00pm*
Saturday *10:am - 1:00pm*

704.461.5100 ◆ CATHOLICSHOPPE@BAC.EDU

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

New head of clergy congregation issues defense of priestly celibacy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two months after taking over as head of the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes has issued a strong and lengthy defense of priestly celibacy.

"Priestly celibacy is a precious gift of Christ to his church, a gift that must continually be meditated upon and strengthened, especially in the deeply secularized modern world," he said.

The cardinal made the comments in a full-page article he wrote for the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano. It was published Feb. 14 under the headline "The importance of priestly celibacy."

Cardinal Hummes, formerly the archbishop of Sao Paolo, arrived at his new Vatican post last December, shortly after telling a Brazilian newspaper that priestly celibacy was a disciplinary norm and not a church dogma and was therefore open to change.

Vatican officials were concerned, and within hours of arriving in Rome Cardinal Hummes issued a statement emphasizing that priestly celibacy was a long and valuable tradition in the Latin-rite church, based on strong theological and pastoral arguments.

The cardinal's newspaper article was written to mark the 40th anniversary of "Sacerdotalis Caelibatus," Pope Paul VI's encyclical on priestly celibacy, issued June 24, 1967.

Cardinal Hummes reviewed what he said was strong evidence that priestly celibacy has its roots in apostolic times, not later centuries.

The cardinal said celibacy represents "a more full configuration with the Lord Jesus," who lived his own life as a celibate, and is a sign of the total love priests give to the church. For all priests, he said, celibacy should be a call to happiness and not a burden of suffering.

Cardinal Hummes said celibacy is also a sign of pastoral charity.

"Common experience confirms that it is easier to open one's heart to one's brothers fully and without reserve for those who have no other emotional attachments, no matter how legitimate and holy, except the attachment to Christ," he said.

Cardinal Hummes reviewed Pope Paul's reasons for confirming priestly celibacy 40 years ago and said the same reasons were still valid today.

Cardinal Hummes reviewed various discussions on celibacy over the last 40 years, particularly in synods of bishops and other Rome meetings. On every occasion, he said, the participants have ended up confirming the value of priestly celibacy.

At the 2005 synod on the Eucharist, some bishops wanted a discussion on ordaining married men in certain circumstances, but the idea was rejected as "a road not to travel," he said.

Glenmary's 'Dean of Missioners'

Father Joe Dean dies at 86

Glenmary Father Joe Dean

CINCINNATI — Glenmary Father Joe Dean, who served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died of a heart attack Feb. 14 in Mount Pleasant, Texas. He was 86.

A native of Chicago, Father Dean joined the Glenmary order in 1943 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1945.

His assignments included serving in Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Texas and Oklahoma. He founded several missions in a number of states, including one in Murphy, N.C. — the first Glenmary mission established in the state. The mission eventually would grow into the thriving parish of St. William Church.

Father Dean also founded two hospitals — Providence Hospital in Murphy and St. Mary's Hospital in Norton, Va. — and numerous outreach centers and programs.

In the 1950s, Father Dean worked in Glenmary's vocation and promotion department and taught at Glenmary's seminary. In all of his mission pastorates, he wrote columns for the local newspaper and delivered radio messages to educate and attract locals to Catholicism.

Father Dean arrived in Mississippi in 1965 in the midst of the civil rights movement, where he worked with other local ministers and community leaders to integrate the community. His ministry to African-Americans was fueled by the fact, he said, that "for so long, members of a community were cut off from so many normal benefits of civil life and, in some cases, of human living, that there was a need for Christian leadership."

In the mid-1980s, Father Dean recognized the growing Spanish-speaking population in Glenmary's missions in the South. At age 65 he began learning Spanish and reaching out to the immigrant population.

"You don't grow old," he said, "you become old by not growing."

He retired from assigned ministry in 1995. For the past seven years, he lived in Glenmary's former mission in Mount Pleasant, Texas, making himself available to fill in for pastors in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Father Dean is survived by nieces, nephews and his Glenmary brothers.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at St. Matthias Church in Cincinnati Feb. 20. Burial followed at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.

Memorials are requested to Glenmary Home Missioners, P.O. Box 465618, Cincinnati, OH 45246.

Glenmary Home Missioners is a Catholic society of priests and brothers who, along with coworkers, staff more than 50 missions and ministries in 14 dioceses throughout Appalachia, the South and Southwest.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16
Read the parish profile of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, which references Father Dean's work in the area.

Deacon George McMahon dies at 70

Deacon George McMahon

MORGANTON — Deacon George Edward McMahon died Feb. 15 following a period of declining health. He was 70 years old.

Deacon McMahon, born in Ridgeway, Pa., once said his childhood catechism classes provided comfort and a sense of structure for him. He graduated from Gannon University, a Catholic college in Erie, Pa., in 1958; he also was the first person to receive certification in Confraternity of Christian Doctrine from Gannon.

His mother's dedication to Mary helped him through his college years.

"I was particularly close to the Blessed Mother when I went to college and prayed daily to her," said Deacon McMahon in a 2002 interview with The Catholic News & Herald. "I began to open my mind and let her into my heart. I attended Mass daily in the latter part of my college years and spent a lot of time reflecting on my faith."

He was ordained into the permanent diaconate at St. Elizabeth of the Hills Church in Boone in June 1989, and served as a deacon in several churches in North Carolina and Florida.

Deacon McMahon married Annette Louise Jaggy McMahon in 1961. She converted to her husband's faith after the birth of the first of their eight children.

Wanting to be closer to their children in North Carolina, the McMahons moved from Florida in 1999, and Deacon McMahon was assigned to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

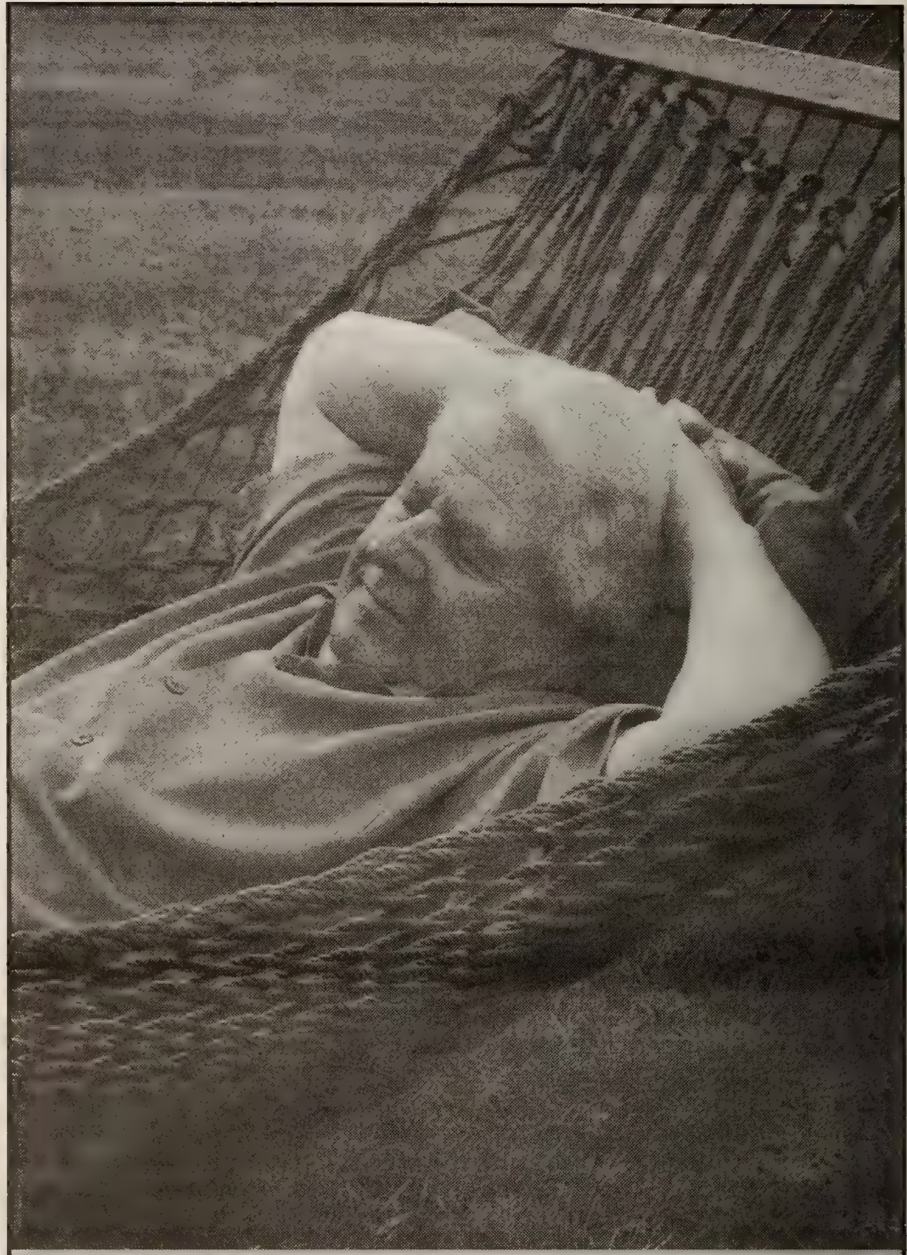
"For each place I've moved, I've learned more about God and a different dimension of my faith," he said.

The deacon was involved with several ministries, including prison, mentally challenged and Landings.

He is survived by his wife, Annette; eight children; 12 grandchildren; and 12 nephews and nieces.

A Mass of Christian burial was held Feb. 17 at St. Charles Borromeo Church with Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Kenneth Whittington, pastor, officiating. Burial followed at Burke Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Charles Borromeo Church Priest Retirement Fund, 728 W. Union St., Morganton, N.C. 28655.



Retired.
Not retiring.

For Phil, wellness means relaxing without a care in the world. Having more time to exercise his mind and listen to his spirit gives him a sense of inner harmony. It's the simple joy of living, and Phil knows he'll find it here. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Ret2

Holy Angels honors, inducts board members

Organization presents Founders Award

BELMONT — Holy Angels in Belmont recently presented its Founders Award to Dr. Mary Ann Rathbun-MacCaughelty.

She received the award during a board appreciation dinner held at the Sisters of Mercy administration center in Belmont Jan. 30.

The award is named in memory of Mercy Sister Marie Patrice Manley, Holy Angels' founder. Established in 2004, it is presented to an individual who has had a long-standing relationship with Holy Angels, a nonprofit corporation providing programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

Rathbun-MacCaughelty, a neonatal physician, has served on Holy Angels' board of directors for 26 years.

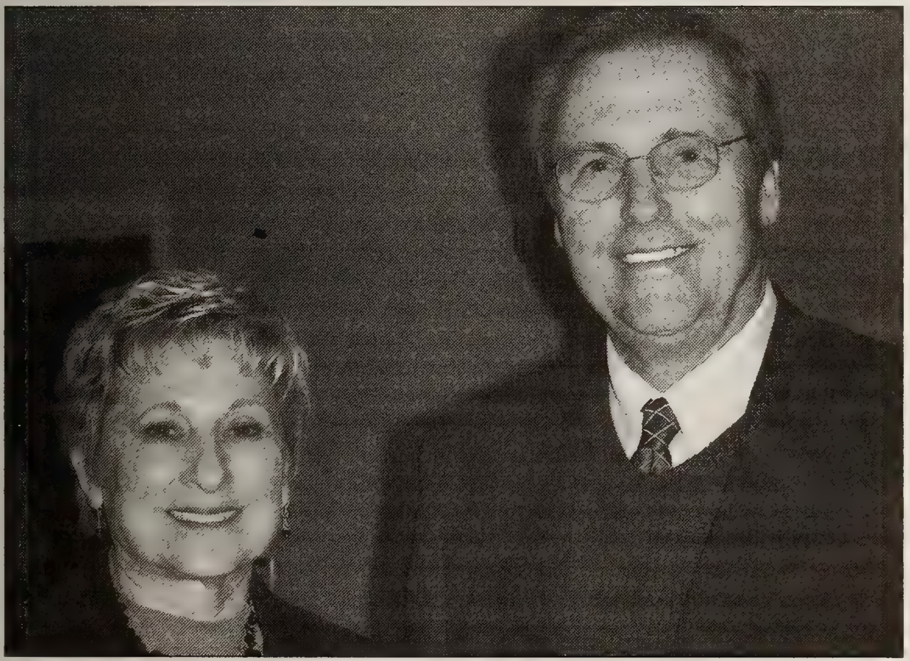
Also during the dinner, Holy Angels board members and officers were installed by Mercy Sister Pauline Clifford, vice president of Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina.

New board members include chairman Hans Lengers, vice chairwoman Kathleen Harwell, and Dr. William Rice and Scott Biedrycki, members.

Holy Angels was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1956.

WANT MORE INFO?

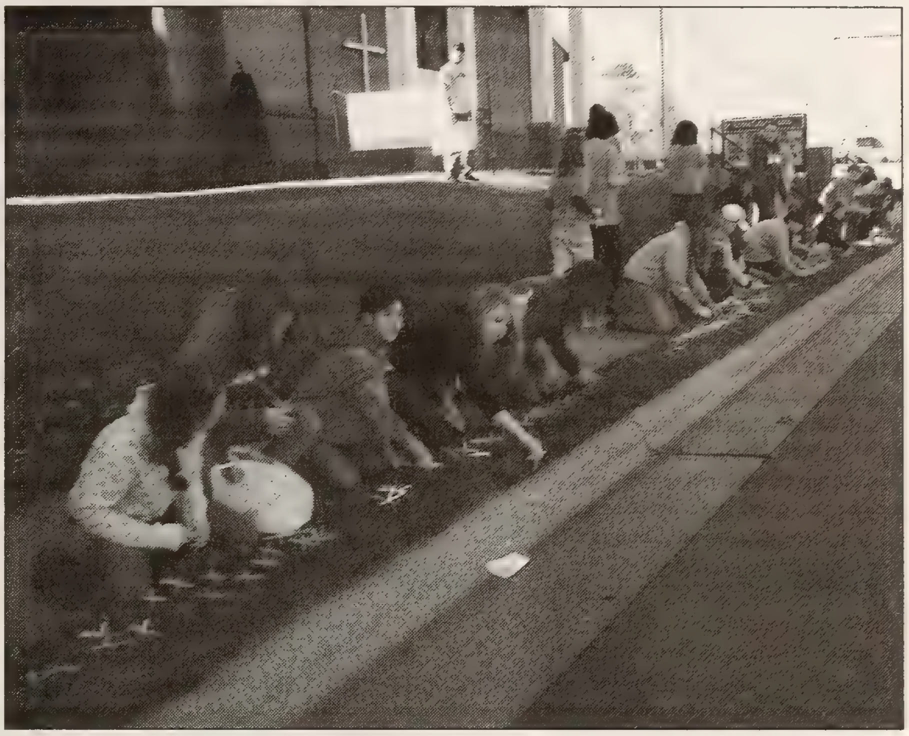
For more information about Holy Angels, visit www.holyangelsnc.org or call (704) 825-4161.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kathleen Harwell and Hans Lengers were installed as vice chairwoman and chairman, respectively, of Holy Angels' board of directors during a board appreciation dinner in Belmont Jan. 30.

A cross to bear



COURTESY PHOTO

Youths place more than 1,200 crosses made from popsicle sticks along a roadway to raise awareness of global hunger as part of the 30 Hour Famine at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Feb. 10-11.

Hickory youths fast for global hunger awareness during 30 Hour Famine

HICKORY — Nearly 40 youths from St. Aloysius Church in Hickory recently took part in the fight to help end world hunger.

Thirty middle-schoolers and six high school students gave up food for 30 hours as part of the annual World Vision 30 Hour Famine, held at the church Feb. 10-11.

The program helps young people learn about global hunger and poverty while they raise funds to fight hunger. World Vision is a Christian relief and development agency that works in nearly 100 countries around the world.

During the 30 hours, the youths from St. Aloysius learned about world hunger and participated in activities to build community awareness of the hunger crisis in Africa.

One activity involved making more than 1,200 crosses out of popsicle sticks, which were placed along a main roadway to highlight the number of children who die of hunger every hour.

"We decorated orange T-shirts and on Sunday spread the word (about hunger) after all the parish Masses," said Jen Stickle, parish youth ministry director.

"And then, we walked one mile up the main road in town carrying signs that encouraged onlookers to help them 'Starve Hunger,'" said Stickle.

The group also visited faith formation classes, performing skits to teach the students about hunger statistics. They also collected food for Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry, which provides emergency and crisis assistance to the working poor, homeless and indigent of Catawba County.

Other activities included games, praying the rosary, visiting a nearby Baptist church and a scavenger hunt.

The 30-hour fast ended when the youths took Communion at Mass on Sunday.

"They broke the fast around the altar of our Lord. What a powerful Communion experience for all," said Stickle.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on 30 Hour Famine, visit www.30hourfamine.org.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

K OF C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of March:

Rev. Robert A. Gibson	1987
Rev. Francis Gorham	1981
Rev. John Huston	1976
Rev. Justin J. Pechulis	1983

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation

(828)687-7714
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Church's social teaching backs up advocacy on climate change

CLIMATE, *from page 1*

regulatory agencies or their counterparts at the state level for action on the issue.

Dan Misleh, head of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, said there are several "Catholic assets" Catholics can call upon when pushing lawmakers or regulators for effective climate-change containment policies.

Among them are the church's size and scope.

In the United States, there are 19,000 parishes, 195 dioceses and 63 million members, and organizations such as Catholic Charities USA, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic Health Association and Catholic Relief Services. And there is the universal church with its emphasis on serving those in need.

Misleh, speaking Feb. 13 at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, also cited a "Gospel tradition" of discipleship and stewardship, and more than a century of social teaching, including the U.S. bishops' 2001 statement, "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good."

There is also the "human interest" in climate change, Misleh said, noting that "there are actually houses that are crumbling" in Alaska as a result of the permafrost melting.

He also pointed to an increase in the number and severity of large-scale weather events and the "mass migration" that results from them — including 400,000 displaced from the New Orleans area and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast after 2005's Hurricane Katrina — as well as vector-borne illnesses.

"Malaria is on the increase where malaria had never been before," Misleh said.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace is working with support from the U.S. bishops' Environmental Justice Program to raise awareness of the Church's teaching on environmental justice.

The Office of Justice and Peace is offering three regional conferences on the theme "Faithful Stewards of God's Creation" in March and April. Joseph Purello, director of the Office of Justice and Peace, said the conferences are needed.

"Many Catholics are not aware of Catholic Church statements on environmental justice in general, and recent statements on global climate change in particular" said Purello.

"Catholics need to know that many church documents address the environment and make the link between a proper care of the created world and the concerns of promoting peace and respecting human life," he said.

Stately concerns

While the U.S. federal government has been accused of dragging its feet on the issue of climate change, most states have taken initiatives — some in tandem with other nearby states — to reduce greenhouse gases and promote alternative fuel sources.

The United States accounts for 25 percent of the world's emissions.

Judi Greenwald, director of innovative solutions at the Pew Center on Global Climate change, took note of a 10-state compact by New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware and the six New England states to cut greenhouse gases 10 percent by 2019.

"It's a potential model for national policy," Greenwald said, since it allows states to both cap emissions levels and trade unused emissions to other states in the compact who need more time to meet their caps.

Other states are taking matters into their own hands, according to Greenwald.

Illinois wants a 6 percent cut in greenhouse gases by 2010. New Mexico aims to reach 2000 greenhouse gas levels by 2010, and cut that amount 10 percent by 2020. California is waging a legal battle against automakers to maintain its right to set vehicle greenhouse gas emission levels.

If California prevails, "one-third of our vehicles will be affected," Greenwald said.

In renewable energy, 23 states and the District of Columbia have set goals for renewable energy, topped by Maine's goal of 30 percent. Moreover, "more than half the states have climate action plans. Some have more teeth than others," Greenwald said.

"Everybody's worried about something," she added, whether it's water availability in the Southwest, warming in the North or hurricanes in the Southeast.

Jeremy Symons, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation's Global Climate Change Initiative, said a significant shift in public attitudes has taken place on the subject.

Even a 2003 poll among the federation's members had climate change ranked sixth. Today, Symons said, "it's by far the top issue."

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

WANT MORE INFO?
Read Joseph Purello's column, The virtuous life and the call to stewardship of creation," on page †4.

The Office of Justice and Peace, working with the support of the U.S. bishops' Environmental Justice Program, is offering three conferences titled "Faithful Stewards of God's Creation" in March and April. The conferences will raise awareness among Catholics to both current environmental concerns and the church's teaching on environmental justice.

Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace to find a flyer for the first conference being held Saturday, March 3, at the McCarthy Spirituality Center in Belmont (on the Sisters of Mercy Campus), as well as dates and locations for the remaining two conferences, or call (704) 370-3225 for more information.

CNS photo by J.P. Moczulski, Reuters

Smoke rises from a chemical company's stacks in Hamilton, Ontario, Feb. 1. Climate change as an issue holds appeal for Catholics in the U.S. and abroad, and the church's social teaching backs up advocacy on it.

Low cabin prices guaranteed through March 16th!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Early booking fares for choice of cabin categories are guaranteed until March 16th so call today for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

‘People are going to school, people are going to work.’

Millions more Afghans educated today than in 2001

AFGHAN, *from page 1*

kind of goofing-off that you find” in the United States.

Bibi Qamer, a 23-year-old Muslim from Afghanistan who has been working for CRS since 2002, said girls and women want to go to school.

“The Taliban didn’t allow girls to go to school,” Qamer said, but now “they are very happy building for their future.”

Qamer and Bowers spoke to CNS Feb. 15 in a telephone interview from CRS headquarters in Baltimore. Based in Afghanistan, they were in the United States to talk to diocesan groups about CRS and its programs in Afghanistan.

Training teachers and women, who had been excluded from formal education throughout much of the 1990s while the Taliban was in power, is part of CRS’ education program. Generations of Afghans have never been educated formally.

Paul Hicks, head of programs for CRS in Afghanistan, said the Afghanistan Ministry of Education has been practically nonexistent in the country, which has been plagued by decades of internal and external conflicts.

The poorly functioning bureaucracy of the ministry makes it difficult to efficiently and quickly implement a federal education policy, Hicks said.

“Many people have expectations to see development happen fast,” said Hicks. “Rehabilitation gives an idea that there is something to fix up,” which is not the case in Afghanistan.

Farming the future

CRS programs in Afghanistan also include agricultural initiatives and water resources programs to help the country’s slow process of development, Hicks told CNS in an early February telephone interview from San Andreas, Calif., where he traveled on home leave.

To increase farmers’ earnings and promote the agricultural development of certain crops, CRS has been promoting exporting and marketing, said Hicks.

Though farming opium-producing poppy seeds is lucrative, many farmers diversify their crops and “are very receptive to working with products other than poppy,” he said.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Afghan children attend school in a village in Paghman, Afghanistan, Nov. 21. Catholic Relief Services is supporting primary education for children in mainly rural areas of Afghanistan.

Qamer said that in the Afghan city of Herat, near the border with Iran, women have been marketing tomato paste and jam to shop owners. The women have been successful in gaining the men’s acceptance and convincing shop owners to sell their products over Iranian imports, she said.

However, Hicks said, no crop is a “silver bullet” for quick agricultural success. Afghanistan “requires investments for fruit and nut industries” over the course of years for long-term success, he added.

Farmers must have confidence “that economic growth is possible,” he said. “A lot of farmers fear that the international community will leave.”

Hicks, Bowers and Qamer, who are based in rural areas of Afghanistan, said they did not see much of the fighting and violence.

“There is war. It is not finished,” Qamer said. But “people are going to school, people are going to work,” she added.

U.S.-led forces have been in Afghanistan since 2001. Military action successfully toppled Afghanistan’s Taliban regime, but U.S. President George W. Bush said Feb. 15 that increased violence is expected in the spring, and he called for more NATO troops to be sent to Afghanistan.

Lenten Morning of Reflection

Talks:
“From Hostility to Cosmic Hospitality: A Call to Conversion”
by Sr. Jane Russell, O.S.F.

“The Woman at the Well”
by Fr. David Brown, O.S.B.

Saturday, March 3 8:30 am to noon
Haid Ballroom
Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

Mass will follow in the Basilica at 11:00 am with Mid-Day Prayer at 11:45 am. While there is no charge, reservations are requested by calling 704-825-6777.

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina presents
Bonded by Love - Restoring Hope in the Family

2007 Family Life Conference — Year of the Family
Saturday, March 10th
St. John Neumann School Gym — Columbia, SC
Mass at 8 am
Registration begins at 8:45 am — Program ends at 4:30 pm

Speakers
* Keynote: Rev. Fabio Refosco, CO — “Hope Takes Flesh in the Family”
* David Hess, MD, Chair and Professor of Neurology, Medical College of Georgia — “Differences Between Embryonic and Adult Stem Cell”
* Angela Lanfranchi, MD — “Breast Cancer Links and Risk Factors”
* Phil Lenahan — “7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free”
* Deacon Edward Peitler, PhD — “Healing from Pornography & Sexual Addiction”

Workshops
* Legislative and Proactive Ways to Close Abortion Clinics
* Communications within the Family
* Drug-Free Fertility with NFP

Register by Friday, March 2
$25 donation (lunch provided) payable to:
Family Life Office/Charleston Diocese
2879 Highway 160W, PMB #4336
Fort Mill, SC 29708

For information contact: Kathy Schmugge,
Family Life Coordinator, Diocese of Charleston:
(803) 547-5063 or famlifecor@earthlink.net

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'Bridge to Terabithia' author brings book alive for Chicago students

BY MICHELLE MARTIN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO — Seated in front of a display of "Bridgeport's Terabithia" at a Chicago Catholic academy, author Katherine Paterson read from "Bridge to Terabithia," winner of the 1978 Newbery Medal and released as a Disney film Feb. 16.

Paterson gave each of the three main characters, whiny Maybelle, desperate but stoic Jess and imaginative Leslie, a distinctive voice, despite suffering from a cold.

Her audience of fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders at Bridgeport Catholic Academy listened raptly, before launching a series of questions about how Paterson became a writer and what made her write this particular book.

"When I wrote it, I didn't even think it should be published," Paterson said, after explaining that she wrote it after her young son's best friend died unexpectedly. "I didn't think anyone not named Paterson would understand it."

But millions of readers around the world have recognized themselves in her characters, and have written to tell her so.

"Whenever I do something like this, I am always aware that I am speaking to my co-authors," Paterson told the students about her visit to the school.

"It isn't a story until you bring your ability to read, your imagination, your life experiences and your emotional makeup to it. Then it becomes a story," she said.

Paterson also urged any students who had not yet read the book to do so before seeing the movie, and asked those who had read the book not to spoil the ending for anyone who had not.

How Paterson came to appear at the South Side school Feb. 1 — Academic Day of Catholic Schools Week — is a story in itself.

It started when Disney's promotions staff contacted Radio Disney in Chicago and asked Greg Dellinger, who is "G-Man" on the air, if he could set up a school appearance for Paterson, as she made her way from her Vermont home to Los Angeles for the Feb. 3 film premiere.

Dellinger, the father of four Catholic school students, knew some parents and staff at Bridgeport Catholic Academy from other appearances, knew it was Catholic Schools Week, and thought it would be a good fit.

What he didn't know was that the academy's fifth-grade teacher, Gina Geisert, did her master's thesis on Paterson's books and teaches "Bridge to Terabithia" to her students each year.

"It's the kind of book I'm not sure they would pick up on their own," said Geisert, adding that it helps students discuss some difficult issues.

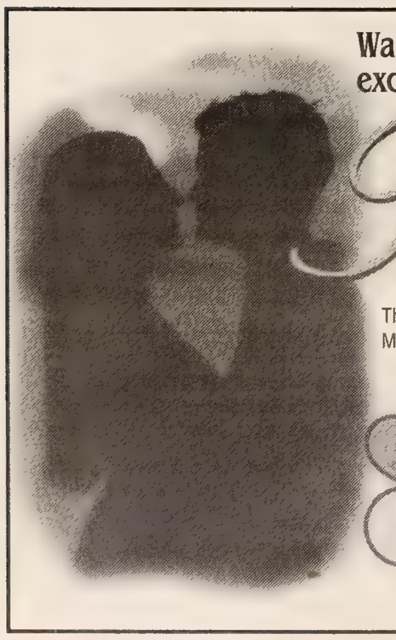
Hearing Paterson's reading brought new interpretations to many of the students.

"I liked how Jess and Leslie are kind of like the rejects, but when they find each other, it doesn't matter to them," said sixth-grader Madeline Holley.

Paterson told them that her son, David, knew what it was like to feel like a reject after his school was closed and he had to go to a bigger school in second grade.

"At his little school, he was like the class artist and class clown," she said. "At his new school, everyone just thought he was weird."

Now a father himself, David Paterson is a writer in his own right: a screenwriter. He adapted "Bridge to Terabithia" for the movies.



Want to put the romance and excitement back into your relationship?

Renew your Romance

That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The weekend teaches a unique method of communication. It is for couples with good marriages who want to enrich their relationships.

For more information, please call Rob and Karen Kummerer at (704) 843-7654 or go to our web sight to register at www.WWME.org.

Upcoming weekends:
March 9 - 11 — Charlotte
March 16 -18 — Atlantic Beach
May 4 - 6 — Hickory

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 4, 2007

March 4, Second Sunday of Lent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 7-9, 13-14
2) Philippians 3:17-4:1
3) Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

We must be in presence of God, obedient to him

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Lent is right where I want to be. My prayer life is a mess. My time spent in quiet listening is all but nonexistent, and I long to long for the Lord.

And I know from the readings for this weekend that that is just where God wants me, hungry for his presence and making plans to put myself there where his love can reach me.

Two of the passages point in that direction: The end of the Psalm says, "Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted and wait for the Lord."

Then Paul writes to the members of the Phillipi community "to stand firm in the Lord."

The other thing in these readings that makes me feel confident about my own feeble attempts to come closer to God is the evidence offered that all that is required of me is a willing heart and obedient response to God's invitation.

In Genesis we see Abraham entering into the covenant with God, having obeyed God's requirements of him, but passing out at the time when God consummates the agreement. Hmmm. It sounds like God's participation was the more important part of the equation.

Then we find Peter with Jesus (and James and John) at the Transfiguration coming out of the experience offering to build three little shelters from tree limbs, one each for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.

It's sort of a silly response, but one that is passed over lightly with Luke's aside that "he did not really know what he was saying."

The two requirements of us to enter into a deeper, more glorious relationship appear to be obedience to what God has told us and simply being present.

I think I know two places I want to be as I enter this holy season of seeking and emptying of self so that God may enter in. I want to spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament and some time alone in the out-of-doors, asking for God's loving presence.

I truly believe that if I show up, he will already be there waiting for me.

Questions:

How is your prayer life these days? What are some specific plans you can make for spending time with God, seeking him in Scripture, the sacraments and solitude?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 25–MARCH 3
Sunday (First Sunday of Lent), Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17 (Esther's prayer), Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday, St. Katharine Drexel),** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4-10
Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (St. John of God),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Frances of Rome),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-56; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Public TV, Toledo women's orders produce program on religious life

BY PAT MORRISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

TOLEDO, Ohio — Like moviegoers verywhere, the 100-plus people who lled the auditorium at WGTE-TV in oledo on a recent evening were looking orward to the show — complete with opcorn and beverages.

But this was no ordinary "night at he movies." It was the result of two ears' work and a partnership between oledo's public television and the eight ongregations of women religious who erve in the area.

The crowd gathered Jan. 17 for the remiere of "Hearts Afire," a 30-minute ade-for-PBS TV program which howcases the histories, contributions nd contemporary lives of Catholic sters who have been a part of the Toledo cene for more than 160 years.

The program was broadcast to the ublic the following night at 8 p.m. as art of the station's regular lineup.

Represented in the program are the isters of the Precious Blood of Dayton, Ursuline Sisters, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Notre Dame, Grey Nuns of Montreal, Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin and Sylvania, and Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help of St. Louis.

All of these congregations either currently serve in and/or sponsor institutions in the Toledo Diocese.

It is part of WGTE's award-winning "Toledo Stories" series, which chronicles the history and development of the city of Toledo and neighboring communities, the region's early pioneers, its ethnic richness, and the lives of individuals who have made a unique contribution to northwest Ohio.

As WGTE directors and producers brainstormed about upcoming programs, the station's president and CEO, Marlon Kiser, pitched the idea of a program featuring the area's Catholic sisters.

Kiser had previously served as CEO of a Catholic health care facility sponsored by an order of sisters in the Toledo Diocese. That had given him firsthand positive experience of working with and for women religious.

"Everyone (on the WGTE team) recognized the contributions Catholic sisters have made to Toledo," executive producer Darren LaShelle said.

"They started the first hospital in Toledo, founded and ran colleges and schools. The work of sisters was well known, so a program on their lives seemed a logical choice," he said.

Producer Ray Miller, whose aunt is a religious sister in Pennsylvania, was chosen as the point man to establish contact with the communities.

"My aunt was just 'one of the family,' we were very relaxed around her. So I guess I had the best comfort level going in to this," he said.

Miller contacted Sister Virginia Welch, a Sister of St. Francis of Tiffin, who then presented the idea to the leadership of the women's congregations, all of whom welcomed the project. The congregations formed a team to work with Miller and WGTE on the program.

"We wanted to find out what makes a woman choose this life, how sisters serve today and how they go about making a positive difference in the world around them," he said.

"Hearts Afire" features interviews with 22 sisters.

"The sisters were open, honest, enthusiastic," LaShelle said. "They were very willing to talk about their lives, their personal choices, what it's like to live as a sister. ... It could have been just a clinical history, but instead the sisters made it very warm, very real."

After 18 months of meetings, then interviews and film shoots on location at various sites, the program was ready to take shape.

Six months ago WGTE began in earnest to bring the program into production. The station secured funding and invited the congregations to also identify possible sponsors and/or contribute directly to the production costs.

Then WGTE allocated staff and developed a production timeline.

The eight congregations were actively involved with the public television station throughout the process and weighed in on the final pre-broadcast cut.

The goal "was not to create a history piece," said Sister Roberta Doneth, who is also a Sister of St. Francis of Tiffin and chaired the sisters' committee that worked with WGTE.

"Instead we wanted to show that religious life is alive and well, and to show the lives of sisters in the 21st century," she said.

WGTE is making "Hearts Afire" available to the seven other public television affiliates in Ohio and viewers can request other public television stations broadcast the program. While the setting is Toledo, LaShelle said, its message about women religious is appropriate fare in any geographic location.

CCC reprises Lenten radio retreats in English, Spanish

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Based on their popularity last year, the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign is reprising a Lenten series of radio retreats in English and Spanish.

Each program in the six-week series — in each language — features a different bishop each week. The series was scheduled to begin Feb. 25, the First Sunday of Lent.

The programs, which are being made available to Catholic dioceses and radio outlets throughout the United States, were produced for the CCC by Franciscan Radio, a ministry of the Franciscans and St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Elia Castillo serves as program host, and the featured bishop for each week serves as retreat guide and homilist. Each show begins with a greeting and a description of the retreat, followed by a sung version of the Our Father.

The bishop then presents his homily, which is followed by a meditative song and a question-and-answer segment with the bishop. Castillo wraps up each program and the featured bishop gives a blessing to close the show.

People who live in areas where no radio station is airing the retreats or who want to listen to them online can go to the Web at www.radioretreat.org.

Resources include a description of each program, background information on the bishops and links to other Lenten spiritual resources. Programs can even be downloaded from the Web site as MP3 files for podcast or other personal use.

Elizabeth, 66, Monrovia, Liberia

CFCA

Offering hope.
Restoring dignity.
Worldwide.

To learn more or sponsor

- visit our Web site at www.cfcausa.org
- call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564

A+ rating by the
American Institute of Philanthropy
www.charitywatch.org

Highest rating of **four-stars** from
Charity Navigator
www.charitynavigator.org
★★★★

'I sometimes wonder why they do it'

Five years ago Elizabeth, 66, of Monrovia, Liberia, sold swamp snails in order to earn money for food. "Those were very, very difficult times," she said. But now life is better thanks to sponsorship through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Her sponsor's support provides 25 kilograms of rice each month along with cooking oil and household items such as kitchen utensils, soap and a mattress to help her sleep comfortably. Elizabeth said she is happy because the CFCA staff in Monrovia and her sponsor thousands of miles away show concern for her. "I sometimes wonder why they do it. But I've come to look at them as my own family members, like brothers and sisters. I believe it was God who passed through those people to help me." Elizabeth helps distribute food to others in her neighborhood and helps the elderly too frail to walk far.

CFCA has served more than 475,000 children and elderly in developing countries over the last 25 years—empowering them to make more choices in their lives, live with dignity and reach their potential.

You can improve someone's life, too. Your sponsorship of $30 a month helps your sponsored friend with critical immediate needs such as nutrition, medical care, clothing and housing. But it goes much further. Sponsored aging friends also benefit from recreation, livelihood and socialization programs, and being involved in their communities. Sponsorship benefits vary by location.

Grounded in Catholic social teaching, CFCA works with people of all faiths. Sponsor an aging friend or a child today and help make the world a better place for all.

Sponsor an older person through CFCA. It works.

Charlotte Catholic students earn recognition in competition

CHARLOTTE — Five photography students at Charlotte Catholic High School were recently recognized for their work in the Mid-Carolina Scholastic Arts &Writing Awards competition.

Students Jordan Koletic, Karen Pierce and Nick Ruth received Silver Key awards; their winning photography is currently on display at Spirit Square Center for Arts and Education, part of the Performing Arts Center in Charlotte.

Kristen Allan and Kelly Welch received honorable mentions.

"I am really proud of the incredible and creative work being captured by all the photography students," said photography teacher Joann Keane.

In the Mid-Carolina Region's painting category, Charlotte Catholic student took a Silver Key award.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a national program that identifies and documents outstanding achievement of young artists and writers in the visual and literary arts. Each year, 250,000 students in grades 7 through 12 participate through regional programs and 50,000 students receive regional awards and exhibition opportunities.

More than 30,000 entries qualify for national adjudication, and 1,100 young artists and writers across the country receive national awards. Regional recognition includes Gold and Silver Key awards, and in some regions, honorable mention awards.

The Mid-Carolina Region is comprised of Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, Surry, Union, Wilkes and Yadkin counties and is administered by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Arts Education Department.

Public and private schools in these counties are eligible to enter the competition.

Modeling the U.N.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are eighth-graders from St. Pius X School in Greensboro who participated in the Model United Nations competition held at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville Jan. 26. Middle school students from Triad-area Catholic schools participated in the event, in which students were assigned to be delegates from various U.N. countries and debated issues such as nuclear non-proliferation and the United Nation's involvement in natural disasters. Certificates were given in four categories ranging from the top award, Best Delegation, to honorable mention.

Join Other Roman Catholics July 21 or August 11, 2007

National Parks Tour of the Golden West

2-Week Tour** from **$1048*

Visit 6 Western National Parks + More!

Join other Catholics on this terrific 15-day motor coach tour departing (your choice) July 21 or August 11, 2007. Fly round-trip to Salt Lake City and visit six national parks: Yosemite, Sequoia, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, and Canyonlands National Parks. You'll also visit Fresno, CA; Reno, Carson City, Pyramid Lake, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, and Las Vegas, Nevada; Liberace Museum; Ethel M Chocolate Factory; a city tour of Salt Lake City including Mormon Square, The Beehive House, Great Salt Lake; Kennecott Copper Mine; and more! Prices, including taxes, baggage handling, and daily escorted sightseeing, start at only $1048* (per person, double occupancy). For optional airfare from Charlotte add $600.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Room at the Inn, a maternity and after-care program in Charlotte, NC, is seeking a passionate advocate and talented, experienced leader as its next Executive Director. Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm life from the moment of conception, Room at the Inn seeks to help young women and children move toward a new life of hopeful, independent, and healthy living by providing a safe haven for single, pregnant mothers and their children, born and unborn.

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will perform a range of management activities in the oversight of a pre- and post-natal residential facility, on-site counseling services, a college outreach program and an extended after-care program. The Executive Director will use considerable independent judgment in decisions that influence areas of organizational operation and will advise the Board of Directors in planning and policy matters. Initially, the director will be extensively involved in a capital campaign scheduled to launch publicly in summer 2007.

The successful candidate will have proven leadership and managerial skills, demonstrated ability to develop key external relationships, compassion, ability to relate to people of diverse backgrounds, and financial management skills that include the ability to clearly communicate budget, revenue and expenditures. Outstanding communication skills and comfort level with public interaction are essential. Bachelor's degree required and at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Background in the non-profit sector and/or maternity home management is a plus.

Candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Ellen Linares, President, Board of Directors, Room at the Inn, 6235 Morrison Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28211 or to RATISearch@carolina.rr.com. Applications and nominations will be accepted until March 16, 2007.

Room at the Inn

Principal – Catholic Elementary School Chantilly, Virginia

St. Veronica Catholic School, a K through 8th-grade school located in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is currently seeking a principal starting in the 2007-2008 school year. St. Veronica is a medium-size parish with a growing school population. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school, as well as assist in developing long range goals.

For more information about this exciting opportunity and for instructions on how to apply, please visit the St. Veronica parish website at: http://www2.stveronica.net/principal.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PART-TIME ARCHIVES ASSISTANT: Diocese of Charlotte. Employee will retrieve, prepare, scan, process, file and ready for destruction archival documents. He/she will perform clerical tasks in the Archives. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Office, well-organized, detail-oriented and self-motivated. Neat, legible handwriting, verbal and interpersonal skills are required. Resumes must be received by 5 March 2007 at Diocese of Charlotte, Archives Department, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Swearing in

Courtesy Photo

Joseph Thierfelder and Ally Carson, eighth-graders at St. Michael School in Gastonia, are inducted into the Beta Club at an awards ceremony at the school Jan. 29.

The National Beta Club promotes character, develops leadership skills, encourages service involvement, recognizes achievement and provides technological advantages to students in grades 5-12.

St. Michael School's Junior National Beta Club currently has 17 members from the middle-school grades. Students are selected for the club if they are on the honor roll and are good citizens at the school and in the community. They must complete 10 hours of service projects annually.

The club participated in the state convention in Greensboro Feb. 5-6.

Beta Club delegates

Courtesy Photo

The Beta Club at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte is pictured at the Junior National Beta Club's state convention in Greensboro Feb. 5-6. The 104 students participated in workshops, general sessions, and scholastic and artistic competitions, with several students taking home blue ribbons. The National Beta Club promotes character, develops leadership skills, encourages service involvement, recognizes achievement and provides technological advantages to students in grades 5-12.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald

got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

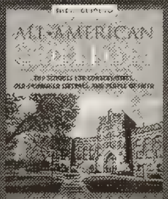
No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED



This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

What are people in heaven like?

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. Recently a co-worker asked about our belief in the Communion of Saints, specifically Scripture references about our having a relationship with the ones who have died and are in heaven.

Do those in heaven retain their own identities? Are they aware of others in eternity? Or of people on earth? Or do they exist as part of the entire consciousness that is the Creator? (Virginia)

A. First, we must admit that there is much we do not know, and could not possibly know, about the nature of eternal life with God. Even in heaven, while we somehow will be absorbed into the divine life of love, we will not be God. The divine nature will forever be beyond our ability to comprehend totally.

On the other hand, there is much we do know from God's revelation. Christian belief on the subject comes directly or indirectly from the Scriptures, especially from the New Testament, and most particularly from the actions of Jesus after the resurrection.

For St. Paul, the risen Christ is the model of what our own resurrection will be like. The Father who raised Jesus will also raise us to be with him (2 Cor 4:14).

Paul's most elaborate discussion of this theme is in 1 Corinthians 15. The resurrection of the Christian is proof of our liberation from sin. Christ is the first to rise; we rise in him. Our resurrection fulfills our Lord's victory over sin and death.

So, what was Jesus like after the resurrection? First, he kept his identity. He was still their friend Jesus who lived among them and died.

Yet he was different. He moved and acted in ways he could not — or did not — before then. He appeared from nowhere and disappeared the same. His closest friends did not know him, and then did recognize him.

Without going further, this tells us much about our own resurrected future. We keep our identity. We can know and relate to each other, though on some different level than here. We are aware of ourselves and each other.

These conclusions from the words and actions of Jesus we find in the Bible underlie Christian tradition about what our risen life with each other will be like. They are not novelties dreamed up centuries later. They are part of Christian literature and belief from the beginning of the Christian story.

To offer just one example, one of the most beautiful descriptions of the heavenly kingdom we receive from the early fathers of the church is in a homily by a giant of early Christianity, Bishop Cyprian of Carthage, North Africa.

Before his martyrdom under the Roman emperor in the year 258, he encouraged his people to be strong and not afraid to die for the faith they had received from the Christian past.

Here on earth we are exiles, he reminded them; death is a homecoming we should welcome.

"We look on paradise as our country," he said, "and a great crowd of our loved ones awaits us there, a countless throng of parents, brothers and children long for us to join them. Assured though they are of their own salvation, they are still concerned about ours. What joy both for them and for us to see one another and embrace!

"There the merciful are rewarded, those who fulfilled the demands of justice by providing for the poor. In obedience to the Lord's command, they turned their earthly possessions into heavenly treasures.

"Let all our longing be to join them as soon as we may."

Some Christians may disagree with Cyprian and with us. But at least we can speak confidently that our belief in this aspect of the Communion of Saints is one that derives from Jesus himself, and from the first great leaders of our faith who walked in his steps.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The virtuous life and the call to stewardship of creation

Catholic teaching dictates action on global warming

Guest Column

JOSEPH PURELLO
GUEST COLUMNIST

Catholic Church teaching calls us to be stewards of the created world, so that we might obtain our daily sustenance from the earth and leave future generations a world that can sustain them.

In his 1990 World Day of Peace message, "Peace with God the Creator, Peace with All of Creation," Pope John Paul II linked our desire to achieve world peace with a due respect for nature and with raising our ecological awareness.

Today, the church is calling humanity to greater ecological awareness on global climate change, and to respond virtuously to this challenge. We are reminded of our proper place in the created order and our special responsibility of stewardship.

One's faith response to global climate change (or any issue of concern) is to be a virtuous person "who tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers," who "pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions" (Section 1803, Catechism of the Catholic Church).

Can the teachings of our Catholic faith, especially the call to virtuous living, inform and strengthen us as we join the public debate on what actions to take in response to global climate change?

The Catholic Church says that the virtue of prudence calls us to act now in response to global climate change. This is the main message of the 2001 pastoral statement of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' "Global Climate Change: a Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good."

Recent statements from the Vatican have also stated the need to address global climate change (e.g. the May 11 and October 25, 2006 statements of Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the papal nuncio to the United Nations). Such statements build on the already rich tradition of Catholic Church teaching on environmental justice.

(Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace to find links to the statements of the Catholic Church referred to above, as well as a link to the Vatican publication "The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church." Chapter 10 of this compendium, titled "Safeguarding the Environment," offers a comprehensive review of the Catholic Church's teaching on environment justice.)

Far too often the message from the mainstream media on environmental issues and global climate change is one of doom and gloom, one that places a dark cloud over humanity's success in populating the earth and our technological and economic progress.

This message challenges our Catholic faith's belief that all human life is a wondrous gift, entitled to a respect and protection that exceeds the respect and protection to which other created beings are entitled.

Our place in the created order, however, must not lead to arrogance and an unlimited exploitation of the created world. Our faith teaches that our unique place in creation obligates us to take proper care of all of creation.

The Catholic Church's response to environmental issues also rests on a confidence in humanity's ability to be virtuous. We are to act with prudence, and at the same time, draw strength from the companion human virtues of justice, temperance and courage.

In addition, we draw strength and guidance from the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. The virtue of charity is essential if we are to help the millions of people who will likely need to adapt to global climate change's effects (e.g. rising sea levels).

Our charitable response will also help make sure higher priced sources of energy and energy-reducing technologies are available for all. Without charity guiding us, we will witness an "every man for himself" response to global climate change; and without justice, only those with the resources to act will be able to do so.

Hence, prudence alone will not suffice.

We know that tomorrow will have its challenges, but we place our hope in God's promises. We must never lose faith that God loves us and is with us "until the end of time."

The virtue of prudence offers a first way of proceeding on the issue of global warming. We must seek ways to achieve balance among our energy needs, our economic needs, our duty of environmental stewardship and our concern for those who need our assistance.

It will not be an easy path — there are no definitive answers. Sacrifices need to be made for which we will pray for the strength to respond in charity and justice.

We know from other public policy decisions that sacrifices for the common good and for future generations are necessary and well worth the effort. Some actions (e.g., making our homes more energy efficient) might even save us some money.

If we can take some steps now to address global climate change, isn't it prudent to start doing so? Is it prudent to take the risk of doing nothing?

Joseph Purello is director of Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sticks and stones

Observer editorial reminds Catholics they are called to defend faith

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

Last week, Catholic readers of The Charlotte Observer's editorial page got the word: standing up for your faith makes you a bigot.

Observer associate editor Mary Schulken penned a provocative column about the John Edwards presidential campaign and Bill Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

Donohue was doing what he always does — standing up for the Catholic Church. Schulken has confused the messenger with the message. Here is a brief recap of the controversy that Schulken was writing about:

The Edwards campaign hired two bloggers, Amanda Marcotte and Melissa Mcewan, to promote Edwards' message to the online world. Before joining the campaign, both bloggers had written virulent, sophomoric and hateful things about Catholics and the church — all of them simply too nasty to repeat here.

Enter Donohue, a cyberspace communicator himself. He reported the offensive quotes and immediately called for the firings of both women.

Donohue was applying a journalistic standard: you are what you write. In a society that covets both a free press and free speech, writers of untrue and inflammatory statements can and should be held accountable.

Interestingly enough, Schulken and the Observer weren't on the side of Donohue and journalistic integrity. Instead Donohue was described as "a bigot with warped views" and a "Big, Bad (Catholic) Wolf" whose harassment "forced NBC not to televise a concert where singer Madonna crucified herself on a mirrored cross."

Schulken may not draw a line between blasphemy and art, but many of her readers most likely do.

I don't know what faith Schulken professes, but I know that Christians don't find any entertainment value in the crucifixion of the Savior of the world. Ditto for the bloggers' blasphemy of the Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit.

Under a torrent of e-mails, faxes and interviews, Donohue's cause prevailed and both women resigned from the Edwards' campaign. This, by the way, says something about Edwards, who initially backed his foul-mouthed bloggers and declined to sack them.

Bigot is a flamethrower expression that burns everyone close to it — in this case, Catholics, who are justifiably insulted to see them described in such terms on the pages of the largest newspaper in the Carolinas.

If the Edwards bloggers had written derogatory statements about African Americans and the Rev. Jesse Jackson expressed offense, would Schulken have called him a bully?

What if members of the Jewish faith were treated with contempt? Would a B'nai B'rith spokesperson be cast as a bigot for defending the ancient faith?

In either of these cases, it's more likely that the Observer would be leading the charge for the bloggers' removal. Yet for some reason, Schulken pairs Donohue with the "potty mouth" bloggers.

She caps it off with a bizarre statement that would be a stretch for a high school essayist when she wrote Donohue is somehow short circuiting the "fundamental right of free speech." Huh?

I don't agree with a lot of things Donohue says. But I am glad he jumps on a soap box and gets attention when our faith and our church are attacked, as they were by the Edwards bloggers.

Donohue uses plain language to make the John Edwardses and Mary Schulkens of the world understand that Catholics have rights, too.

We consider our faith to be precious. We don't appreciate gratuitous insults.

We understand that freedom of religion and free speech are not mutually exclusive. And if a presidential campaign or a major newspaper unfairly paints a bull's-eye of bigotry on our backs, we are going to stand tall and say what we must while we worship as we choose.

David Hains is communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column can be found at www.charlottediocese.org.

Lent: A general introduction to the season

Lent is the season the Catholic Church gives us to take stock and review our lives, to root out all that is not good and true and replace it with the faithful and the holy.

In these 40 days, the church turns to the ancient penitential practices of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. These practices remain as rich and life-giving in 2007 as they were when practiced by the early Christians and by our Jewish forbearers.

Fasting reminds us of our hunger for God, which no worldly thing can satisfy. Almsgiving reminds us that love of God and love of neighbor are inextricably intertwined, and that we bear responsibility for each other. Prayer reminds us to center our lives on God who alone gives meaning to all we do.

Lent is a most special time. The liturgies and devotions of Lent call us to a kind of spiritual "spring cleaning," identifying relationships that are disordered and sins that imprison and then seeking forgiveness and healing.

We root out the darkness of sin so as to enter the Easter mysteries with a clean heart bathed in the healing, life-giving light of Christ.

Guidelines for Lent

1) The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity.

2) Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, and Good Friday, April 6, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3) The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting binds all Catholics from age 18 to 59.

4) Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat stock soups or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years old and older.

5) The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health would be impaired are excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6) Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinences as something all American Catholics should offer up for the sake of world peace.

7) Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8) The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for confessions before Easter. Group reconciliation services should not be scheduled for the last days of the Holy Week. At no time is it permitted to schedule a group reconciliation service for the purpose of giving general absolution without individual confessions.

9) The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week rites.

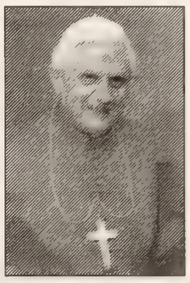
10) Funeral Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The funeral rite outside of Mass can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a funeral Mass later.

11) The RCIA is incorporated into the liturgy during Lent. The rite of election is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. On the third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent, the Scrutinies take place during Mass.

Lent is time for the baptized to 'become Christian again,' pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Lent is a time when some people complete their preparation to be baptized at Easter and a time when the baptized "learn to become Christian again," Pope Benedict XVI said.

Although following Christ requires daily prayer and effort, Lent is a time for intensive training for living the Christian life, the pope said during his weekly general audience Feb. 21, Ash Wednesday.

Jesus called people to "convert and believe in the Gospel," he said. "To convert means to seek God, to go to him, to follow docilely the teaching of his Son, Jesus Christ."

"Conversion is not an effort for self-realization because the human being is not the architect of his own eternal destiny," he said. "We are not our own makers, and so self-realization is a contradiction."

Conversion means recognizing that God is the origin and destination of all human life and, therefore, one's efforts and actions must be dedicated to discovering God's will and obeying it, the pope said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Feb. 21.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today — Ash Wednesday — we begin our Lenten journey in a spirit of prayer and penance.

From the earliest days of the church, Lent has been a special time of preparation for baptism. For those already baptized, Lent is a time of conversion and renewed faith. It is a time to "exercise" our desire for God by opening our hearts to the new life offered to us in Christ.

Jesus exhorts us to "repent and believe in the Gospel." Only conversion can lead to true happiness, and God's grace is needed to inspire and sustain our efforts to direct our hearts completely to him.

Conversion consists in recognizing that we depend entirely on God, who created us and redeemed us in Christ.

In my Lenten message this year, I wanted to emphasize God's immense love for us, and to invite all Christians, together with Mary and the beloved disciple, to draw near to the Lord, who gave his life for us on the cross.

The cross — the definitive revelation of God's love and mercy — is the only way to enter this mystery of saving love. This Lent, by a more fervent participation in the Eucharist, may we learn to enter more deeply into the paschal mystery and to "re-give" Christ's love to others, especially the suffering and those in need.

Immaculate Heart of Mary a Catholic presence for half century

HAYESVILLE — Even in the farthest western reaches of what is now the Diocese of Charlotte, Catholic history dates back more than half a century.

Catholic priests sporadically celebrated Mass in the remote mountain areas as early as the 1930s. However, Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh suspended their visits in 1953 because of the considerable distance the priests had to travel from Waynesville, at that time the seat of the westernmost parish in North Carolina.

The Glenmary Home Missioners arrived in the mountains in 1954, and in December 1954 Bishop Waters established a parish encompassing of three counties: Cherokee, Clay and Graham. Glenmary Father Joseph Dean became the first resident pastor of the area, and celebrated his first Mass in Hayesville in early 1955.

In nearby Murphy, a church dedicated to St. William had been constructed in 1952. Established as a mission of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville, the Murphy church would go on to attain parish status itself. With Father Dean as its pastor, St. William Church assumed pastoral care of several missions, including the one in Hayesville.

As the Catholic presence grew in Hayesville, so did the number of Glenmary Missioners. Bishop Waters brought Glenmary Home Mission Sisters to the area in the mid-1950s to assist in social work, religious instruction and home nursing.

The sisters established what would later be called Good Shepherd Home Health Service (later still, the Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency). In 1959, the sisters moved into a former motel-restaurant to set up their home, chapel, office and clinic there. Their chapel became the site for regularly celebrated Masses in Hayesville.

In October 1966, the Glenmary Sisters were certified by Medicare to carry on the work of their nursing service. They continued to staff the agency until the mid-1970s, when the diocese assumed responsibility for its operation.

In 1969, construction of an addition to the chapel began. Bishop Michael J. Begley of the newly created Diocese of Charlotte blessed the addition in May 1972.

During the years following, more and more Catholics — mostly from Florida — moved to Cherokee and Clay counties, especially from the mid-1970s on. Bishop Begley recognized the need for an increase in worship space for them and the growing local Catholic population, and in 1983 he approved plans to build new churches in both Hayesville and Murphy.

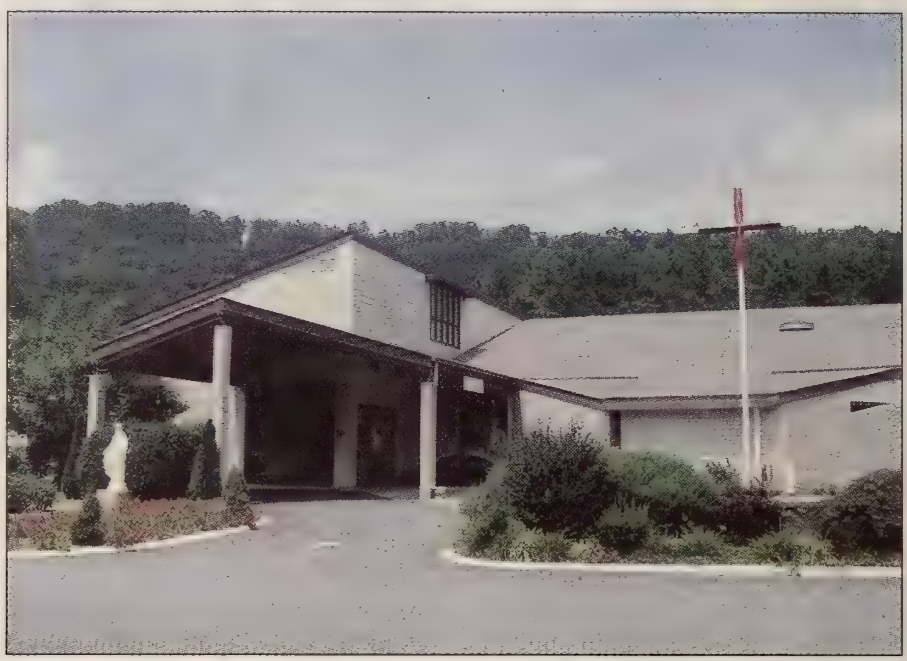


PHOTO BY GEORGE COBB

Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission was dedicated by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue in July 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Berguin, members of the Hayesville mission, donated more than five acres of land on which to build a church, and groundbreaking took place in February 1984. By year's end, the new Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission had been completed.

Then-Bishop John F. Donoghue was the principal celebrant at the dedication Mass in July 1985, with Father Robert Healey, former pastor; Father T.J. Meehan, then-pastor; and Father Frank Ruff, president of the Glenmary Home Missioners, concelebrating.

In June 1988, diocesan priests began their pastorate of St. William Church and Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission. Church life in both towns has continued to thrive.

On July 28, 2006, Father George Kloster, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission and of St. William Church, celebrated a Mass commemorating the mission's 50th anniversary, with Father Dean and retired Glenmary Father Robert Bond concelebrating.

Father Bond was pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Andrews and Prince of Peace Church in Robbinsville until he retired several years ago. The last Glenmary priest to actively serve in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, he now lives in Burnsville.

The Glenmary tradition of community involvement continues at Immaculate Heart of Mary. As part of the 50th-anniversary celebration in October 2006, the mission recognized 16 local agencies with whom the mission collaborates in local service ministries.

At the anniversary celebration, Father Kloster spoke of "how deeply grateful (Immaculate Heart of Mary) is to the Glenmarys. From Waynesville on, these parishes were served by Glenmarys. We owe them a huge, huge debt."

Although perhaps considered remote because of it geographical location, Immaculate Heart of Mary Mission — with its active, faithful community of believers — is an energetic presence on the western border of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY MISSION
A mission of St. William Church, Murphy
Highway 64 West
Hayesville, N.C. 28904
(828) 837-2000 or (828) 389-3758

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain
Pastor: Father George Kloster, vicar forane
Permanent Deacons: Deacon Carl Hubbell, Deacon Peter Curcio
Number of Families: 181 year-round; 47 additional seasonally

Father George Kloster

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

NEWS FLASH! IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES IS MOVING AND UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

Allen Bond has taken over the operations of Immaculata Catholic Companies. Allen is a businessman with a wide spectrum of knowledge and experience in the business world. More important to him and those around him is his Catholic faith and his desire to live and share that faith. Allen is married to Virginia and counts his wife, their three children, two sons-in-law and their 15 grandchildren as precious gifts from God.

Allen welcomes everyone to visit our store in Cornelius and our soon-to-be-announced **NEW location in Charlotte.** Thank you for your continued support.

Please visit and/or call us for all your Catholic religious gifts and books.

704-655-9090
maryimmaculata.com

19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)

FEW SPACES LEFT - CALL NOW!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:
- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

$2,899 from Charlotte includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

FC 282
C363c

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives
Shared similarities with Islam; discipleship and the Stations of the Cross
| PAGES 14-15

MARCH 2, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 № 20

Welcoming the elect to the church

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Catechumens and their sponsors gather on the altar during the Rite of Election at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Feb. 25.

Bishop Jugis celebrates Rite of Election

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Over the past nine years, only seven people have converted to Catholicism at St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and its mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe.

When the parish and mission come together at St. Joseph Church at the Easter Vigil April 7, they will welcome three new Catholics into the church, all members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

"Growing up, I always felt I was being drawn to the Catholic faith," said Paxton Myers, one of St. Joseph Church's candidates.

When Myers told his brother, Barak Myers, that he planned to join the Catholic Church, Barak said he had also

See RITE, page 5

ighting a broken' system

atholic wrongly onvicted devotes life o ending death penalty

BY
GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CAMBRIDGE, Md. — If nyone has experienced sheer rror, it's Kirk Bloodsworth.

Tried and found guilty f the brutal 1984 rape and urder of 9-year-old Dawn lamilton near Baltimore, the arrel-chested crabber from the astern Shore was sentenced to ie in the gas chamber.

Bloodsworth, a former arine with no criminal ecord, had nothing to do with e crimes. He was wrongly onvicted and later would ecome the first American on eath row to be exonerated by NA testing.

But as he was led into the

See PENALTY, page 7

he big squeeze

udget leaves poor, ninsured on the utside again

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON – As Congress begins its eliberations over President eorge W. Bush's fiscal year 008 budget, you might think hat decision-making power ests solely with the president

See BUDGET, page 8

Debunking the discovery

Biblical scholars reject filmmakers' claim about tomb of Jesus

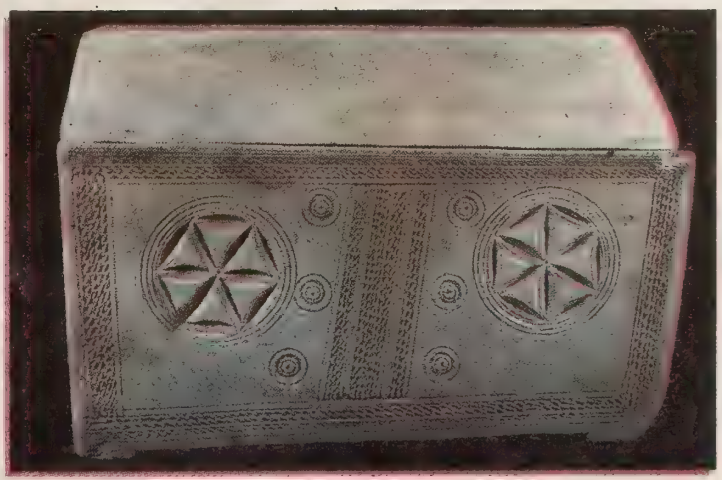
BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — Catholic biblical scholars and an Israeli archaeologist rejected filmmakers' claim that a tomb uncovered nearly 30 years ago in Jerusalem is the burial site of Jesus and his family.

Dominican Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a biblical archaeologist and expert in the New Testament at the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem who was interviewed for the film two years ago, said he did not believe there was any truth to the claim.

"It is a commercial ploy that all the media is playing into," he told Catholic News Service Feb. 27.

See TOMB, page 9



CNS photo by Mariana Salzberger, Israel Antiquities Authority via Reuters

A file photo shows a burial box found during excavations in Jerusalem. A Discovery Channel documentary suggests that several ancient burial boxes excavated 27 years ago in Jerusalem contained the remains of Jesus and his family.

Eggs and ethics
S.C. abbey defends treatment of laying hens
| PAGE 6

Culture Watch
Book on mission challenges; film on monks and silence
| PAGES 10-11

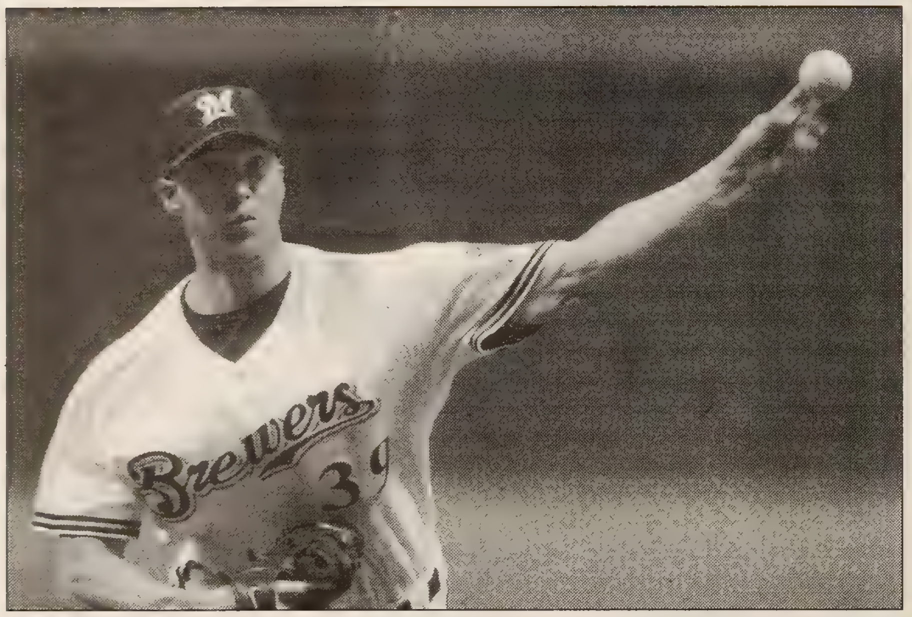
In Our Schools
Students sweep spelling, geography bees
| PAGES 12-13

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-B P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001 #*

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FAST BALLS AND FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY ALLEN FREDRICKSON, REUTERS

Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher Chris Capuano releases a pitch to a Cleveland Indians batter in the fifth inning during a game in Milwaukee in June 2006. Capuano, who graduated from St. Thomas School in West Springfield, Mass., before attending Cathedral High School in Springfield, said he values his Catholic education.

Education still a priority for standout baseball player

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — Long before Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Chris Capuano reported to spring training this year he was doing his homework, working out and preparing for what he hopes will be another All-Star season.

Capuano has always done his homework. The words "hard worker" and "intelligent" are often used to describe the 1996 valedictorian of Cathedral High School in Springfield.

"My goal is to stay ahead of the pack and I always wanted to be one of the elite pitchers in the game. That's what I shoot for and that's what I think about in the off-season," he said.

This January, Capuano reached a new one-year contract with the Brewers for $3.25 million. However, money has not ruled his decisions when it comes to baseball.

When the Arizona Diamondbacks drafted him in 1999, he agreed to sign if they would let him finish his senior year at Duke University in North Carolina. The Diamondback organization agreed and Capuano became a professional ballplayer with a major in economics and a minor in biological anthropology and anatomy.

Capuano said he took science courses to have some "fun classes" in his schedule. He said education remains a priority for him.

"If I had to stop playing ball today, I would certainly go back to school. I never minded being in school. If I had to do it right now, I'd go to an MBA (master of business administration) program," he said.

For now, Capuano is a student of baseball. He appreciates the fact that he is just one of 750 people in the world who gets to play Major League Baseball.

"Chris always had a great smile and a great attitude and a tremendous work ethic in the classroom," said Anne Kellner, who taught him in honors pre-calculus and advanced placement calculus classes at Cathedral High.

"He would always be willing to help other students and he would always make sure that he understood everything that was going on. I think the work ethic he had in academics also carried over to his athletic abilities," she said.

Capuano, who graduated from St. Thomas School in West Springfield before attending Cathedral High, said he values his Catholic education.

"Growing up in Catholic schools, you had the faith aspect. It was nice to have that in the curriculum and it's nice to balance out your life with that," he said. "I just think, overall, the discipline aspect of it and the uniforms were good. I like the way both of those schools were structured and the way that they educated kids."

Capuano, who was an altar server at St. Thomas Church through high school, said he missed some Masses while in college but now has a deeper appreciation of his faith.

"The more you grow up and the more things happen, then the more you fall back on your faith," he said.

Does he pray while pitching? Capuano said he tries not to ask much of God.

"I try to say 'thank you' a lot. If I'm in a stadium and I'm looking around and there's a ton of people or I'm real excited, I'll just take a second and say, 'If I die right now — thank you for everything because this is awesome,'" he said.

Pax Christi official: U.S. needs diplomats who know religion, Iran

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Diplomats who understand the religious sensibilities of Iran are needed to act as translators between Iranian and American officials to resolve peacefully the dispute over Iran's nuclear weapons program, said the executive director of Pax Christi USA.

"We have seen no evidence in this (U.S.) administration to practice any skilled" diplomacy, Dave Robinson said at a Feb. 26 press conference by U.S. Christian leaders who had returned from a weeklong trip to Iran.

Pax Christi USA is affiliated with Pax Christi International, a Vatican-recognized Catholic peace movement.

Iranian society is "a deeply devoted society and culture" of Muslims, and the administration of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is "particularly pious," Robinson said.

U.S. President George W. Bush "doesn't understand this language" of a country where religion and society are one, and diplomatic solutions can be los in translation, Robinson said. The Irania president "was much more comfortabl talking with us as religious leaders."

Ahmadinejad said he wants t discuss Iran's nuclear program, Ira and resolving the Israeli-Palestinia conflict, but only if the dialogue is "unde fair conditions" and Iran and the U.S "engage as partners," said Robinson.

Robinson was the only Catholi member of the Christian delegation, th first American group that has met wit an Iranian president in Iran since it 1979 revolution. The delegation include representatives of the Mennonite, Quake Episcopal and United Methodist churches

The delegation's goal was t discuss important issues with Irania officials while showing them that a American delegation can listen to the responses respectfully, Robinson said The delegation met with Ahmadineja for more than two hours on the final da of the trip.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage, meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for March 17 will be "A Lesson in Demography." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. will have *eucharistic adoration* Fridays during Lent following the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 12 p.m. Benediction will follow with Mass at 12:10 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 12:45 p.m. A sign-up book will be available in the church narthex. Call (803) 517-2600 with questions.

CHARLOTTE — Father Ed Sheridan will be the celebrant at a *Mass celebrating the gifts of those with mental retardation* March 11 at 5 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Parishioners and visitors with varying degrees of mental retardation will serve as musicians, lectors, greeters and ushers. For more information, contact Mary Kennedy, St. Gabriel disABILITY Ministry, at (704) 364-6964.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Matthew Blood Give-In Sunday* will be March 11, 8 a.m.-1: 30 p.m. in the family room of the parish center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Donors will be required to provide identification, such as a driver license or Red Cross blood donor card. sign-up table will be in the church narthex Marc 3-4. Appointments are encouraged and will b honored. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be take as time permits. For more information, call th church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Pete Church's weekday lunchtime spiritualit program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Anne 507 S. Tryon St. The program for March 15 wi be "*With Jesus in the Desert: Praying throug Darkness into Light.*" Bring your lunch, hear short talk on spirituality and participate in a sho prayer session — a great way to recharge durin the workweek. Sessions are free and everyon is invited. For more information, call the churc office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 801 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host *Christian Coffeehouse* March 17, 7:30-9:3 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Lif Center. Msgr. John McSweeney will spea on the Trinity. Single and married adult are invited for an evening of contempora Christian music, food and fellowship. Fo more information, call Kathy Bartlett (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The South Charlotte Cursill movement welcomes all to join us for fait fellowship, and food at our *Weekend Ultreya* the family room of St. Matthew Church, 801 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 18, 12- p.m. Lisa Wilson will give an inspirational ta on "Practicing Holiness in Everyday Life. There will be a potluck lunch. Babysittin will be available with early reservation For more information, call Paul Mitchell (704) 841-9441.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiette will be awarding a *$1,000 scholarship* in memor of Gene Marie Alfaro to a graduating high scho

—THE—
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MARCH 2, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 20

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Chur St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks duri June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per ye for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserv the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deem appropriate. We do not recommend or guarant any product, service or benefit claimed our advertisers. Second-class postage paid Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTE Send address corrections to The Catho News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlot NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Geographers use GPS to mark Italy's prime meridian in Vatican Gardens

Everyone needs point of reference, says archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although he Global Positioning System has made neridians obsolete in mapmaking, a group of geographers used the GPS o mark the exact spot where the old rime meridian of Italy passed through he Vatican.

Standing at the end of a technoogically guaranteed straight line of lower pots, the geographers and Vatican fficials dedicated a plaque marking the pot in the Vatican Gardens Feb. 23.

A prime meridian is an arbitrarily letermined line running around the lobe from north to south; it is used to letermine longitude as well as time zones. Although an international agreement vas reached in 1880 recognizing the neridian in Greenwich, England, as the rime meridian, Italian government maps continued to use the Italian prime until the 1940s.

In 2004, a group of Italian geographers and historians began a project to commemorate the Italian meridian by marking it in the Vatican Gardens and in several parks around Rome.

At the brief Vatican ceremony, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, head of the office governing Vatican City State, told the scholars, "Forgive me if I end by preaching, but I am just a priest and not a scientist."

The meridian may be obsolete, he said, but everyone needs a point of reference for his or her life's journey.

In Jesus, he said, "we have a star from which we can determine our meridian with certainty for a safe voyage."

---

enior who will pursue a career in the nursing r health care field. The application deadline is April 10 and the scholarship will be awarded in May. For more information, call Diana Congdon t (704) 814-0624.

ASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *Faithful Stewards of God's Creation* will take place in the McCarthy Spirituality Center 101 Mercy Dr., March 3, 9 .m.-4:30 p.m. The free conference will present hurch teaching on environmental justice, recent cientific findings, energy-saving ideas, air quality oncerns in the Charlotte metro region and how o become more effective advocates. Call (704) 70-3228 by Feb. 26 to register and reserve a unch Sponsored by Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace in partnership with he Sisters of Mercy NC Peace and Justice Team. For more information on this event, please visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace.

REENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet March 8, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are urrently out of work or looking to make a career hange, join us for encouragement, support and nformative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at 336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

ALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are naking cord rosaries for the missions and the nilitary. The group meets the first Tuesday of ach month in the church office conference room, 0-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk t (704) 797-8405.

MOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — *The Respect for Life group* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — Joseph Curran, a 9-year-old parishioner at Holy Cross Church, needs a bone marrow transplant. A *Bone-Marrow Typing Drive* will be at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., March 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friends and family have raised some funds to cover the cost of the typing for those who cannot afford the $25 tax-deductible fee. Minorities will be typed free as the need for minority marrow is extremely high. For more information, go to www.marrow.org or call Pattie Curran at (336) 423-8158 or Melanie Feeney-Lewis at (336) 869-5151.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Rev. Timothy L. Auman, a secular Franciscan and the chaplain at Wake Forest University, will speak on "Simplicity: Relinquishing Our Hold on Our Possessions" at the March 7 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 3 — 12 p.m.
Rite of Election
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

March 4 – 4 p.m.
Rite of Election
mmaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point

March 10 – 11 a.m.
Deacon recommitment Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

March 11 – 12 p.m.
Installation of Augustinian Father Ortega
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Pope denounces trend toward 'designer embryos'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI denounced the high-tech trend that encourages parents to seek the "perfect child" through genetic selection.

In a speech Feb. 24 to more than 350 Catholic medical professionals, the pope said so-called "designer embryos" represent one of many contemporary attacks on human life.

The attacks have increased to the point that the Christian conscience has been lulled, and even good people sometimes seem paralyzed in the face of collective social pressure against the right to life, he said.

The pope listed a number of ways in which human life is threatened in poorer nations today, including pressure to legalize abortion, new forms of chemical abortion introduced under the pretext of "reproductive health," and the continuing politics of demographic control.

In richer countries, he said, biotechnological engineering aims to establish "subtle and extensive methods of eugenics in the obsessive search for the 'perfect child,' through artificial procreation and various forms of diagnosis that allow selection."

He said this kind of genetic selection is part of "a new wave of discrimination" aimed at the unborn.

The pope did not name specific countries, but on the same day it was reported that the British government would allow scientists to genetically modify embryos for research purposes — which many see as a step closer to the genetic breeding of babies.

The also pope warned against increasing pressure to legalize euthanasia. In addition to such direct attacks on life, he said, efforts are multiplying to legalize "alternative" forms of cohabitation that are closed to procreation.

"In these situations the conscience, at times overcome by the means of collective pressure, does not demonstrate sufficient vigilance about the seriousness of what is at stake," he said.

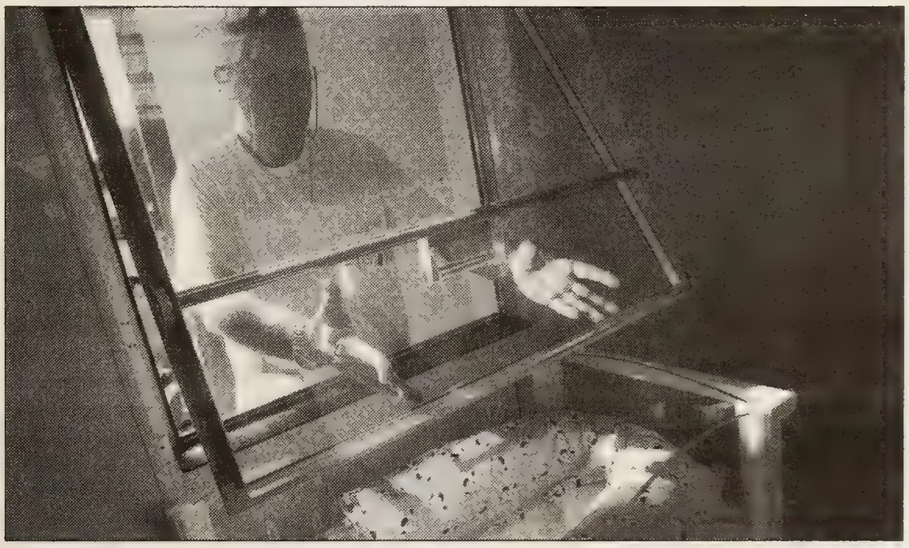
The Christian is called to mobilize continually against attacks on human life, because it is the most fundamental of all human rights, he said. That is why the formation of a true and correct conscience is such an essential task for parents, educators and pastors, he added.

But he said conscience formation today is hindered in many ways, particularly by popular attitudes of tolerance that mistrust the very capacity of reason to perceive the truth.

"Thus the conscience, which is an act of reason that aims at the truth of things, ceases to be a light and instead becomes a simple background on which the mass-media society projects contradictory images and impulses," he said.

In order to reawaken the conscience as an eloquent and clear voice, the pope said, the church needs to work at the family and parish level so that young people are educated in basic values and church teachings. Lay Catholics should know that, particularly on human life issues, they need to welcome the church's teaching, he said.

'Foundling Wheel'



CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Orderly Stefano Lorenzi demonstrates the use of a hatch to a heated crib which was used for the first time recently when an unwanted infant was left at Casilino hospital in Rome Feb. 26. Italy's Family Affairs Minister Rosy Bindi says she wants every hospital in Italy to have a modern-day version of the medieval "foundling wheel," where unwanted newborns were left at convents.

CORRECTION

In the parish profile of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Cherokee (Nov. 10, 2006), it was stated that "of Guadalupe" developed from a mistranslation from Aztec to Spanish.

However, the name "Guadalupe" came over from Spain to the New World. It was first used in conjunction with the Spanish devotion of Our Lady of Guadalupe based in Extremadura region of present-day Spain. Catholics devoted to the Spanish Guadalupe made her shrine a popular devotion and pilgrimage point starting in the early 1300s. The conquistador Hernan Cortes came from Extremadura. There are interesting parallels between the development of the devotions to both the Spanish and the Mexican Guadalupe.

ILLUMINATING THE MISSION

Photo by Carole McGrotty

Participants at a retreat light candles as a symbol of bringing Christ's light into the world during the closing Mass at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Feb. 13.

Parish retreat explores faith, leadership

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Catholics in the Asheville area recently explored their ongoing mission.

With inspirational messages often laced with humorous anecdotes, Franciscan Father Thomas Vigliotta captured participants' attention during a three-day mission retreat at St. Eugene Church in Asheville Feb. 11-13.

Father Vigliotta, campus minister at the Catholic Center at the University of Georgia, came to Asheville at the request of his friend, Father John Schneider, pastor of St. Eugene Church. Father Vigliotta conducts parish retreats throughout the Southeast.

While in Asheville, Father Vigliotta said all people are on a mission of faith and are a part of a great movement through the generations.

"We are parents of our children and children of our parents," he said. "Gathering at Mass is something passed on to us by our parents. We have a mandate to pass it on to the next generation."

The sacrament of reconciliation, said Father Vigliotta, moves us closer to God.

"When we go to confession, God takes the offering of our lives and shapes us into an image of himself," Father Vigliotta said. "Offer the things that go in your lives to God. The raw material of our lives is what makes us who we are."

The priest was impressed by the participants. "I picked up on the affection you hold for each other. You value each other's friendship," he told them.

He said they are all called to leadership. Their children will watch how adults handle difficult times and learn from their example, he said.

"Preach always and, if you have to, use words," said Father Vigliotta.

After the closing Mass, the church lights were turned out and participants held lit candles as a symbol of their ongoing mission.

"Our mission is to bring God's light into the world," said Father Vigliotta. "Mass is ended. The mission always continues."

BOY SCOUTS AND CUBS

All Catholic Troops/Packs,
Individual Catholic Scouts
All interested Scouts or troops

Catholic Camporee 2007!
March 23,24 AND 25
Clear Creek Scout Camp — Midland, NC
Make plans NOW to attend!
Contact: Mark Morris – morrismark@usa.redcross.org
or (704) 535-3563

Birthday bash

Courtesy Phot

Peggy Smith (front, center), a longtime and active parishioner of St. Bernadett Church in Linville, is surrounded by family and friends, including Fathe Christopher Gober (right), pastor, who gathered in February to celebrate he 80th birthday.

Smith's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren joined her for th surprise celebration, which included a Mass and reception.

FEW SPACES LEFT - CALL NOW!

The Diocese of Charlotte invites you to
Explore the
BEST OF IRELAND
with Fr. Mo West, Chancellor and Vicar General

breathtaking countryside – traditions of our Catholic faith – legends of her people

May 8-18, 2007

Join us as we explore the spectacular countryside of Ireland and learn of our faith traditions at its holy sites. With Mass celebrated daily by Fr. Mo, and a professional, fulltime tour escort to handle all of your needs, your days will be filled with spiritual enrichment as well as Irish folklore, music and merriment!

Highlights include:
- spectacular Cliffs of Moher; Galway Bay area
- Knock – Mass at church of heavenly apparition
- Croagh Patrick – site of St. Patrick
- Kylemore Abbey; Holy Cross Abbey - true Cross relic
- Bunratty Folk Park and Castle - traditional festive dinner
- Killarney and scenic Ring of Kerry drive
- Blarney stone and woolen mill; Wicklow hand weavers
- Glass artists at Waterford Crystal Factory
- Rock of Cashel – spectacular anthropological site
- Beautiful Glendalough – 6th century monastic site of St. Kevin
- Dublin – full tour including famous Trinity College Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, O'Connell Street, shopping – PLUS much more!

$2,899 from Charlotte includes airfare, most meals, first class hotels, all tours and admission fees to sites. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

This is a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. For a brochure with complete details, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704) 370-3332 or Pentecost Tours at (800) 713-9800.

Bishop Jugis celebrates Rite of Election in diocese

RITE, *from page 1*

been considering converting.

When the sons told their mother, Lawanda Myers, about their plans, she decided to become Catholic as well.

"She didn't want her sons going to a different church than she did," Paxton Myers said.

Joining the Masses

The Myerses are among hundreds of fellow catechumens and candidates to be introduced to Bishop Peter J. Jugis during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, held at three churches in the Diocese of Charlotte this Lenten season.

"Lent is a time to draw even closer to Jesus," said Bishop Jugis during his homily at the rite at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Feb. 25.

Each year, the Catholic Church welcomes tens of thousands of adults into full communion through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Nearly 800 of these neophytes, or new Catholics, join the church in the Diocese of Charlotte annually.

RCIA is the rite in which adults undergo an intensive period of preparation to be baptized, confirmed and receive the Eucharist. RCIA was restored by the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s as the suitable way adults prepare to receive these sacraments.

The rite of election consists of the official enrollment of the names of those unbaptized adults, or catechumens, who seek baptism at the Easter Vigil Mass. Adults who were baptized in other Christian faiths, or candidates, are also introduced to the bishop at this time.

On March 3, catechumens and candidates from the eastern counties of the diocese will participate in the rite at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. Parishes from the western counties will gather March 4 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

A journey of faith

The rite of election and call to continuing conversion is one of several steps along the journey, following a period of discernment and study of the Catholic faith.

Before formally beginning the RCIA process, an inquirer considers his or her relationship with Jesus Christ and interest in joining the Catholic Church. This period is known as the period of evangelization and precatechumenate.

After discerning their desire to join the Catholic Church, the inquirers may decide to continue the process and enter the period of the catechumenate, when they study the history and practice of Catholicism. This stage can last for a few months or for as long as several years.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Catechumens and their sponsors gather on the altar during the Rite of Election at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Feb. 25. The Rite will be celebrates March 3 at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville and March 4 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

The third formal stage is the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, which occurs during the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.

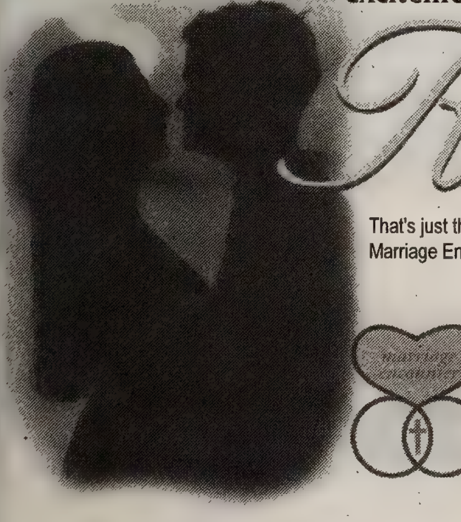
During the Mass, catechumens receive the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, and the candidates are confirmed and receive the Eucharist. At this time, they become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.

Following initiation at the Vigil Mass, a final period of formation and education continues in the stage known as mystagogy. During this period, which lasts until Pentecost or later, the neophytes reflect on the events of the Easter Vigil Mass and continue to learn more about the Scriptures, the sacraments and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In a continuing effort to reach out to the increasing number of Hispanics in the diocese, the Rite of Election was celebrated in both English and Spanish. The readings alternated between the two languages, and hymns were sung in both as well. Bishop Jugis completed his homily with a special welcome to the Hispanic participants in Spanish.

"The conversion and transformation of neophytes is essentially the work of the Holy Spirit and our first response to this increase is one of gratitude to God," said Cris Villapando, director of programs for diocesan faith formation.

"This is not to undercut the value of the works of the more than 1,200 presenters and sponsors in the diocese who assisted in stoking the embers of faith in these 'converts,'" he said.



Want to put the romance and excitement back into your relationship?

RENEW YOUR Romance

That's just the beginning of what you will receive on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The weekend teaches a unique method of communication. It is for couples with good marriages who want to enrich their relationships.

For more information, please call Rob and Karen Kummerer at (704) 843-7654 or go to our web sight to register at www.WWME.org.

Upcoming weekends:
March 9 - 11 — Charlotte
March 16 -18 — Atlantic Beach
May 4 - 6 — Hickory

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

NEWS FLASH! IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES IS MOVING AND UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

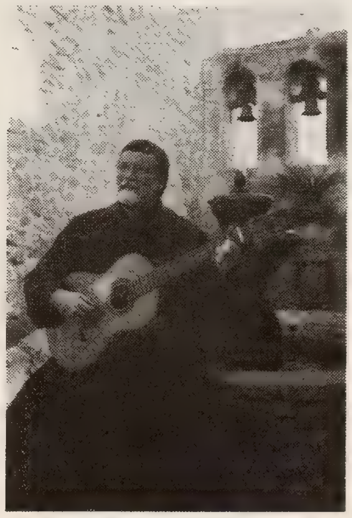
Allen Bond has taken over the operations of Immaculata Catholic Companies. Allen is a businessman with a wide spectrum of knowledge and experience in the business world. More important to him and those around him is his Catholic faith and his desire to live and share that faith. Allen is married to Virginia and counts his wife, their three children, two sons-in-law and their 15 grandchildren as precious gifts from God.

Allen welcomes everyone to visit our store in Cornelius and our soon-to-be-announced **NEW location in Charlotte.** Thank you for your continued support.

Please visit and/or call us for all your Catholic religious gifts and books.

704-655-9090
maryimmaculata.com

19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)



John Michael Talbot in Concert
to benefit
New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs
Thursday, March 22 – 7 pm

Come and experience the wide variety of musical styles of this "Troubadour for the Lord" who has won numerous national awards – including Top Male Christian Singer in the country by Billboard Magazine. He has produced original albums of jazz and blues, as well as classical, orchestral and contemporary music. He will delight you with his widely-praised meditational guitar and vocal styling where, he says, "God can touch the deeper areas of our hearts and minds." Also joining him will be Inner Rhythm Group from Winston-Salem, a very special treat for all.

CONCERT: Our Lady of Mercy Church
1730 Link Road – Winston-Salem
TICKETS: $30
(seniors/students 18 and under: $25)
CALL: (336)722-7001, ext. 24 or
(336)838-2215 or go to olmnc.org

This concert will benefit New Life Mobility Assistance Dogs, a non-profit organization currently training a rescued shelter dog to assist a person with disabilities – giving a new lease on life to both the person and the dog.

Ethics and eggs

S.C. abbey says it meets, exceeds guidelines for treatment of laying hens

BY DEIRDRE C. MAYS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Mepkin Abbey in Moncks Corner has released a statement saying the Trappist order meets and exceeds guidelines for egg production in the United States.

The statement came after People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Feb. 20 accused the order of torturing its laying hens.

On its Web site PETA posted a video of the abbey's farm — taken without the monks' knowledge — and accusations of mistreatment.

The abbey does not need to defend itself against claims of inhumane treatment of its laying hens, according to Mary Jeffcoat, spokeswoman for the monastery.

In a phone interview Feb. 22, she told The Catholic Miscellany, newspaper of the Charleston Diocese, that the accusation by PETA is puzzling.

"Mepkin Abbey is a member of the United Egg Producers and the membership of that association accounts for over 80 percent of eggs produced in the United States," Jeffcoat said.

"Mepkin has been certified as following every single guideline established. I'm in a quandary as to why PETA would pick on one, small egg producer as opposed to a national organization," she said.

"Mepkin comes up to a minimum of national standards and, in some ways, goes beyond that. That's why it's puzzling to us as to why Mepkin is being singled out," she said.

National and local media have inundated the contemplative order, known locally for its active conservation efforts, for interviews. Jeffcoat said she has been asked by reporters if the abbey is going to enter into any discussions with PETA.

Abbot Stanislaus Gumula

"We are not interested in dialogue with people who stoop to those tactics and who are not interested in dialogue," she said. "Clearly, as Abbot Stan said in The New York Times, the monks do not believe they are abusing those birds, and we are not going to get into a debate about this in the media."

Jeffcoat was referring to a New York Times interview with Mepkin Abbot Stanislaus Gumula, who called the allegations "unfactual."

PETA stated on its Web site that "a PETA investigator visited Mepkin Abbey in January 2007 to see if the flowery descriptions of the abbey's 'animal husbandry' were accurate.

"We were hoping that devout Christians would not inflict on birds the kind of abuse that the egg industry has become infamous for, such as cutting part of the beaks off hens and cramming birds into tiny wire cages, where — because they aren't given any space to move around — their muscles waste away and their bones become weak."

In a Feb. 21 statement posted on the abbey's Web site, www.mepkinabbey.org, Abbot Gumula said that PETA filmed some of the brothers at the abbey without the monastery's knowledge or permission.

The abbot said that Mepkin Abbey follows all the guidelines of the Scientific Advisory Committee and United Egg Producers. They cover cage space requirements, proper handling, transportation, molting practices, beak trimming and euthanasia.

"It has always been Mepkin Abbey's purpose to provide the healthiest environment for our chickens, to treat them as one of God's precious creatures and to offer to consumers the best possible product for their health and enjoyment," Abbot Gumula said in the statement.

"That is precisely why we moved to the cage arrangement over 30 years ago, and why we have continued with it to the present," he said.

"Cages provide hens protection from predators, soil-borne diseases and diseases that are caused from walking in litter or waste. We stand by our product and by the commitment we make to our customers as stated on the inner cover of our egg carton," Abbot Gumula said.

Jeffcoat said that the egg sales make up about 60 percent of the abbey's annual earned income bringing in about $140,000 a year, which goes to support the monastery grounds and the monk's daily needs. The money is also used for building expenses and making the property available to the public.

The laying hens produce about 9 million eggs each year and the eggs are delivered to area grocery stores. The monks also operate a retreat program and gift shop and sell compost.

Quoted in The New York Times, Abbot Gumula said, "This hurts so much. They're happy chickens. They're being treated nicely."

Deirdre Mays is editor of The Catholic Miscellany in the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Elizabeth, 66, Monrovia, Liberia

CFCA

Offering hope.
Restoring dignity.
Worldwide.

To learn more or sponsor

- visit our Web site at www.cfcausa.org
- call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564

A+ rating by the
American Institute of Philanthropy
www.charitywatch.org

Highest rating of **four-stars** from
Charity Navigator
www.charitynavigator.org
★★★★

'I sometimes wonder why they do it'

Five years ago Elizabeth, 66, of Monrovia, Liberia, sold swamp snails in order to earn money for food. "Those were very, very difficult times," she said. But now life is better thanks to sponsorship through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. Her sponsor's support provides 25 kilograms of rice each month along with cooking oil and household items such as kitchen utensils, soap and a mattress to help her sleep comfortably. Elizabeth said she is happy because the CFCA staff in Monrovia and her sponsor thousands of miles away show concern for her. "I sometimes wonder why they do it. But I've come to look at them as my own family members, like brothers and sisters. I believe it was God who passed through those people to help me." Elizabeth helps distribute food to others in her neighborhood and helps the elderly too frail to walk far.

CFCA has served more than 475,000 children and elderly in developing countries over the last 25 years—empowering them to make more choices in their lives, live with dignity and reach their potential.

You can improve someone's life, too. Your sponsorship of $30 a month helps your sponsored friend with critical immediate needs such as nutrition, medical care, clothing and housing. But it goes much further. Sponsored aging friends also benefit from recreation, livelihood and socialization programs, and being involved in their communities. Sponsorship benefits vary by location.

Grounded in Catholic social teaching, CFCA works with people of all faiths. Sponsor an aging friend or a child today and help make the world a better place for all.

Sponsor an older person through CFCA. It works.

Catholic wrongly convicted fights to end death penalty

PENALTY, *from page 1*

Maryland State Penitentiary in Baltimore in 1985 no one believed his story — least of all the other prisoners.

"We're going to do to you what you did to that little girl," they screamed. "We're going to get you, Kirk!"

Seated on the couch in the living room of his small home in Cambridge more than 20 years later, Bloodsworth said, "I remember that first night in my cell and the smell coming from this place. ... Not only did it stink of every kind of excrement you could think of, but you also could smell hatred — and it was all pointing at me."

Despite the strong temptation to despair, Bloodsworth said he decided he would fight to prove his innocence. He told The Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, that he believes God sustained him through nearly nine years of taxing prison life, sending him otherworldly consolations and leading him into the Catholic Church.

With the same steely determination that got him through his prison ordeal, Bloodsworth is now devoting the rest of his life to abolishing the death penalty and seeking reforms of what he calls a "broken" criminal justice system.

He could get his wish in Maryland, where legislation has been introduced to substitute life in prison without parole as the maximum penalty for crimes currently punishable by death. Gov. Martin O'Malley has said he will sign such a law if it comes to his desk.

Heavenly inspiration

On the day he was found guilty, Bloodsworth said he remembers being housed in a Baltimore County holding cell with another man who sat in the shadows. For two hours, the stranger didn't say a word as he ate a sandwich and sipped an orange drink.

Then he turned to his fellow prisoner and told Bloodsworth not to worry. "Everything is going to be all right," Bloodsworth recalled the man saying. "You'll be OK."

Summoned back to the courtroom, Bloodsworth heard the guilty verdict and was taken back to the holding cell. He said the man was gone and only half the sandwich remained. When he asked the sheriff's deputy where the "other guy" was, the deputy responded that Bloodsworth had been the only person in the cell.

Looking back, Bloodsworth thinks he was visited by an angel.

"Maybe I wanted to see something — I don't know. But I tell you what, he was as real as you are," he told a Catholic Review reporter.

Bloodsworth was raised in the Baptist and Methodist traditions. In prison he began deep theological discussions with Deacon Al Rose, the Catholic prison chaplain. The more he learned, the more he wanted to become a Catholic.

At Easter time in 1989, then-Auxiliary Bishop John H. Ricard of Baltimore visited Bloodsworth at Deacon Rose's invitation. The guard would not let Bishop Ricard enter the cell, so he had to administer the sacraments of confirmation and the Eucharist through the bars of the closed cell door.

Asked what it was like to receive Communion for the first time, Bloodsworth smiled. "Oh, it was an honor," he said. "I felt clean. I felt accepted."

When DNA testing proved Bloodsworth's innocence in 1993, he was released and pardoned and was paid $300,000 in compensation for wrongful imprisonment — the accumulated salary the state said he would have earned as a waterman.

Bloodsworth said he still had to endure the suspicions of many who believed he had gotten off on a technicality — until 2003 when the DNA from the crime scene was identified as that of Kimberly Shay Ruffner, a man who had been previously charged with sexually assaulting children.

Ruffner subsequently pleaded guilty to the Dawn Hamilton murder and is serving a life sentence.

"I tell you the difference between the day before they found who really did it and day after was like I had just won the World Series for the town of Cambridge," said Bloodsworth. "Everyone treated me completely different."

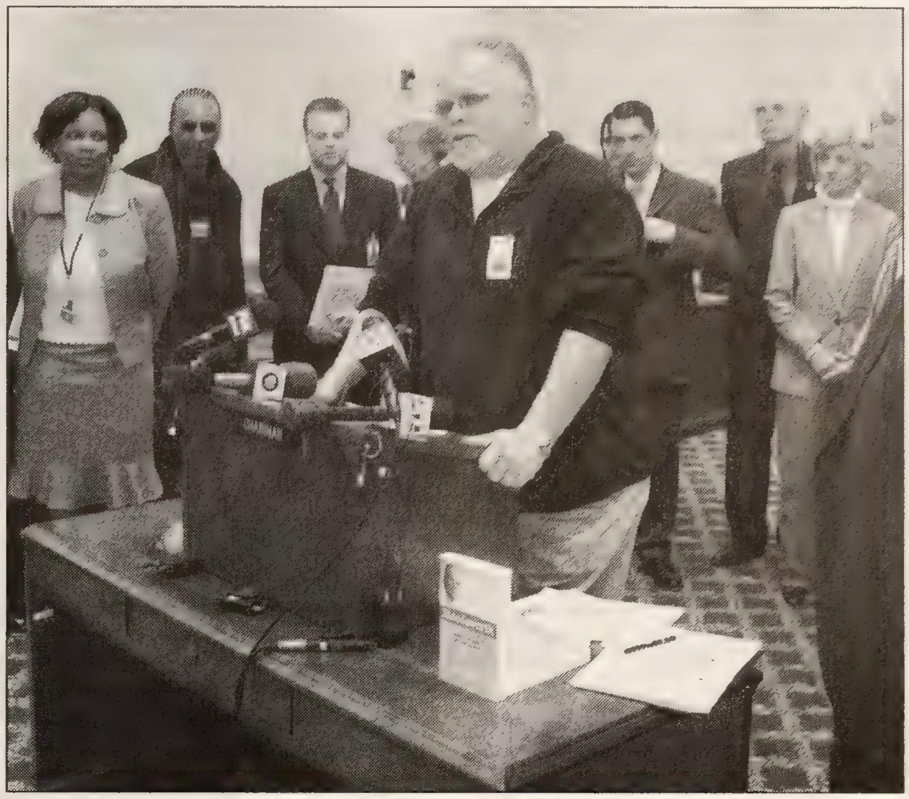
Bloodsworth has become an outspoken advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. He recently went to Annapolis to speak in support of the pending bill that would abolish capital punishment in Maryland.

Working for the Justice Project, a Washington-based organization that pushes for criminal justice reform, Bloodsworth lobbied for the passage of the federal Innocence Protection Act, which was signed into law in 2004.

The act established the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Program, through which the U.S. government helps states defray the costs of such DNA testing.

"We need to do post-conviction testing to find out if there are other innocent people on death row before we start throwing switches," said Bloodsworth, pointing out that since 1973, more than 150 people have been wrongfully convicted and later freed from prison based on DNA evidence.

"If it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY OWEN SWEENEY III, CATHOLIC REVIEW

Kirk Bloodsworth speaks during a press conference in Annapolis, Md., in late January about state legislation to replace the death penalty with prison sentences of life without parole. Bloodsworth was wrongly convicted of the rape and murder of a 9-year- old Rosedale, Md., girl in 1985, but in 1993 DNA evidence exonerated him. Since then he has devoted his life to ending the death penalty.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent
on the campus of
Belmont Abbey College

Meet at the
Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Take the stairway down the hill behind the Monastery and Basilica

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

For more information please contact
Ruth Payne,
Director of Campus Ministry,
704-829-7196 or email
RuthPayne@bac.edu

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation

(828)687-7714
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Budget leaves poor, uninsured on the outside

BUDGET, *from page 1*

who proposed it and the representatives and senators who will approve it.

But many of the most critical decisions were made long ago, by members of Congress who could be long dead, according to Eugene Steuerle, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute in Washington and a consultant to the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy.

Those earlier senators and representatives made "promises in law that now we can't fulfill," Steuerle told Catholic News Service Feb. 21.

And for today's politicians who want to be known for giving their constituents more and keeping taxes low, "it's very, very hard politically" to make the tough decisions that are needed, he said.

More than half of Bush's proposed $2.9 trillion budget goes to Social Security (21 percent); Medicare and other health programs (22 percent); and income security programs such as retirement and disability payments to federal employees, unemployment compensation and housing and nutrition assistance programs (10 percent). Most of those expenditures were fixed by earlier legislation and are mandatory.

Add to that the 9 percent of the total budget that must go to pay interest on the deficit and the 21 percent allocated to defense programs, and there's not much left for education, social services, jobs programs, transportation, services to veterans and other needs.

"The squeeze is on now" as mandatory spending increases and discretionary spending drops, Steuerle said. "And in 10 years there'll be nothing left over" for discretionary spending because the mandatory outlays will exceed what the government is taking in.

"It makes no more sense to commit future economic resources than it would be to decide today where to station troops until the next millennium," Steuerle said in testimony before the Senate Budget Committee a few days before Bush's budget was made public in early February.

"Only major systemic reform can restore a normal democratic process," he added. "Each generation must regain the right to decide spending and tax priorities based on the nation's current needs, not on past anticipation."

The budget proposal drew strong criticism from the presidents of the Catholic Health Association and Catholic Charities USA, who mourned what they said were missed opportunities to improve the plight of the poor and the uninsured.

"The president's new budget hurts those living in poverty at a time when we should be doing even more to help the most vulnerable among us," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. "America needs to strengthen vital social service programs to help those in need, not weaken those programs."

Father Snyder said the "most alarming cuts" would reduce housing assistance to the elderly and disabled, drop approximately 300,000 people in working families with children from the Food Stamp program, cut block grants to states for community services that aid the poor and sharply reduce the amount available to help low-income people pay their home heating costs.

The budget also proposes cutting more than $100 billion from Medicaid, Medicare and other health programs over the next five years.

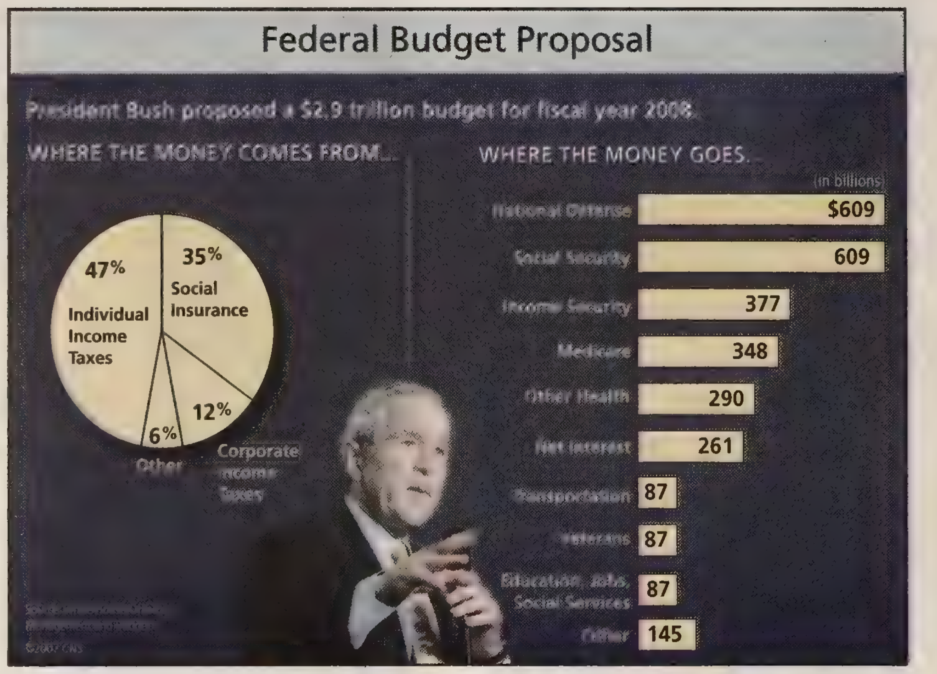
Those cuts "will impact some of the most vulnerable Americans, including seniors, low-income children and the disabled," Father Snyder said.

Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, said the budget proposals "simply do not rise to the challenge of helping to improve our nation's health care system."

"It is particularly disappointing that the administration did not take advantage of the required reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program this year to propose measures to expand the program to the nearly 9 million children who remain uninsured," she said in a statement. "Given the focus on SCHIP, as well as the glaring moral failure of allowing any child in our nation to go without access to health care, the Catholic health ministry strongly believes that today we enjoy a unique opportunity to make coverage for all children a priority and a reality."

Sister Keehan also said the proposed cuts to Medicaid and Medicare "would only hinder the ability of hospitals to care for low-income and other vulnerable populations."

"Balancing the budget is a notable and worthwhile goal," she said. "But as a reflection of our nation's values and priorities, no budget should be based on sacrifices from those least able to afford them, nor should it squander the real opportunity we have at this time to expand access to health care."



TRAVEL WITH OTHER ROMAN CATHOLICS AND SAVE ON THIS REPOSITIONING CRUISE

22 Days - Tour Italy and Cruise the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Caribbean

Costa Cruise Lines has to get the new "state-of-the-art" Costa Fortuna from Italy to Florida. Take advantage of this exclusive ***'Your Man'* Tours** vacation package departing October 27, 2007. You'll spend three nights in Rome with two days of sightseeing including Ancient Rome; Pantheon & Piazza Navona; Roman Forum; Coliseum; Vatican Museum; Sistine Chapel; St. Peter's Square and Basilica; Via della Conciliazione & Castle Sant'Angelo and more! Spend two nights in Tuscany with guided sightseeing visiting Siena; Florence; Montecatini-Terme; and Pisa (leaning tower). On Friday, November 2, your group will "motor-coach" to the Italian Riviera to the town of Savona where you'll board your deluxe Italian ship. Your exciting ports include: Barcelona, Spain; St. Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands; Guadelope, French W. Indies; St. Maarten; Catalina Island, Dominican Republic; and Nassau, Bahamas. Arrive in Ft. Lauderdale November 17. Prices (per person, double occupancy) including taxes and port charges start at only $2347. Add $300 for outside and $500 for balcony cabins. Optional airfare from Charlotte add $1,000.

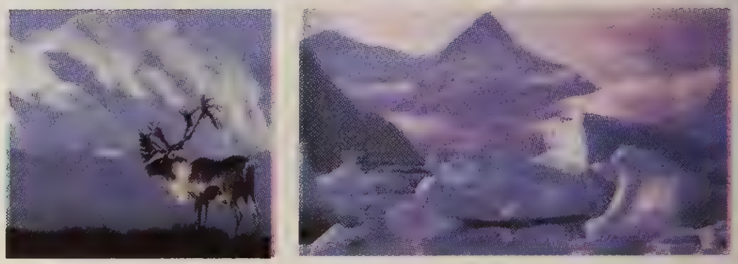
Space is limited and $100 deposits are now due!

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

Low cabin prices guaranteed through March 16th!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007



Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Early booking fares for choice of cabin categories are guaranteed until March 16th so call today for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

Scholars reject filmmakers' claim about tomb of Jesus

TOMB, *from page 1*

Amos Kloner, an Israeli archaeologist who wrote the original excavation report on the site for the predecessor of the Israel Antiquities Authority, called the claim "nonsense."

"In their movie they are billing it as 'never before reported information,' but it is not new. I published all the details in the Antiqot journal in 1996, and I didn't say it was the tomb of Jesus' family," said Kloner, now a professor of archaeology at Israel's Bar-Ilan University.

"I think it is very unserious work. I do scholarly work ... based on other studies," he said.

Toronto filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici and Oscar-winning Canadian director James Cameron announced at a press conference in New York City Feb. 26 that by using new technology and DNA studies they have determined that among the 10 ossuaries — burial boxes used in biblical times to house the bones of the dead — found in the cave by Kloner in 1980 are those of Jesus, his brothers, Mary, another Mary whom they believe is Mary Magdalene, and "Judah, son of Jesus."

The documentary film by Jacobovici and Cameron is to be aired on the Discovery Channel March 4 and in Canada March 6 on Vision TV. A book on the topic, written by Jacobovici and Charles Pellegrino, is to go on sale Feb. 27.

Father Murphy-O'Connor said the names found on the ossuaries "are a combination of very common names."

"Fifty percent of all Jewish women in the first century were called either Mary or Salome. It doesn't mean much at all," he said. "You can prove anything with statistics."

The DNA tests could "only prove that they are human" but "certainly did not prove" any familial connection, he said.

Kloner had written about the findings a decade ago, but nobody had been interested.

According to press reports, the filmmakers said they had worked on the project with world-renowned scientists, including DNA specialists, archaeologists and statisticians.

They said the ossuaries were not identified as belonging to Jesus' family when they were first discovered because the archaeologists at the time did not have the knowledge and scientific tools that now exist.

But Kloner noted that Jesus' family was from Galilee and had no ties to Jerusalem, casting serious doubt that they would have had a burial cave in Jerusalem. He added that the names on the ossuaries were common during that time and their discovery in the same cave is purely coincidental.

He said the tomb belonged to a middle- or upper-middle-class Jewish family during the first century and the cave was in use for 70-100 years by the family.

CNS photo by Amos Kloner, Israel Antiquities Authority via Reuters

A black-and-white file photo released Feb. 23 shows the entrance to a 2,000-year-old burial cave in Jerusalem. A Discovery Channel documentary suggests that several ancient burial boxes excavated 27 years ago in Jerusalem contained the remains of Jesus and his family.

Other books, films and articles about the tomb, including a full-page feature in London's The Sunday Times, a British Broadcasting Corp. documentary film and a book called "The Jesus Dynasty" by James D. Tabor, have been published and produced on the topic in the years since the tomb's discovery.

At the New York press conference, Jacobovici said he thought the so-called "James ossuary," purported by its owner, Oded Golan, to have belonged to James, the brother of Jesus, was also from the tomb, and he cited a forensic technique used to determine this.

He did not mention that in 2003 the Israel Antiquities Authority declared the inscription on the James ossuary a forgery or that Golan is currently on trial for forging part of the inscription.

Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, a biblical scholar and head of Toronto's Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation, said this latest film shows that "self-proclaimed experts" have learned nothing from the James ossuary incident.

"One would think that we learned some powerful lessons from the media hype surrounding the James ossuary several years ago, and how important public institutions like the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto) were duped in their hosting such fraudulent works," he said.

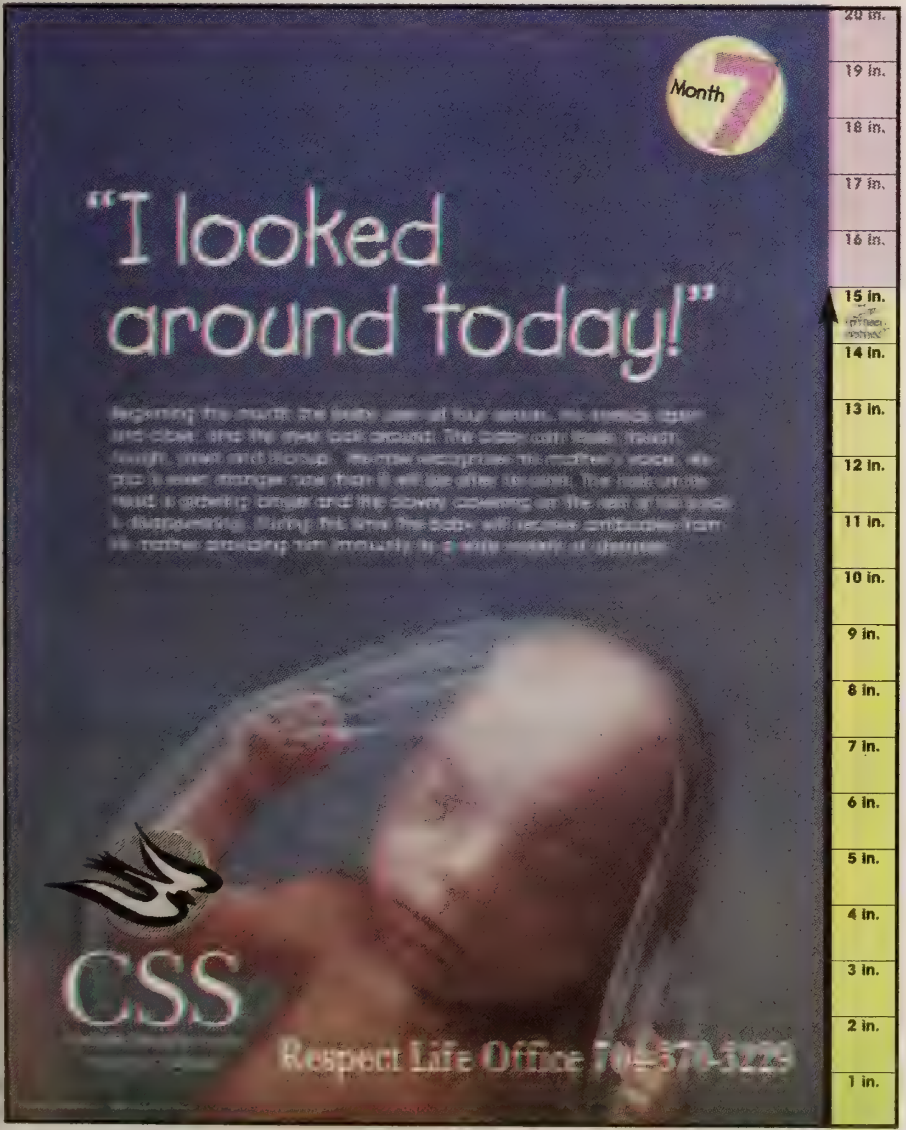
Father Rosica said: "Why did the so-called archaeologists of this latest scoop wait 27 years before doing anything about the discovery? James Cameron is far better off making movies about the Titanic rather than dabbling in areas of religious history of which he knows nothing."

A spokeswoman for the Israel Antiquities Authority said two of the ossuaries had been loaned to the filmmakers for their press conference as is customary for such requests for exhibiting antiquities as long as certain conditions are met.

The loan was made in the name of freedom of expression and creativity, she said, and did not mean the authority supported their claims.

She said one of the Mary ossuaries has been on display for many years at Jerusalem's Israel Museum; the Judah ossuary is on display in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; two ossuaries are currently with the filmmakers; and the other six are in the authority's warehouse just outside Jerusalem.

Contributing to this story was Joseph Sinasac in Toronto.



Month 7
"I looked around today!"
CSS
Respect Life Office 704-370-3229
20 in.
19 in.
18 in.
17 in.
16 in.
15 in.
14 in.
13 in.
12 in.
11 in.
10 in.
9 in.
8 in.
7 in.
6 in.
5 in.
4 in.
3 in.
2 in.
1 in.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:

- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

docPod

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Lent — What has Bishop Jugis given up?

Subscribe today — It's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'A wonderful tool'

U.S. church official says cardinal's book outlines mission challenges

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A book by a retired Vatican cardinal gives insights into the Catholic Church's missionary work in today's changing world, said Msgr. John E. Kozar, national director of the pontifical missionary societies in the United States.

It tells how the church has become a trustworthy institution for many people in poor countries, describes the greater sharing of church workers between mission countries and Western countries, and how the church relates to Islam in countries both religions regard as mission territory, he said.

"On Missionary Roads," was written by retired Cardinal Jozef Tomko. The Slovak cardinal reflects on his travels and experiences from 1985 to 2001 when he was head of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, the church agency overseeing missionary work.

The cardinal wrote that he took more than 100 trips to countries during his 16 years in office because of the need for "direct contact with the people and workers" in mission areas.

"It was not enough to consider the enormous questions and problems of competency and responsibility from behind a desk," the cardinal added.

Msgr. Kozar, in a Feb. 23 telephone interview, called the book "a wonderful tool to teach, educate and motivate people to become missionaries."

The book also teaches all Catholics "to accept the responsibility that they are missionaries themselves" and are called to help evangelize even if they never travel abroad, said Msgr. Kozar.

A missionary is a sign of the universal church and its willingness to reach out to people with prayers and also with material support, given that missionary work traditionally has been done in impoverished countries, he said.

This willingness to share spiritual and material benefits resonates with people who are often "between a rock and a hard place" and used to being deceived by their political leaders, Msgr. Kozar said.

The cardinal wrote in the book that globalization is also influencing missionary work. "Mission is no longer from the West to other countries; it travels in all directions," he said.

Msgr. Kozar called this a "reconfiguring" of the church's workforce as part of an "ongoing process of Pentecost." This can be seen in the United States, where many priests are arriving from Africa, Asia and Latin America because of the vocations shortage in this country, he said.

The reconfiguration is also a sign of success in evangelizing mission countries, he said, noting that the two largest Catholic seminaries, with regard to population, are in Indonesia.

The cardinal's book also mentions that a "peaceful coexistence" has been possible with "a tolerant Islam" in mission lands as the church fights to defend the rights of Christians.

"Fundamentalism is a limited slice of religions often exploited for political ends," said Cardinal Tomko.

Msgr. Kozar said that while some African countries have adopted Islamic laws and placed limits on Christians, these have been exceptions and motivated by political reasons. Islamic and Catholic leaders are "generally good partners" and "try to be brotherly, outside of the few that are radicalizing Islam," he said.

He agreed with the cardinal that evangelizing China is the next great challenge to the church. Msgr. Kozar said that after decades of communist rule there will be "a great thirst" for spiritual values.

The pontifical missionary societies unite four church agencies involved in mission education and fundraising. It operates under the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes Youth Camps Nursing
Retreats Campus Ministry Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:

Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 2, 2007

March 11, Third Sunday of Lent

Cycle C Readings:

1) Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Psalm 103:1-4, 6-8, 11
2) 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
3) Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

God is at work all around us

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Occasionally, the Lord has a way of placing a person or situation in our lives that provides us with a new perspective or sends us in a new direction.

At the Easter Vigil we watch women, men and teenagers drenched in the waters of baptism. Who or what gave the nudge that brought them to our church, we might wonder. Perhaps a Catholic friend said, "How about coming to church with me next Sunday?"

I've known other stories too: At funerals a tearful adult grandchild reveals to close family and relative strangers what a talented loving person her aged grandparent really was. The person who had just passed left an indelible mark on the speaker's heart.

A man I know obviously has been enormously successful in business, but what I did not know until I had an unexpected conversation with him, is how hard his childhood was.

I now understand his devotion to volunteering. He has never forgotten how it felt to be sad and alone.

Before he investigates the bush burning in his path, Moses has been a prince of Egypt, discovered he is the son of slaves, murdered an Egyptian, escaped his would-be captors, become a shepherd for Jethro, the priest of Midian, and married his daughter.

In the grand scheme of his life, Moses' heroic adventures are just beginning as he leads his father-in-law's flock across the desert toward Horeb. The task of safely shepherding animals across unyielding desert terrain pales in comparison to the role he will soon play in salvation history when he leads the Israelites out of Egypt.

However, before any of these events occur, Moses will be enveloped in the mystery of the God of Creation, the God of Moses' ancestors, the God who says, "Tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you."

The ancient one who reveals the mysterious name I AM to Moses so many millennia ago still speaks to the human heart. The opportunities for encountering the holy are innumerable.

My grandfather used to say: "Beverly, there are burning bushes everywhere. All you have to do is take the time to investigate."

Questions:

Who or what, recently, has directed your consciousness to God's presence? What new perspectives in your faith life have you gained from these encounters?

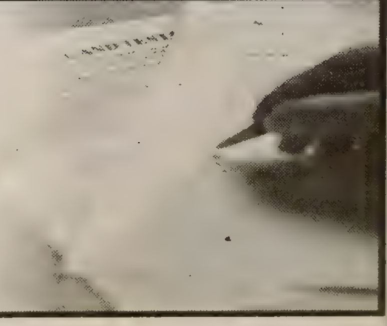
WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4-10

Sunday (Second Sunday of Lent), Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday, Sts. Perpetua and Felicity),** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday (St. John of God),** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Frances of Rome),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-56; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 11-17

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 7:23-38, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday, St. Patrick),** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14.



CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Making your will?

Request a free Wills Kit from Catholic Relief Services.

It will help you practice good stewardship and create a lasting legacy to help the poor overseas.

1-800-235-2772 ext.7318

Documentary filmmaker says monks showed him a new side of Catholicism

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — If you accept the maxim that the Catholic Church thinks in terms of centuries, then documentary filmmaker Philip Groning's dealings with a Carthusian monastery in France moved at lightning speed.

Groning first approached the monks in 1984 with the idea of filming a documentary about their life in community. He got a reply saying the request had come "too early," and that perhaps in "10 or 13 years" the monastery would be ready.

Eventually, 16 years would pass before Groning got word that the monks were ready to discuss the possibility.

"The question I asked myself was, 'Does this project still fit in with my life?'" Groning told Catholic News Service Feb. 7 on his way to his native Germany after doing some pre-release publicity for the film, "Into Great Silence."

He added, "I reread the outline from 1984 and I thought, 'This is a fantastic outline.'"

Groning said he was born and raised Catholic, but that he "had a big problem with that when I was growing up. One of the reasons I made the film was to understand where I came from and get reattached to the religion that I left. And in a certain way, I did."

Asked to explain, Groning said his Catholic upbringing in the 1960s was "very much about guilt and sin and confession. In the monastery, very much of the other side showed. ...

"It's all about divine grace, divine providence, about completely trusting God, completely trusting that God will lead you," Groning said. "This is a side of Catholicism I had not lived when I was a child. The religion was not as dark as I had thought. ... Being a Christian is a joyful thing."

Groning adopted the lifestyle of the Carthusians. They take a vow of near-total silence — hence the film's title — at their monastery in the French Alps, Le Grande Chartreuse. He filmed there for six months over three separate trips.

He was his film's director, writer, producer, executive producer, cinematographer, sound editor and composer, although most of the music is Latin chant sung by the monks.

Despite the vow of silence, "Into Great Silence" is hardly a silent movie. The ringing of bells, the shuffling of feet, even the ambient sounds of nature all can be heard with great clarity.

"When it's so quiet, you hear sounds you don't usually hear. ... You don't hear the water dripping that way, or if you do you couldn't record it," Groning told CNS. "In the monastery you can hear every event separately."

The absence of words also means there are few characters to follow in the 169-minute movie. The few who are distinct are two novices, one of whom is from Africa, who are welcomed into the monastery — the ritual, with words in French, is included — and an elderly blind monk interviewed near the movie's end who speaks about life, the end of life and his own life.

Groning said it was "a very deliberate choice" on his part not to focus on anyone in particular.

"It's clear that if you follow one person along, you don't drift into the plot," he said.

"Into Great Silence" has proven quite popular in France. It got its U.S. premiere Feb. 28 in New York City, with prints of the film fanning out throughout the country later in the year.

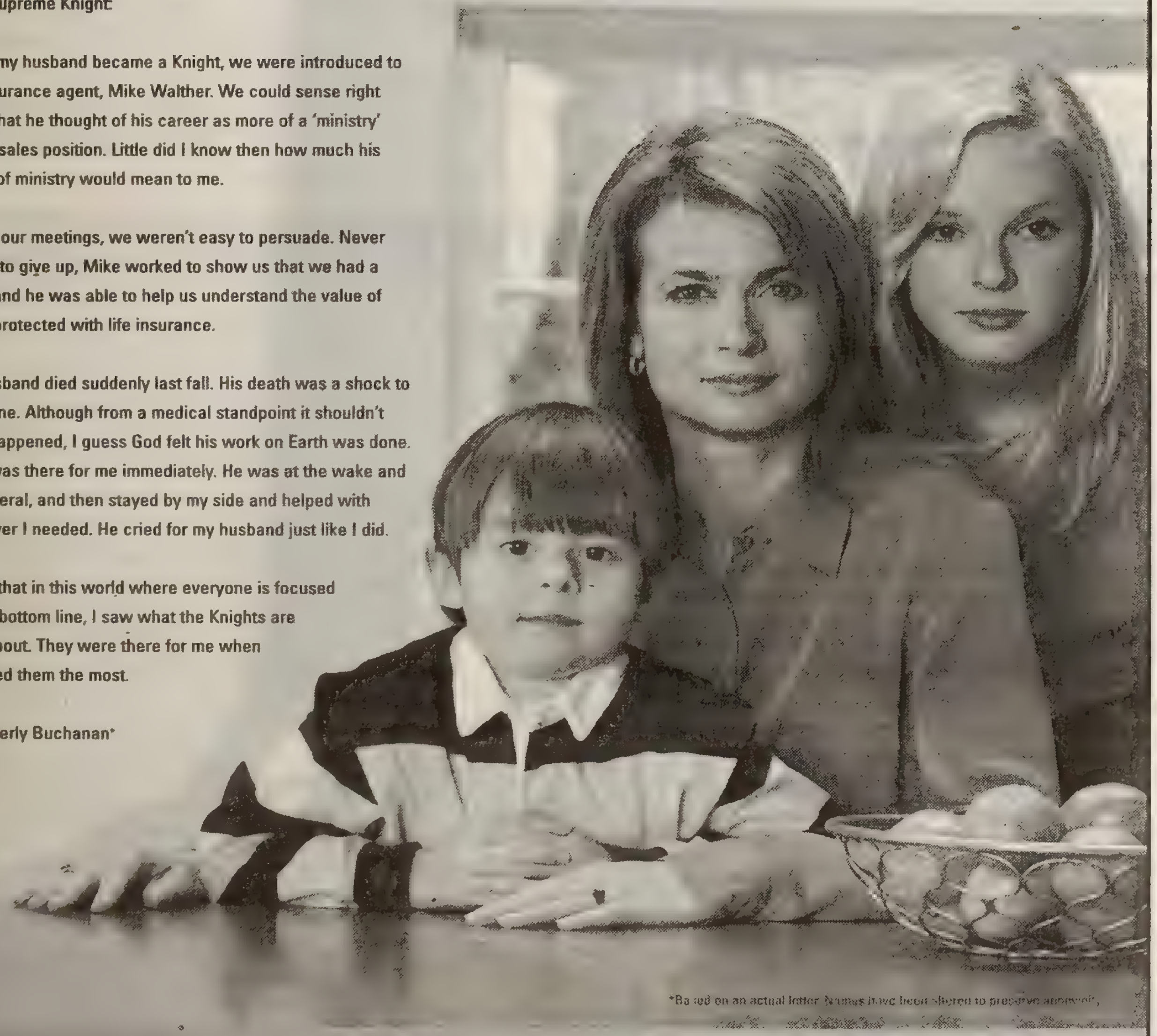
"Out of the revenues I have for the film, half of the revenues will be going to charity," Groning said. "If people crowd to see this film as they did in France, they go not because they love the film (but because) they love the life of the monks."

To keep all the money for himself, therefore, "would go completely against the lives and the morals of the Carthusian order," he added.

"I think it's important for viewers to know the monastery is not a monastery as a dark and encumbered place," Groning said. "That's not true. It's a place of great inner liberty, great inner strength.

"They are not hiding. They are not suppressed. They are not getting away from the world. ... I am glad that people get that (message) out of the film," he said.

A strong shoulder in a difficult time.



Dear Supreme Knight:

When my husband became a Knight, we were introduced to our insurance agent, Mike Walther. We could sense right away that he thought of his career as more of a 'ministry' than a sales position. Little did I know then how much his sense of ministry would mean to me.

During our meetings, we weren't easy to persuade. Never willing to give up, Mike worked to show us that we had a need, and he was able to help us understand the value of being protected with life insurance.

My husband died suddenly last fall. His death was a shock to everyone. Although from a medical standpoint it shouldn't have happened, I guess God felt his work on Earth was done. Mike was there for me immediately. He was at the wake and the funeral, and then stayed by my side and helped with whatever I needed. He cried for my husband just like I did.

I think that in this world where everyone is focused
on the bottom line, I saw what the Knights are
truly about. They were there for me when
I needed them the most.

— Beverly Buchanan*

*Based on an actual letter. Names have been altered to preserve anonymity.

To find your local Knights of Columbus agent, select "Find an Agent" at KOFC.org, or call 1-800-345-5632.

Knights of Columbus Insurance
A++ (Superior) A.M. Best;
AAA (Extremely Strong) Standard & Poor's;
IMSA Certified.

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.

Super spellers

Courtesy Photo

Jeff Varner, anchor and reporter for Fox8 WGHP, stands with spelling bee finalists from St. Pius X School in Winston-Salem who participated in the Guilford County Independent School Spelling Bee, held at the Piedmont School in High Point Feb. 13. Varner moderated the spelling bee.

Pictured are Jackson Hamrick, Brian Clarke, Varner and Miranda Cecil.

Jackson, 13, came in second in the competition, which was open to third- through eighth-graders.

Courtesy Photo

Winners of the spelling bee at St. Michael School in Gastonia are pictured in the school gymnasium, where the bee was held Feb. 22. First place went to seventh-grader Nicole Rivera-Wilson (seated left); runner-up was sixth-grader Jite Sido (seated right). Also pictured are the classroom winners: (standing, from left) third-grader Michael Caulfield, fifth-grader Brooke Maddie, eighth-grader James Collier and fourth-grader Preston Marisiddaiah.

Nicole will go on to compete against students from other Gaston County schools in the Gaston Gazette Spelling Bee to be held at Gaston College March 15.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 **Charlotte** (704) 795-9349 **Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Classifieds

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!

Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)

Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication

How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to: Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

CAMPUS MINISTER

We are currently accepting applications for the position of campus minister in the Diocese of Richmond for 2007-2008. Positions are available for priests, religious or laypersons. Pastoral experience and a graduate degree in theology or a related discipline required. For further information about this ministry, visit the Web site at www.richmonddiocese.org/cyam and contact Sr. Diane Guy at 804.359.5661.

Principal – Catholic Elementary School Chantilly, Virginia

St. Veronica Catholic School, a K through 8th-grade school located in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is currently seeking a principal starting in the 2007-2008 school year. St. Veronica is a medium-size parish with a growing school population. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school, as well as assist in developing long range goals.

For more information about this exciting opportunity and for instructions on how to apply, please visit the St. Veronica parish website at: http://www2.stveronica.net/principal.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Room at the Inn, a maternity and after-care program in Charlotte, NC, is seeking a passionate advocate and talented, experienced leader as its next Executive Director. Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm life from the moment of conception, Room at the Inn seeks to help young women and children move toward a new life of hopeful, independent, and healthy living by providing a safe haven for single, pregnant mothers and their children, born and unborn.

Under the direction of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will perform a range of management activities in the oversight of a pre- and post-natal residential facility, on-site counseling services, a college outreach program and an extended after-care program. The Executive Director will use considerable independent judgment in decisions that influence areas of organizational operation and will advise the Board of Directors in planning and policy matters. Initially, the director will be extensively involved in a capital campaign scheduled to launch publicly in summer 2007.

The successful candidate will have proven leadership and managerial skills, demonstrated ability to develop key external relationships, compassion, ability to relate to people of diverse backgrounds, and financial management skills that include the ability to clearly communicate budget, revenue and expenditures. Outstanding communication skills and comfort level with public interaction are essential. Bachelor's degree required and at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Background in the non-profit sector and/or maternity home management is a plus.

Candidates may submit a letter of interest and resume to Ellen Linares, President, Board of Directors, Room at the Inn, 6235 Morrison Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28211 or to RATISearch@carolina.rr.com. Applications and nominations will be accepted until March 16, 2007.

Room at the Inn

Girmay tackles geography

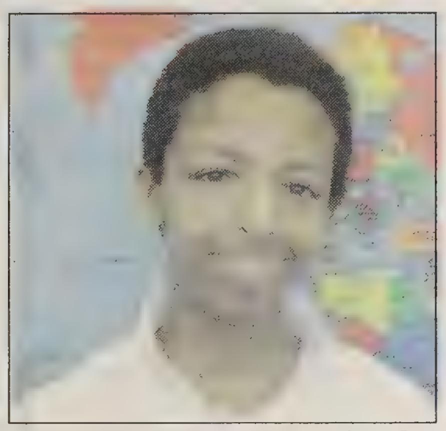
Student wins first place in state Beta Club competition

GASTONIA — Zachy Girmay, an eighth-grade student at St. Michael School in Gastonia, recently won top honors in a geography competition, part of the 15th annual North Carolina Junior Beta Club state convention in Greensboro Feb. 5-6.

During the convention, students participated in workshops, general sessions, and scholastic and artistic competitions.

Zachy, who took first place in the geography competition, is eligible to compete in the national competition to be held in Washington, D.C.

The National Beta Club promotes character, develops leadership skills, encourages service involvement, recognizes achievement and provides technological advantages to students in grades 5-12.



Courtesy Photo

Zachy Girmay, an eighth-grade student at St. Michael School in Gastonia, won first place in the geography competition at the annual North Carolina Junior Beta Club state convention in Greensboro Feb. 5-6.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

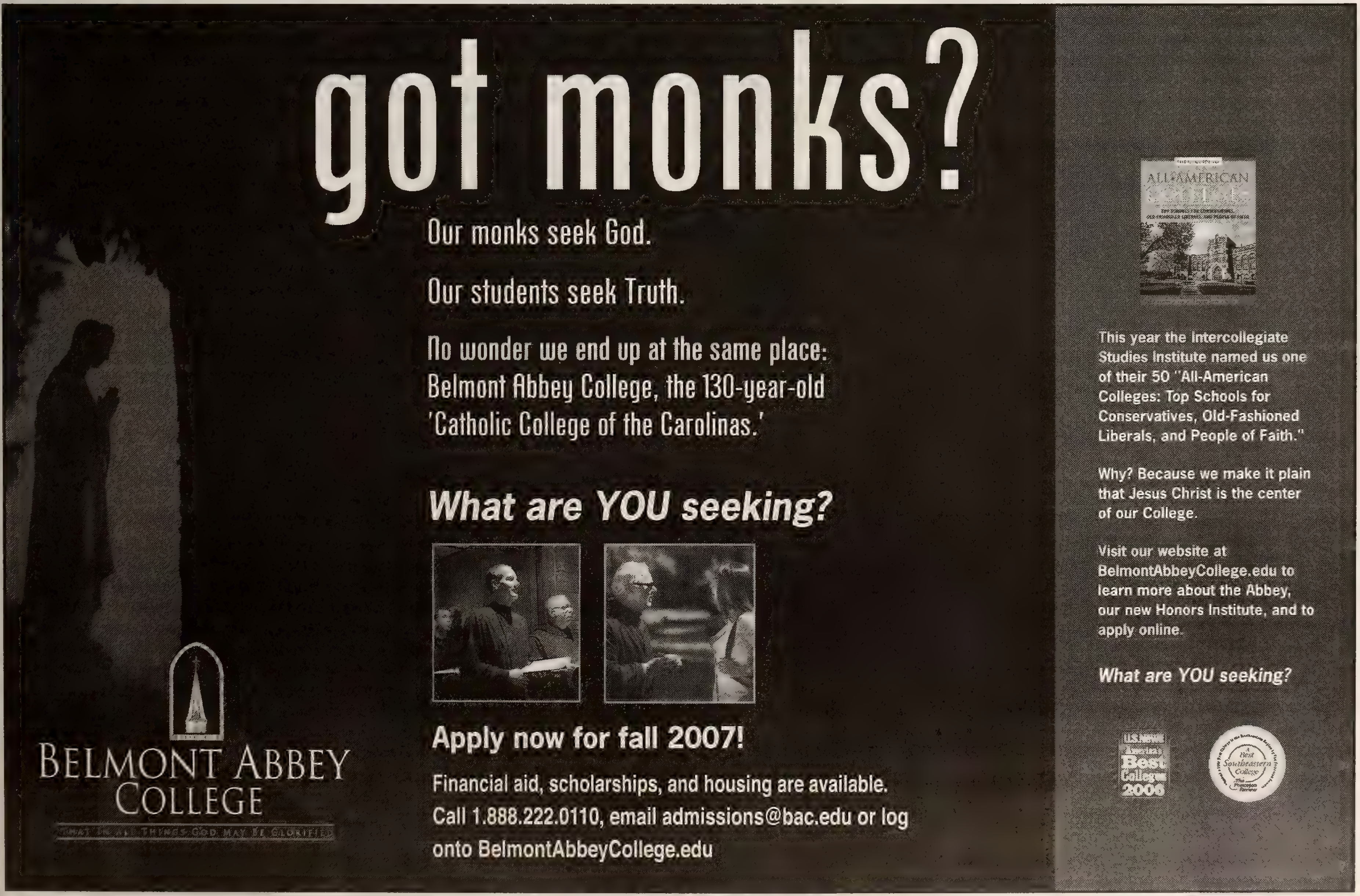
Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their Catholic faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us for publication in your diocesan newspaper. Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

A gathering of winners

Courtesy Photo

Karen Graves (right), social studies teacher, is pictured with the fourth-through-eighth-grade classroom winners who competed in a geography bee at St. Pius X School in Winston-Salem Jan. 11. Pictured are (front row, from left) first-place winner Patrick Boyd, runner-up Marty DeFrancesco, Lauren Watson, (back row, from left) Adrienne Hooper, Ginger Barry, Brittany Simpson, Sophia Pavone, Carly Kreber, Naveed Foroudi and Graves.



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place: Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old 'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available. Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

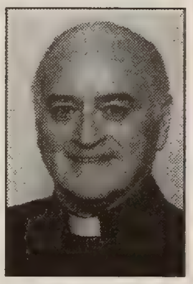
ALL-AMERICAN
U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006
A Best Southeastern College
The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

What you need is trust

Faith, joy dispel fear, doubt



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

"Fear is useless, what you need is trust"(Mk 5:36).

The Christian message tells us to trust Jesus more and not to be afraid. It is so easy to get caught in fear. The Lord instructs us to be more trusting of his love.

This doesn't mean we will be entirely free of worry. There is real, objective danger out there. Fear was a constant companion of the saints, but they did not give in to it.

Even Jesus was terrified at times. His agony in the garden reminds us of his vulnerability. However, Jesus and all the saints prayed to the Father for peace, joy and strength.

Dorothy Day, who is now being considered for canonization, tells of a time when she and a friend were coming from Mass. Suddenly objects came whizzing past their ears. At first Day thought they were snowballs, but when another one flew past her friend Judith Gregory cried out, "That was meant for us."

They were targeted with hard-boiled eggs. Afraid to turn back for fear they would be hit in the face, they walked faster. When she arrived home, Day wrote in her diary:

"I should have been delighted, as Charles de Foucauld was when he was pelted in the streets of Nazareth, but my feeling was one of fear. I'm glad because it helps me to understand the fear that is eating at the hearts of the people in the world today.

"No one is safe. We are no longer protected by the oceans separating us from the rest of the world."

The important thing is that Day prayed to be delivered from her fear just as Jesus did that fateful night in the garden. She prayed specifically for the love that casts out fear.

Here again are her words, "I pray to grow in the love of God and man, and to live by this charity. ... We must love our enemy ... not because we fear him but because God loves him."

People accused Dorothy Day of being crazy because of her faithfulness to the Gospel. Her logic was strange to them, but it was always obedient to the words of Jesus.

When she felt fear she immediately turned to the Lord and prayed for protection. Then she prayed for the grace to love her assailants.

She lacked feelings of love for them, but she prayed for the grace to love them anyway. Her loyalty was to the Lord, not to her feelings.

When the Lord asks us to love our enemies, he means it literally, knowing that we cannot do it without supernatural help.

It takes great mental discipline to obey Jesus. Pray for the grace and the will power to manage your fears successfully.

Even though the Scriptures tell us that love casts out fear, we don't know how to do it very well. But love and joy are two sides of the same coin. Joy can cast out fear as well. That's why joyful thoughts help to dispel fear. The experience of God's love can be found in a joyful spirit.

Letters to the Editor

Misleading info on environmental issues

It is ironic a reference to malaria is made by Dan Misleh of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change in "Winds of Change" (Feb. 23). Maybe you should take the time to research Mr. Misleh's statement on malaria so that you may begin to understand the environmental movement and its real intent.

Malaria was almost wiped off the face of the earth until environmentalists saw the power they could wield by placing blame on human activity for things that occur naturally. With the thinning bird egg shells and other bad science reports, people such as Charles Wurster, chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund (an activist group that led the charge against banning Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trichloroethain (DDT), a pesticide used to prevent deaths from malaria), said, "If the environmentalists win on DDT, they will achieve a level of authority they have never had before. In a sense, much more is at stake than DDT" (Seattle Times, October 5, 1969).

Since DDT was banned in 1972, millions of people have died from malaria, mostly in Third World countries. There is no doubt these deaths would not have occurred if DDT was still in use.

The facts seem to take a back seat when the environment is discussed. Why don't you take the time to look at the temperatures of the earth over the last 5,000 years or so. It is amazing what you will see when you look at the big picture and not just a small snapshot that tells only part of the story.

The theory that humans cause climate change is only a theory and has no scientific experiments to back it up.

— Joel Raines
Spartanburg S.C.

What the pope got right about Islam

Removing disdain for God, sacred is way to common ground

Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST

President Bush proclaims that Iraq is a central front in the war on terror. Not everyone agrees, however, that Sept. 11 and Iraq should be conflated.

But let us take the president at his word. If he is right, we are now in the sixth year of war. Do we — even at this late date — have a grasp of what provokes the enemy?

America has a pervasive influence on world culture. It is not always an influence for the good. In a new book ("The Enemy at Home"), Dinesh D'Souza makes the case that we show our worst side to the world through motion pictures and television programs.

With Oscars and Golden Globes, we lionize and export portrayals of America that are saturated with violence, lust and hate. There is little regard for the welfare of others or the stewardship of the natural environment.

Most of us want to believe that this is not the real America, but D'Souza argues that the self-distortion is enough to set off the trip wire of radical Islam.

D'Souza's point is an interesting one, but his thesis is marred by partisan finger-pointing. In reality there is enough blame to go around for abortion, no-fault divorce and support for gay marriage.

D'Souza also understates more proximate irritants such as U.S. military bases in Saudi Arabia, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and past or present American support for Muslim fanatics, including at one time Osama Bin Laden himself.

Nevertheless, D'Souza is definitely on to something when he points out that the authentic Christian or Jew in America has more in common with a traditional Islamist than meets the eye. The real credit for this insight goes to Pope Benedict XVI, who in a series of dialogues has been proposing a way for Islam to coexist in peace with America and the rest of the world.

In 2004, well before his elevation to the papacy, then-Cardinal Ratzinger observed:

"It has been said that we must not speak of God in the European Constitution because we must not offend Muslims and the faithful of other religions. The opposite is true. What offends Muslims and the faithful of other religions is not talking about God or our Christian roots, but rather the disdain for God and the sacred. [This disdain] ... expresses the arrogance of diminished, reduced reason, which provokes fundamentalist reactions."

The pope admires Islam's certainty of faith, which disavows the kind of cultural relativism depicted over and over again in American media. Such relativism is a denial of the truth of the human person as a transcendent being with significant duties as well as rights.

In this regard, Hollywood is not the only villain. Millions of abortions and astronomical rates of divorce are tragic realities, not merely celluloid fictions.

At the same time, as the pope's lecture last September in Regensburg, Germany, demonstrated, he is uncompromising in identifying Islam's weakness: an unwillingness to unambiguously renounce violence. In this, the pope might well agree with President Bush that the violence occurring in Iraq is indeed part and parcel of the same cause that lay beneath Sept. 11: namely, from the Muslim perspective, a desire to suppress the morally repugnant depictions (or unfortunate realities) of America through a coerced Islamization of society.

President Bush has chosen to meet force with force. The way forward charted by the pope is different. Pope Benedict proposes that America and the West engage Islam not in military battle or even as a theological "clash of civilizations," but on the common ground of created humanity.

For America, this includes both disavowing R-rated portrayals of Western culture as more interested in vice than virtue and then acting in a way that genuinely reaffirms certain truths held self-evident.

With all the media attention over so-called "global warming" as evidenced by Joseph Purello ("The virtuous life and the call to stewardship of creation," Feb. 23), I find it ironic that Milwaukee is experiencing below-zero temperatures as indicated in the photo of the statue of Jesus that appears to be shivering ("Shivering statue?" Feb. 23).

The earth's climate has changed in a cyclical manner throughout its history. To suggest that man is the primary cause of global warming is ludicrous.

— Holly Demick
Huntersville

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Submitted items become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print and electronic formats.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The Blessing Book

Life and all its everyday gifts are to be embraced, treasured

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

A friend of mine went through a crisis when her child experienced an episode of mental illness. It was a tough time for the whole family.

She was a longtime friend and a woman I knew to be a person of abiding faith, so it wasn't surprising when she told me one of the things that had helped her the most during her time of trouble.

She kept a little notebook by her bedside. It was her "Blessing Book," and each night before going to bed she would record the blessings she had been given that day. She was always able to find gifts even, and sometimes especially, in the hardest day.

Her blessing book ended up being a blessing to me.

Every day carries with many chances to encounter God and to learn more about our own life and its purpose. The journey is worthy of reflection, and what better time to do it than at the end of the day?

For years I've been interested in the spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola. The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius, who founded the Jesuit order, have experienced great popularity in the last few years.

Many books have been written about how ordinary people can benefit from the exercises, learning to be "contemplatives in action" and "people for others."

One thing Ignatian spirituality stresses is the idea of an "examen." An examen is an examination of our day, often done at the end of the day before bedtime.

I found the examen a hard concept to embrace because I thought of it as an examination of conscience, and that brought up the idea of sin and guilt. I have a tough enough time going to sleep at night without trying to recall all the things I regretted doing during the day.

My husband's head hits the pillow and I hear him begin to snore quietly within seconds. I lie awake for half an hour replaying the events of my day as if I'm watching a tennis match in my head.

So I shied away from the "examen." Until a spiritual director explained to me that the whole idea of an examen at night wasn't to see where I had gone wrong during the day. Rather, it was to see where God had been in my life during the day.

Ah — a change of focus. It's not all about me. It's about God — God present in every moment of my day.

Sometimes in looking at where we most experienced God we may recognize a time when we didn't respond to God as we should have or weren't open to the Christ we met in others. But mostly we experience gratitude to God through the examen and a deeper understanding of the mystery of faith in our lives.

So now, thanks in part to my friend, I have a "Blessing Book" and a pen by my bedside. Some nights I have a lot to write: the sweetness of a child's embrace; the kindness of someone going out of her way to tell me I've done a good job; a husband's joke over the phone; a long-distance call from a child in college to say he did well on a test; sunshine glittering on snow.

Sometimes I have to dig a little deeper for the blessing. What is the gift, the lesson, in an elderly mother moving to a new, harder stage of Alzheimer's?

But my blessing book reminds me that all is gift. And if my friend could find blessings during her struggle, I can too.

Discipleship and the Stations of the Cross

Lent is a way to pray, renew our commitment to Jesus

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

I was fairly well along in years — about age 60, I guess — when I received a letter from an elderly nun who said I would not know her, but that she remembered seeing me as a young child.

She was writing from Camilla Hall, the retirement community and assisted-living facility for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters in suburban Philadelphia. What prompted her to write, she said, was that she had seen my photograph and name in print occasionally, reminding her of the days when she was a very young nun assigned to teach in the parochial school of the parish where I lived.

The parish church (Immaculate Conception in the Germantown section of Philadelphia) was large and architecturally impressive, she reminded me. She recalled seeing my mother, a young widow with two pre-school toddlers in hand (my older brother and me), making the Stations of the Cross there.

Those were the Depression years. Religious faith was strong in our neighborhood, but economic insecurity was widespread. Some neighbors lost their homes. Others had difficulty paying bills. Some few had trouble putting food on the table.

But neighborhood life was positive, even happy, due in no small measure to our vibrant Vincentian parish with its excellent parochial school.

The point this retired sister wanted to make with me was that she drew strength as a young nun in meeting her commitment to a religious vocation by simply seeing my mother make the Stations of the Cross.

Lent is a time when many renew their commitment to discipleship by retracing the Way of the Cross, not in order to be seen by others — although there is something to be said for that — but simply to impress upon themselves the meaning of discipleship and the importance of the words, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk 9:23).

Last summer I gave a youth retreat to about 75 high school boys and girls in Bethel, Alaska. We had talks and liturgies in the parish church, and discussions and games in the parish hall.

I wanted to encourage the teens to walk with the Lord in prayer as he made his Way of the Cross, but I noticed that the Stations were mounted high on the side walls of the church, certainly out of reach and practically out of sight of the youths.

I suggested to the pastor that he might consider lowering them to a shoulder-high level where those making a prayerful walk within the walls of the church could see the path that Jesus took, look into the faces of those who accompanied him, friend and foe alike, and resolve to follow him more closely on their own walk through life.

In Houston, Texas, on the campus of the University of St. Thomas there is a beautiful chapel with unusual Stations of the Cross. They are all indentations or insets on a side wall.

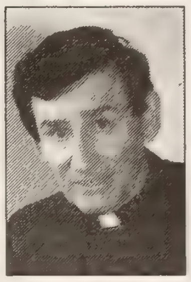
The figures are, in effect, scooped out of the wall; only the impressions remain to guide the devotion of those who pause to pray.

Lent is in its own devotional way a pause to pray. I hope mine will be a pause that renews my commitment to discipleship.

And that, I think, is something I can surely say I learned from my mother, although she never spelled it out in words.

Keeping a marriage together

The Human Side



FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Marriage and family life are under pressure. In the United States, 51 percent of women reported in 2005 that they live without a spouse, according to the New York Times.

Several years ago, working with the family institute at Jesuit-run Creighton University, we studied the benefits of living together as a family and learned that:

1. Cohabitation unions tend to be short-lived, with half of them ending within a year.

2. Being married tends to make couples live longer.

3. Stable family life leads to better education, higher household income and often a better chance of children entering into a happy relationship themselves.

4. Accepting the decline of marriage as inevitable means giving up on far too many of our children.

Sometimes separation and civil divorce occur because couples need to protect their mental, spiritual and/or physical life; these couples measure a conclusion that they weren't meant for each other against the pain of staying together. Having passed the halfway mark in broken marriages, however, the question arises, "Is this an irreversible trend and if so, what needs to be accomplished to reverse it?"

Marriage is not only an intimate relationship with another but requires a lifetime of adjustment to each other and especially to the pressures of society and raising children. To keep marriages together, couples need to cultivate a new asceticism that strengthens them in the practice of making reality checks.

The first reality check is to accept that they need to work diligently against new forces that blur the wholesomeness of marriage. Their entertainment world has accepted the decline of marriage, turning infidelity, divorce, separation and same-sex marriage into entertainment.

Couples need to be aware that if they passively accept this false reality, it can harm the reality they are striving to live.

A second reality check involves moving beyond cosmetic, superficial appearances that the advertising world exalts to a realization that marriage is about two unique human beings. It is about understanding the unique significance of another very significant person.

The words "I do" in the marriage ceremony are a beginning — just the start of knowing what it means to make this kind of commitment to the other as a human being.

The love in marriage is beautiful, no doubt about it. But couples would do well to keep aware of what marriage really means and what a spouse is.

AN INVITATION TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Come join us for a Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College!
Sunday, March 25 2 pm–6 pm

"TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST"

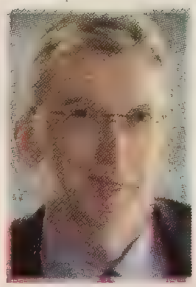
—I COR 2:2

Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to join them for the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Lenten Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at exit 26).

2007
Diocese of Charlotte
IHS
Eucharistic Congress
TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

Bishop Peter Jugis

Abbot Placid Solari



Dr. William Thierfelder

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Peter Jugis, Bishop, Diocese of Charlotte; Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; and Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College.

Your day also will include:

- Campus tours
- Praise and worship music
- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Pledge to the Holy Spirit
- Vespers with Monks of Belmont Abbey
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

(Bring a bag dinner to eat together at event's conclusion)

Information at www.GoEucharist.com

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MARCH 9, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 21

Perspectives

David Hains examines the commercialization of doubt; Father Dietzen answers questions on penance and baptism

| PAGES 14-15

A credit to their service

:SS receives national :creditation

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Clients Catholic Social Services 'SS) in the Diocese of iarlotte can now be certain ey are receiving services that eet best practice standards.

CSS recently received creditation from the Council Accreditation (COA), one of ee national institutions that aluate how organizations ve the needs of their clients d staff.

COA looks at the standards every service offered, and ministration aspects from cal responsibility to board vernance, said Elizabeth iurbee, executive director r CSS in the Diocese Charlotte.

Over the course of a ar, CSS evaluated every partment to assess how

See CSS, page 5

COURTESY PHOTO

Tania Castillero-Hoeller (pictured left), program director for the Latino Family Center in High Point, makes a home visit to a family in the High Point area. The center is one of the programs of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte, which recently received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation.

Renewed and reconciled

Lenten messages stress ties with God, combating social problems

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Using imagery such as "spring training" and "hunger for justice," U.S. bishops are promoting Lent as a way of strengthening personal ties with God and grappling with social problems harming human dignity.

In separate messages, many bishops listed social issues for Lenten action. These included immigration reform, an end to the death penalty and helping children in need ranging from victims of sex abuse to orphans of war.

Messages also emphasized the link between Lent and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis said St. Paul's reading from the Ash

See LENT, page 12

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

stian Iraqi refugees Nadera Mansour and her husband, Salah, are seen with their ghter, Lina, 19, in their rented apartment in Amman, Jordan, Feb. 13. Caritas an provided mattresses, blankets and also the kerosene heater seen in this to. The Catholic aid group also gave Lina care for a medical problem.

Searching for hope

Church aid officials say influx of Iraqis puts burden on Jordan

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

AMMAN, Jordan — The enormous influx of Iraqis over the past five years has put a large burden on Jordan, said church aid officials trying to help the refugees.

Though official estimates put the number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan at about 1 million, Catholic groups working with the refugees say that number is closer to 1.5 million.

"Overall the situation is very difficult," said Ra'ed Bahou, director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman. "Most of the refugees are very poor, and this country does not have the resources" to deal with the situation.

The arrival of the Iraqi refugees in this landlocked nation of some 5 million people

See AMMAN, page 8

Lobbying for life

Archbishop says vote to OK cloning of human embryos regrettable

BY ANNE MARIE COX
AND LISA BOURNE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DES MOINES, Iowa — Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque reacted with "deep sadness" after the Iowa House of Representatives Feb. 22 passed a bill to allow the cloning of human embryos for research.

See CLONING, page 7

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese

Faith formation students raise funds to fight hunger

| PAGE 4

In the News

Catholic health care; legal fight over faith-based initiative

| PAGE 6

Culture Watch

Pope's writings to be published; musician's faith

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

GETTING IN THEIR KICKS

CNS photo by Tony Gentile, Reuters

Jose Modolo from the Pontifical Gregorian University shoots during the first match of the Clericus Cup tournament in Rome Feb. 24. Seminarians from 50 countries studying in Rome were competing in the new soccer tournament, in which the Pontifical North American College took the first victory March 3.

U.S. seminarians win opening soccer match amid prayers, high suspense

ROME (CNS) — The goal was a bullet into the net, and as his cheering teammates mobbed Daniel O'Mullane it seemed like a World Cup celebration.

O'Mullane had just led Pontifical North American College to a dramatic first-round victory in the 16-team Clericus Cup, the soccer tournament exclusively for priests and seminarians in Rome.

The North American College squad beat the highly touted Pontifical Urbanian University 4-3 March 3 in a shootout after regular time ended in a 0-0 tie. When O'Mullane made the final shot, pandemonium erupted among the 60 or so U.S. flag-waving fans who watched from the sidelines.

"I felt some pressure. I'd never been in that position before," O'Mullane said after the match.

The 25-year-old seminarian, a native of England and a naturalized U.S. citizen, is co-captain of the North American College squad, which calls itself the North American Martyrs.

Urbanian College, an institution for seminarians from mission countries, fielded a mostly African team that was strong and swift, with several experienced players. But the Martyrs, who had trained extensively in previous weeks, seemed to play better as a team.

In the first half the Martyrs had five shots on goal, including one blast that bounced off the crossbar, provoking groans from the college's cheering section. There were fewer scoring opportunities in the second half, but the Martyrs continued to play tough defense.

As Msgr. James Checchio, rector of the North American College, paced nearby, the teams lined up for the shootout of five kicks each. The first Martyrs shooter bounced one off the crossbar. Urbanian had the lead briefly, but one of its players sent a shot sailing over the net.

Then with the shootout deadlocked at 2-2, Martyrs goalie Andrew Roza made a brilliant save, just getting a hand on a sharp skidding shot. O'Mullane's winning goal came two kicks later.

Fans could see this was a different kind of tournament when both teams huddled for midfield prayers before each half. Martyrs benchwarmers occasionally spent time reading from the breviary or "The Shorter Book of Blessings."

A crew from the British Broadcasting Corp. was there to film the event. The Clericus Cup, which ends in June, has already drawn an unexpected amount of media attention — something Martyrs players are happy about, in part because it reveals a different side of seminary life.

"This soccer tournament is not all about winning. First and foremost it's about evangelization," said Josh Waltz, a seminarian from Bismarck, N.D.

"The overall principle is to show the world charity through sports — and to have fun," he said.

At U.N., Vatican official discusses exploitation of women, girls

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — When women are considered inferior beings, they face increased risks of exploitation, abuse and even death, said the Vatican's permanent observer at the United Nations.

"The inferior status bestowed upon women in certain places and upon female infants in particular" makes them particularly vulnerable, Archbishop Celestino Migliore told the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women March 2.

"In some local traditions, they are thought of as a financial burden and are thus eliminated even before birth," he said. "In this way, abortion, often considered a tool of liberation, is ironically employed by women against women."

Those who are allowed to live, he said, are often treated as a piece of property to be disposed of as soon as possible, contributing to a system in which marriage is simply a cover for "sexual exploitation and slave labor."

The phenomenon of "mail-order brides" is similar, he said.

Any circumstance in which a girl or woman is treated as property and given or sold is a violation of her basic rights to dignity, freedom, health and security, the archbishop said.

"Raising awareness is a simple and effective means to combat this phenomenon at the local level," he said.

"Rural villages where the search for employment impels girls to seek work elsewhere need to know as a community how to deal openly with risks to their young people," said Archbishop Migliore.

Archbishop Migliore said that recognition of the dignity and equality of women cannot be achieved without "a fresh appreciation of authentically feminine values in the heart of ou societies."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage, meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for March 17 will be "A Lesson in Demography." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Church* will have an informational meeting on the Eastern Rite at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., March 18 at 10 a.m. Mass will follow at 11 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Deacon Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. will have *eucharistic adoration* Fridays during Lent following the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 12 p.m. Benediction will follow with Mass at 12:10 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 12:45 p.m. A sign-up book will be available in the Church narthex. Call (803) 517-2600 with questions.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* March 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Msgr. John McSweeney will speak on the Trinity. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, cal Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The South Charlotte Cursill movement welcomes all to join us for faith fellowship and food at our *Weekend Ultreya* i the family room of St. Matthew Church, 801 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 18, 12- p.m. Lisa Wilson will give an inspirational talk o "Practicing Holiness in Everyday Life." There wil be a potluck lunch. Babysitting will be availabl with early reservations. For more information, cal Paul Mitchell at (704) 841-9441.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Pete Church's weekday lunchtime spirituality program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Annex 507 S. Tryon St. The program for March 15 wil be *"With Jesus in the Desert: Praying throug Darkness into Light."* Bring your lunch, hear short talk on spirituality and participate in a shor prayer session — a great way to recharge durin the workweek. Sessions are free and everyon is invited. For more information, call the churc office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiette will be awarding a *$1,000 scholarship* in memor of Gene Marie Alfaro to a graduating high schoo senior who will pursue a career in the nursin or health care field. The application deadline i April 10 and the scholarship will be awarded i May. For more information, call Diana Congdo at (704) 814-0624.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholi women of Irish birth or descent, or who ar the wife of a member of the Ancient Order o Hibernians are invited to participate in *the Ladie Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultur and charitable group for an ongoing series o fun and informative activities. LAOH will mee March 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center o St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please joi

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MARCH 9, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 21

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Chur St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks duri June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per ye for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserv the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deem appropriate. We do not recommend or guarant any product, service or benefit claimed our advertisers. Second-class postage paid Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTE Send address corrections to The Catho News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlot NC 28237.

AWARD WINNER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION 2000

FROM THE VATICAN

Cardinal: Antichrist tempts Christians to place dialogue above Jesus

VATICANCITY(CNS)—Christians empted to set aside their belief in Christ is the only savior in order to promote lialogue with others are being tempted by the Antichrist, retired Italian Cardinal Giacomo Biffi told Pope Benedict XVI.

Cardinal Biffi, who has been leading a Feb. 25-March 3 retreat for the pope and op Vatican officials, cited as "prophetic" a warning about the modern guises of he Antichrist presented in the work of Vladimir Solovyev, a 19th-century Russian philosopher.

The cardinal, who wrote the introduction to an anthology of Solovyev's work, said the philosopher's most important message was that Christianity cannot be educed to a collection of values.

In one of the philosopher's works, Cardinal Biffi told the pope, "the Antichrist presents himself as a pacifist, ecologist and ecumenist. He convokes an ecumenical council and seeks the consensus of all he Christian confessions, conceding something to each one. The crowds follow him, except for tiny groups of Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants. Chased by the Antichrist, they tell him, 'You have given us everything except for the one thing that interests us, Jesus Christ.'"

Cardinal Biffi said the account should be taken as a warning.

"Today, in fact, we run the risk of having a Christianity that puts Jesus with his cross and resurrection into parentheses," he said.

The cardinal said that if the church were to speak about only those values that it shares with others it would find great acceptance "on televisions shows," but "we would have renounced Christ."

If Christians set aside their belief that salvation comes only through Christ, he said, they may find dialogue with others easier, but they will have denied their obligation to share the Gospel and will have placed themselves "on the side of the Antichrist."

Women chip Vatican's glass ceiling with increased numbers, influence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the number of women working in the Roman Curia has steadily increased, with rare exceptions they have not broken through to the upper levels.

Six months ago Pope Benedict XVI said that, leaving aside the ordained priesthood, women need to "make their own space" in the church and that the hierarchy shouldn't stand in their way.

The pope expressed satisfaction that women today were "very present in the departments of the Holy See." But he noted one problem: The power to make legally binding decisions in the Roman Curia is linked to holy orders.

That means the top two positions in each Vatican agency are filled by cardinals and bishops.

In a 2004 breakthrough, Salesian Sister Enrica Rosanna was named an undersecretary of the Vatican congregation that deals with religious orders. That's No. 3 in the chain of command, and it made her the highest-ranking woman at the Vatican. But it didn't settle the question of whether she could exercise the power of governance in her role.

In general, the presence of women at the Vatican has increased dramatically over the last 30 years or so. Since the beginning of Pope John Paul II's pontificate in 1978, the percentage of women employees in the main Roman Curia offices — Secretariat of State, congregations and councils — has approximately doubled, from 11 percent to 21 percent.

But most women are in support staff positions and have little decision-making input. And there are whole sectors of the Vatican that still have no women: the tribunal system, for example.

The Vatican's diplomatic corps also remains all-male and all-clerical. The thinking is that these men are not only diplomats, but personal representatives of the pope to the local church and therefore should be ordained.

Among the top curial departments, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments is the only one with no women employees.

The agency with the most significant female presence is the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, where women make up about half the staff and fill some of the most important positions.

Strangely, women remain a small minority — about 10 percent — in the ranks of consultors to Vatican agencies. These are experts around the world who advise the congregations or councils on matters under study, and who generally come to the Vatican once or twice a year for meetings.

Some sources noted that while attention is often given to the men-women ratio at the Vatican another slow but significant shift has occurred in the number of lay employees in the Curia.

Laypeople now represent about 38 percent of employees in major curial agencies, numbering close to 300 people. Fifty years ago, half of the 12 Vatican congregations had no laypeople on their staffs; among the handful of laity who did work there at the time, none were women.

s for refreshments and to learn more about ur group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336)785-0693.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and chool, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. essions will be held on the first Thursday of ie month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. The group will be facilitated by parishioner and fe coach Lucy Wellmaker. The purpose of the roup is to create a time and a space for women o better connect with their inner wisdom and nove forward on their journey in life. For more information or to register call Lucy (336) 32-1940 or email coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

ICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — Father Robert Ferris leads a *ectionary Bible Study* at St. Aloysius Church, 921 econd St., Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. nyone interested is welcome to attend. This study repares participants for the following Sunday's Mass by reading and studying the liturgical readings or the next week. For more information on this udy, contact Kathy Succop at (828) 327-2341 or alscoordinator@charter.net.

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second t. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, ut come to a deeper understanding of their faith n a setting that builds Christian fellowship. vening and daytime classes meet at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays :30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call nn Miller at (828) 441-2205, or e-mail alscss@charter.net.

ALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will have a parish mission March 12-14 at 7:30 p.m. Father Fred Pompei will present *"Who We Are,"* focusing on Catholic lentity. For more information, call the church ffice at (704) 664-3992.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Anne Gannon will speak on "Companions on the Journey" at the March 14 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 13 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

March 15 — 5 p.m.
Respect Life Mass
mmaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

March 17 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

March 18 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington

Going green

CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

A statue of St. Patrick holding a shamrock is seen inside St. Patrick's Church in Victor, N.Y. Legend says that he used the shamrock to describe the Trinity to those he sought to convert.

His feast day is March 17.

The 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and "Charlotte Goes Green" festival will take place in uptown Charlotte March 17. Many local Catholic schools and organizations typically participate in the parade. The festival will feature Irish music, food and culture, among other attractions.

For more information, visit www.charlottestpatsday.com.

CORRECTION

The March 2, 2007 issue stated that St. Pius X School is in Winston-Salem. St. Pius X School and Church are in Greensboro. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

Children raise funds to fight hunger

MINT HILL — Children in Mint Hill are doing their part to fight hunger.

The fourth-grade faith formation class at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill recently raised $75 for Heifer International, a charitable organization based in Little Rock, Ark., that works in 50 countries throughout the world.

The charity provides livestock to the poor, offering a sustainable resource for individuals, families and villages to support themselves. Recipients are required to share some of the offspring of their animals with their neighbors in community-building gestures.

During Advent, the class raised the money to help purchase a "hope basket" of rabbits, chickens and a flock of ducks to provide food and income for a family. The gifts provided by Heifer International are varied and tailored to the locale. They include honeybees, water buffalo, heifers, llamas, goats, sheep and silkworms, among other food and income-producing animals.

The third-grade faith formation class is working toward buying a goat from World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization, to help an impoverished family.

"The children are performing chores and jobs to earn money to collect this money," said Martha Hannah, parish faith formation coordinator.

By the end of February, the children had already collected $50 toward their $120 goal.

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the fourth-grade faith formation class at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, along with their teachers Chris Mann and Robert Blasko, are pictured Feb. 14 with a catalog for Heifer International. Children pictured are Devin Way, Wesley Mullen, Cayman Starnes, Logan McMahan, Nicole Jarvis and Jenna Marrocco.

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the third-grade faith formation class at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, along with teachers Jackie Leatherman and Lisa Holiday, are pictured Feb. 14 holding a bag of money they are collecting for World Vision. Children pictured are Stephen DeLuca, Jessica Leatherman, Jessica Prince, Shelby Hudyma, Taylor Blythe, Erin Kisiel, Anastasia Saavedra-Bryan and Gabrielle Ventrano.

2007

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

Mark your calendar now
for the third
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress –
Charlotte Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

Visit the Web site
www.GoEucharist.com
often for the latest updated
information about programs and
speakers, as well as opportunities
to volunteer.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

New Pennybyrn
at Maryfield Cottages
Going Fast.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield cottages let you have it all.

A Pennybyrn at Maryfield cottage is a superb choice for those wanting to secure a full-service retirement lifestyle and still experience the feel of a residential neighborhood.

These charming two-bedroom, two-bath cottages range from 1,458 to 1,710 square feet and are available in three floor plans. Each is smartly appointed with fully equipped kitchens, bright, open interiors, generous storage and important safety features. Two of the floor plans feature a garage and all have an inviting porch. A range of standard and upgrade interior options is available in kitchen and bath cabinetry, countertops, carpet and appliances.

With sponsorship by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, Pennybyrn at Maryfield is the culmination of 60 years of rich history, quality service and excellent reputation. The cottages are just one component of the new 71-acre Pennybyrn full-service retirement community now under construction on the Maryfield campus. Scheduled to open in the Fall, Pennybyrn at Maryfield will also offer gracious apartment residences, superior amenities, unparalleled services and the provision of on-site assisted living and nursing care.

All the Perks in a Private Setting

"A cottage home at Pennybyrn at Maryfield offers the best of both worlds," says Pennybyrn Marketing Director Tricia Pratt. "You will be just steps away from all the activities, with easy access to Pennybyrn at Maryfield's exceptional wellness opportunities, gorgeous commons area, elegant dining, healthcare center and more. All this, in a beautiful neighborhood. As a resident, you can trust the reputation, stability and rich tradition of this faith-based community."

Only a few cottages remain.
Call today.

Already almost 85% reserved, Pennybyrn at Maryfield is filling fast, with only a few more cottages available.

Call (336) 886-4103 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 or visit the web at www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com.

NPCNH07

CSS receives national accreditation

CSS, from page 1

tuned it was to clients' needs.

"Accreditation shows that CSS is agency that makes providing the ghest possible quality of services a top iority," said Ann Kilkelly, director of evelopment for CSS.

COA is an international, independent, ot-for-profit, child- and family-service nd behavioral health care accrediting ganization. It views accreditation as catalyst for change that builds on an ganization's strengths and helps it chieve better results in all areas.

> "Accreditation shows that CSS is an agency that makes providing the highest possible quality of services a top priority."
>
> — Ann Kilkelly, CSS

"The whole process gave the staff e tools to look at the programs and ervices offered in context of best practices to ensure that clients receive the best service possible," Thurbee said.

As part of the accreditation process, CSS developed a system to allow clients to give feedback about their experiences with CSS.

For one week each quarter, clients are asked to fill out a survey that is printed in their native language. The results are then given to staff and board members.

"We use this information to make improvements and changes," Thurbee said.

In addition, staff members have had the opportunity to receive outside recognition for and evaluation of their work, she said.

CSS is one of very few accredited agencies in North Carolina that offer so large a scope of services, Thurbee said.

"We are meeting a standard of excellence in terms of confidentiality and outcomes," said Lori Fox, counseling supervisor for CSS in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"We're now able to judge the effectiveness of our work and whether or not we are meeting our goals," Fox said.

Courtesy Photo

Karen Clanton, a counselor with New Horizons Program for Children and Families, tells stories to children during a cooking class for guardians enrolled in New Horizons, one of the many services offered by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The next step for CSS will be applying for accreditation by the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

The Hague convention is an international treaty created to ensure that intercountry adoptions are in the best interests of children and to prevent abduction, exploitation, sale or trafficking of children. The United States signed this treaty in March 1994.

CSS applied for Hague accreditation in November 2006 and expects to be accredited by December 2007.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?
Go online at www.cssnc.org

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Catholic Social Services provides a variety of services to about 18,000 clients in western North Carolina, including pregnancy support and domestic and international adoption.

DID YOU KNOW?

— CSS is one of 1,600 accredited agencies in the U.S.
— CSS is one of 60 accredited agencies in North Carolina
— CSS serves about 18,000 clients each year in the Diocese of Charlotte
— CSS serves people of all ages, religions and races
— CSS services include:
Domestic adoption
International adoption
Pregnancy support
Counseling
Hispanic services
Immigration services
Youth services
Elder ministry
Marriage preparation
Respect life
Natural family planning
Refugee resettlement
Justice and peace education and advocacy
Economic development

SENIORS' SPRING FLING
Sponsored by CSS Elder Ministries
Two dates and locations to choose from!

Thurs., April 26th - St. Mark, Huntersville
10 am to 4 pm: Closing Mass with Bishop Jugis
Registration deadline: April 18th

Thurs., May 3rd - Catholic Conference Ctr., Hickory
9 am - 3:30 pm: Closing Mass with Fr. Edward Sheridan
Registration deadline: April 19th

Your day will be filled with live entertainment, fellowship, Mass, lunch with friends, chair massages, line dancing, crafts, bingo, door prizes and more!

Call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220 or
Sherill Beason (704) 370-3228.

Cost: $12 includes lunch.
Limited space available. Register NOW!

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Panelists at ethics meeting discuss what makes health care Catholic

CHICAGO (CNS) — A declining number of vowed religious in the hallways or fewer crucifixes on the walls do not make Catholic hospitals any less Catholic, as long as they continue their mission to serve the least among us, according to panelists at a conference in Chicago.

Leaders in Catholic health care and ethics discussed "Catholic Health Care as Mission" Feb. 28 to open a three-day conference on "Catholic Health Care Ethics: The Tradition and Contemporary Culture" at Loyola University Chicago in suburban Maywood.

With health care "a multibillion-dollar business," some might wonder "if we look a whole lot different than for-profit hospitals," said Brian Yanofchick, senior vice president for mission services at the Catholic Health Association.

"But we still offer a lot of services that others don't want to touch these days" because they are not profitable, he added.

"Caring for the poor is an integral part of what we do, but it creates a lot of struggles," said Patricia Cassidy, senior vice president for system development and strategy at Loyola University Health System.

"The burden is on us to make sure we give people an opportunity to understand what we are about," she said.

Listing the "unmet needs for us today in Catholic health care," Yanofchick called for greater efforts to achieve "trusting relationships" with patients, employees and other health providers in the community.

"Every horror story about how someone was not taken care of was an issue of trust," he said.

The CHA official also urged Catholic health providers to work for greater influence at the national level on issues such as the uninsured and ethics, while also working with others in the local community to provide better care for the poor.

On ethical issues, Cassidy worried that "technology is zooming ahead of ethical conversations."

"We are not ready to deal with that issue," she said, adding that everyone in Catholic health care needs to know how to respond when a specific procedure is not available to a patient because of ethical concerns and the patient says, "I can go across the street and get that done."

She also urged a greater advocacy role for Catholic health care at the national and regional level and said everyone in the workforce must be given "an opportunity to absorb our mission and to feel it and to live it."

"We are people of such privilege; it's a God-given gift to be in Catholic health care," Cassidy said. "We have to put that face on, and not (look like) the wolf is at the door."

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden

A high school that offers
Academic Excellence
through Classical Education
Self-Discipline
through Catholic Formation

(828)687-7714
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Catholic Social Services
invites you and your golfing friends to join us!
4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, March 26 - 11 a.m.
Palisades Country Club - Charlotte
13704 Grand Palisades Parkway

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Honoree: Sr. Eileen McLoughlin, MSBT — former CSS Counseling Supervisor

$125 fee includes cart, box lunch and dinner
Registration or information: 704-370-3232

Freedom from faith?

Court case could open door to legal fight over faith-based initiative

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a case that hinges on procedural questions of when a taxpayer has the legal standing to challenge how the administration spends money appropriated by Congress, the Supreme Court is being asked to open the door to legal fights over President George W. Bush's faith-based initiative.

The only question before the court is the fairly dry issue of whether taxpayers have standing under the Establishment Clause of the Constitution to challenge actions of the executive branch that are only indirectly financed through general appropriations by Congress.

During oral arguments Feb. 28, Solicitor General Paul Clement argued that taxpayers only have the legal standing to challenge how the administration spends money when the funds are going directly to an outside source.

Attorney Andrew Pincus, arguing on behalf of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, a group of Wisconsin-based atheists and agnostics, argued that because the meetings organized by the White House were religious in character it was unconstitutional for them to be paid for with U.S. government money.

Because the funding came from Congress and the events were religious in character, it's fair to expect taxpayers to have the right to challenge the expenditures, he said.

The foundation argues that the administration organized events as part of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to advance funding for faith-based organizations, to the detriment of nonreligious community groups that also were eligible to participate.

The complaint argued that the administration's programs to promote its faith-based and community initiatives served as "propaganda vehicles for religion," and that events were little more than religious meetings.

But a federal district court in Wisconsin dismissed the lawsuit, saying the Freedom From Religion Foundation lacked legal standing, or the right to appear in court.

The ruling said the Establishment Clause claim failed to show that the activities of the executive branch were "examples of congressional spending power," and therefore denied standing to the foundation. A three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed, and reinstated the lawsuit.

"Taxpayers have standing to challenge an executive branch program, alleged to promote religion, that is financed by a congressional appropriation, even if the program was created entirely within the executive branch," wrote Judge Richard Posner.

The current case at the Supreme Court is the federal government's challenge to that 7th Circuit ruling.

In the oral arguments at the Supreme Court, discussion alternated between analysis of previous court rulings on the legal standing of taxpayers and often light-hearted banter among the justices and the attorneys about exactly what sorts of expenditures might constitute sufficient government involvement to warrant the court's intervention.

In the case of a prayer breakfast in which the administration is involved, for example, said Pincus, "The challenge is to the discriminatory purchase. It's not about the prayer breakfast; it's about the idea that the government is purchasing bagels in a religiously discriminating way."

The court's decision could affec other efforts by taxpayers to sue over how federal funds are used by the administration.

In his decision for the 7th Circuit Posner wrote that limiting who can sue the administration in such cases could lead to violations of the Establishmen Clause "because there is so much tha executive officials could do to promote religion in ways forbidden by the Establishment Clause."

A ruling in Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation is expected before the court adjourns for the summer.

Retirement isn't what it used to be.
PLAN accordingly.

Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church

100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397

http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITH BARNEY

© 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Catholics lobby for more pro-life legislation

CLONING, *from page 1*

"With deep sadness, I regret the ecent action by the Iowa House and enate to change Iowa's law which anned human cloning," he said.

The measure, H.R. 287, passed with 52-46 vote. Fifty-one votes were needed or passage. One Republican apparently ccidentally voted for the bill.

A week earlier the legislation moved wiftly through the Senate, passing with a 6-24 vote. The bill moves to Gov. Chet ulver's desk. He has said he will sign it.

"In recent weeks and months, I trove to explain Catholic teaching," he archbishop said. "This teaching s inspired by Jesus' call to respect very human being, especially the most ulnerable among us. Catholic thought lso supports scientific research based on ound ethical principles.

"Experimentation on nonembryonic tem cells has produced many medical herapies which have helped persons uffering from a wide range of ailments. et us pray that Iowa tax dollars will be sed only for these efforts," he said.

"This was a hard-fought battle," aid Tom Chapman, director of the owa Catholic Conference. "We were p against a governor who made it a op priority to drop the ban on cloning, and leadership in both houses who also wanted to drop the ban."

Chapman thanked all the people who were involved in the fight. Many people lobbied legislators. Others sent e-mails to their legislators, and supporters packed the House chamber the night of Ash Wednesday for a public hearing.

The House vote was preceded by hours of debate, during which Republican Rep. Dave Heaton read from the floor a recent opinion article written by the archbishop.

At the Feb. 21 public hearing, which lasted three hours, Archbishop Hanus delivered his testimony in person. It was his first appearance at a legislative hearing in almost 10 years.

Although most legislators were not present, there was a standing-room-only crowd of people in the balcony. Many wore pro-life shirts, a sticker encouraging legislators to vote no on the bill, and Knights of Columbus pins or emblems.

Archbishop Hanus asked state lawmakers to preserve life and to focus state resources on adult stem-cell research, which has proven results.

"The respect for human life is fundamental to every other liberty that we enjoy, every other blessing that comes to us from God and that is protected by the rights of our Constitution and our way of life," he said.

CNS PHOTO BY LISA BOURNE, CATHOLIC MIRROR

Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque, Iowa, testifies at a public hearing in the Iowa House chambers on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, opposing a bill that would allow the cloning of human embryos for research.

He received applause at the conclusion of his testimony.

At least three former legislators who were instrumental in passing the ban on cloning in 2002 made the trip back to the Capitol for the public hearing.

Former Democratic Rep. Mark Tremmel asked what had changed in the five years since the cloning ban had been passed that would make the legislators think the law ought to be changed.

He pointed out that embryonic stem-cell research was still possible in the state, that the proposed bill would legalize human cloning, and that not one medical treatment had been derived from embryonic stem-cell research.

Tremmel said his mother suffered from juvenile diabetes and his father has a rare blood cancer.

"We can cure human beings without cloning human embryos," he said.

"By allowing cloning of embryos for research, science moves further away from respect for life," Maggi Nadol, director of Catholic Social Service's Respect Life Office, commented on the subject.

"There are many attempts to cover the fact that life will be sacrificed for the possible benefit of another. God, the Author of Life, places equal value on his creations, including the smallest and most vulnerable," said Nadol.

Local legislation

In January, the bishops of North Carolina asked Catholics in their dioceses to learn more about embryonic stem-cell research and to join them in defeating pending legislation that will likely recommend state funding.

Both Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh sent joint letters to all pastors in the state urging them to acquaint their parishioners with the Catholic Church's teachings on stem-cell research, especially those aspects that violate the church's moral teaching.

The letters were sent with a three-part document on the teaching on stem-cell research to be included in parish bulletins distributed at Masses.

In their letter, the bishops asked their pastors to help educate and mobilize Catholics on stem-cell research so they can "voice their opposition to embryonic stem-cell research and any proposal to fund it using taxpayer dollars."

Over the past two years, the N.C. General Assembly has been studying House Bill 632, which would provide taxpayer funding for embryonic stem-cell research within North Carolina.

The bishops stated that the voices of the more than 400,000 Catholics in North Carolina "can make a difference on behalf of the unborn."

Contributing to this article was Kevin E. Murray.

Stations of the Cross

✠

Every Friday during Lent
on the campus of
Belmont Abbey College

Meet at the
Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

Take the stairway down the hill behind the Monastery and Basilica

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

For more information please contact
Ruth Payne,
Director of Campus Ministry,
704-829-7196 or email
RuthPayne@bac.edu

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

New York Catholic official assails $2.1 billion stem-cell bill

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — The executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference urged the state Legislature Feb. 28 to ban any form of "taxpayer-financed human cloning" and to reject Gov. Eliot Spitzer's $2.1 billion Stem Cell and Innovation Fund as proposed, with its major emphasis on funding research on human embryonic stem cells.

"The governor's stem-cell research proposal is devoid of any moral consideration whatsoever for the living human embryos who will be subject to experimentation and destruction," said Richard Barnes, executive director of the conference, which is the public policy arm of the state's Catholic bishops.

He made the remarks in testimony before a joint meeting of the Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

The proposed fund calls for spending $100 million in New York's public funds next year and $50 million a year for the next 10 years after that on "stem cells, other life sciences and emerging technologies."

In addition, it calls for a $1.5 billion bond act, subject to voter approval in 2008, for such research.

Aid officials: Iraqi influx burdens Jordan

AMMAN, *from page 1*

> “Most Jordanians do not welcome the Iraqis.”
>
> — Hania Bsharat, Extremely Vulnerable Individuals project

— more than half of whom are former Palestinian refugees — has caused prices to skyrocket, making the cost of living for the average Jordanian almost prohibitive, said Hania Bsharat, assistant manager of the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals project of Caritas Jordan, the local church's charitable aid agency.

“Most Jordanians don't welcome the Iraqis,” she said. “We are a poor country. We need a solution — resettlement in Jordan or in a foreign country, and we hope that they will be allowed to work and send their children to school. There is no way they can go back to Iraq.”

The only escape routes left open to Iraqis trying to flee their war-torn country lead to Syria or Jordan, but the regulations for entering those countries fluctuate, sometimes daily, leaving people bewildered and unsure of how to proceed, aid workers said.

For example, recently the minimum age for males permitted to enter Jordan was raised from 35 to 40 for “security reasons,” and Syria also recently imposed a similar directive.

When they manage to cross into Jordan, the Iraqis arrive in Amman with no legal status and no rights, having escaped from threats of kidnapping, murder and daily bombings that leave hundreds of people dead every week.

The refugees lack health care, employment and educational opportunities for their children.

The Extremely Vulnerable Individuals project, which provides funds for health care, food and humanitarian assistance, has seen an increase in the number of people turning to it for help in the past year; many have chronic diseases that went unchecked in Iraq.

“Most of the people who come seeking our help are (also) depressed,” she said, sitting in the Caritas offices in downtown Amman. “They don't want just health care.”

The elderly, young mothers with babies, women in wheelchairs — their faces all darkened by the same grim resignation — line the walls in the reception room as they wait for social workers to do the initial assessment.

Later, they will sit with one of the seven caseworkers, who will then visit their homes to help determine the degree of need and amount of help Caritas can provide.

Each caseworker sees about seven families a day, said Bsharat.

Caritas also runs an informal school project and a community clinic for the Iraqi refugees.

“There is too much demand and too little resources, especially for the chronic disease cases which need treatment every month,” Bsharat said.

Growing needs

Iraqi refugees also receive treatment, partially funded by the Pontifical Mission, in a hospital administered by the Comboni Sisters. The refugees hear about the hospital through word of mouth, said Sister Kudassti Tekle, the hospital administrator who is originally from Eritrea.

Patients are asked to pay a symbolic amount for their own treatment in order to maintain their dignity and self-respect, she said.

“We have many new refugees coming, and that is part of our mission. We as Christians can never refuse anyone,” said Sister Tekle.

The hospital and its clinic are also open to Jordanians and other foreigners living in Jordan.

Five years ago the hospital had to expand the building for its outpatient clinics because of the substantial increase in patients, said Sister Tekle.

“Now more and more refugees are starting to come with more sick conditions. They are very depressed and have hypertension” due to their situation, she said.

Cathy Breen, a member of the Catholic Worker Movement in New York and researcher on Iraqi issues for Voices for Creative Nonviolence, said the most basic need of Iraqis in Jordan is to have their legal status clarified so they can work, send their children to school and be free from fear of deportation.

Currently, she said, one of the requirements for becoming a legal resident is to have $100,000 frozen in the bank — a clear impossibility for the majority of refugees who have had to leave almost all they own in Iraq.

Another, less-publicized problem facing Iraqi refugees is the cancellation of the “S” series passports they were required to have as a travel document following the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Some 1 million Iraqis left the country with this document, said Breen, but since their departure it was determined that the passports were too easily forged, so the series was made invalid.

In order to receive new documents to be able to travel abroad, the refugees must return to Iraq, she said, because Iraqi embassies have not been authorized to issue the new passports.

This leaves most refugees stranded, since returning to Iraq is not a viable option for them, she said.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE H

Iraqi teacher Manal Lutef talks to children during class in a special school for Iraqi refugee children the Franciscan Sisters of Mary convent in Amman, Jordan, Feb. 14. Nuns at the convent started th school to help Iraqi children whose education had been interrupted by war.

Confusing regulations keep Iraqi children away from Jordan's schools

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

AMMAN, Jordan — Like most things relating to Iraqi refugees in Jordan, the regulations pertaining to the schooling of some 600,000 children are unclear.

Starting in September, Iraqi children were supposed to be permitted to attend Jordan's public schools, but the reality is different.

“We have many children not attending school,” said Ra'ed Bahou, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine's regional director for Jordan and Iraq.

According to a Human Rights Watch report issued last fall, the Jordanian government does not bar Iraqi children without residency permits from going to school, but “its deliberate policy of misstatements and mixed signals has left Iraqis without residency permits confused and apprehensive about their children's rights. This has deterred them from enrolling their children in school.

Even Interior Ministry governme officials “were unable or unwilling” specify the government's policy for th 2006-07 school year in a meeting wi their representatives, said the Huma Rights Watch report.

The government officials said th approximately 60,000 Iraqi studen who had attended public school la year caused “severe overcrowding classrooms,” with up to 50 students in classroom.

Though some Christian famili send their children to private Christia schools, most cannot afford this optio Parents find it difficult to keep track the ever-changing regulations and a wary of sending their children to schoo

A number of churches and religio orders have stepped in to provide son sort of informal education classes for th children in basic subjects such as Arabi English and math, said Bahou.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Father of the flock

Priest finds strong faith among Amman's Chaldean Catholic refugees

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

AMMAN, Jordan — At dusk, a handful of men and women begin to trickle into a stone-faced apartment building in Amman's Jabal Lweibdeh neighborhood.

At the staircase leading to the entrance of the building a small sign proclaims "Chaldean Catholic Vicariate."

The people have come to attend the Wednesday Sacred Heart devotion and Mass said by Father Raymond Moussalli, patriarchal vicar, who was sent by the Chaldean Catholic Church in Baghdad five years ago to minister to the burgeoning Chaldean community in Jordan.

"Orthodox Christians go to (the) Orthodox church. I am Chaldean. I want to go to a Chaldean church," said Maisoun Gerdis, who has been in Jordan for seven years and regularly attends the Wednesday services in addition to Sunday Mass.

Praying her own liturgy strengthens her, she said.

Father Moussalli is the sole Chaldean priest permanently assigned to Amman, although occasionally a priest is sent from Iraq or Syria to assist him.

The refugee population is always in transition, and the number of the faithful under his pastoral care can reach as high as 10,000 or fall to 8,000, Father Moussalli said.

Every Wednesday about 20 people come to the apartment — where a chapel has been set up in the living room — for the devotion and Mass, said Father Moussalli.

Once a month he conducts a Bible study for the community. He describes the spiritual faith of his flock as strong.

"The people feel their faith and like to be safe with us," said Father Moussalli. "But what they really want is (to get) a visa and go abroad. Here they have no. house, no work, no studies. It is terrible ... We don't understand the war."

Many Iraqi families have been separated because of the situation in their country, he said, and they face great emotional strain and come to him asking for material and spiritual help.

"They ask why this is happening to them," he said. While he can't give them material help, he tries to "give them Jesus."

"I answer them that we need to have patience, that Jesus is with us all our lives. Maybe this is a temptation from the devil. We have to be very strong in our faith," he said.

"The situation here really affects people. ... I try to visit them in their houses, but I can't visit them all. I am alone here. But they are very happy a priest comes to visit," said Father Moussalli.

Since his arrival he has performed 100 marriage ceremonies, 60 baptisms and 20 funerals, he said.

"Before, many people would send their dead back to Iraq for burial. Now it is terrible and not possible," he said, adding that he expects to be performing more funerals and burials in Amman.

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Iraqi refugee Sabria Yousef Nona prays during Mass in the Chaldean Catholic Vicariate in Amman, Jordan, Feb. 14. A sole Chaldean priest in Amman looks after the spiritual needs of 8,000-10,000 Catholics, including many refugees from Iraq.

Low cabin prices guaranteed through March 16th!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Early booking fares for choice of cabin categories are guaranteed until March 16th so call today for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
Our Commitment
- Theological Education – Formation of Mind
- Spiritual Formation – Conversion of Heart
- Pastoral Orientation – Prudential Wisdom

Foundational Texts
- Sacred Scripture
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Writings of Pope John Paul II
- Documents of Vatican II
- 1983 Code of Canon Law
- Catholic Liturgical Documents
- Classics of Catholic Spirituality

Format
- One Weekend a Month
- August – May
- Three-Year Cycle

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007 CLASSES IN
Charleston, South Carolina
Application Deadline: May 15, 2007

For an Application or More Information
Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Collection of Pope Benedict's 'essential writings' to be published

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A new book to be published in March by HarperSanFrancisco brings together what its editors call "the central writings and speeches" of Pope Benedict XVI.

"The Essential Pope Benedict XVI: His Central Writings and Speeches" opens with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger's sermon at the funeral of Pope John Paul II April 18, 2005, and closes with his first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), dated Dec. 25, 2005.

Edited by John F. Thornton and Susan B. Varenne, the 464-page hardcover book will sell in the United States and in Canada.

Major subject areas in the book include Christian relations with Islam, Christian values, birth control and abortion, sexual misconduct in the priesthood, the ordination of women, anti-Semitism and the Catholic Church, and ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.

"Now that a leading Catholic theologian has assumed office as pope, many are eager to get an overview of his theology," said Cardinal Avery Dulles in a back cover comment on the book.

"The present selection, drawn largely from his shorter writings, gives an excellent sampling. It will provide a first orientation to beginners and will enable veterans to supplement their familiarity with this important thinker," said Cardinal Dulles.

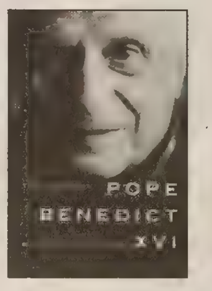


Photo by CNS

This is the cover of "The Essential Pope Benedict XVI: His Central Writings and Speeches," edited by John F. Thornton and Susan B. Varenne.

Rome office inundated with requests for JPII prayer cards, relics

ROME (CNS) — The Rome diocesan office charged with promoting the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II has exceeded its postage budget because of increased requests for prayer cards and relics of the late pope.

"We were getting about 50 requests a day, but overnight it grew to between 500 and 1,000 requests," an office spokeswoman said March 2. "We could not have foreseen this demand."

Franciscan Brother Chris Gaffrey, who assists the office with English translations, said the vast majority of requests in late February and early March were coming via e-mail from the United States. CNS had published a story about the cards and relics Feb. 26 and dozens of Web sites and blogs ran links to the story.

The prayer cards and relics, a small piece of one of the white cassocks worn by Pope John Paul, always will be distributed free of charge, but without an increase in donations the office cannot afford to mail them, Brother Gaffrey said.

Several options for sending donations can be found on the official Web site of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause — www.JohnPaulIIBeatification.org — which was experiencing interruptions in service because of the increased traffic in early March.

TRAVEL WITH OTHER ROMAN CATHOLICS AND SAVE ON THIS REPOSITIONING CRUISE

22 Days - Tour Italy and Cruise the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Caribbean

Costa Cruise Lines has to get the new "state-of-the-art" Costa Fortuna from Italy to Florida. Take advantage of this exclusive ***'Your Man'* Tours** vacation package departing October 27, 2007. You'll spend three nights in Rome with two days of sightseeing including Ancient Rome; Pantheon & Piazza Navona; Roman Forum; Coliseum; Vatican Museum; Sistine Chapel; St. Peter's Square and Basilica; Via della Conciliazione & Castle Sant'Angelo and more! Spend two nights in Tuscany with guided sightseeing visiting Siena; Florence; Montecatini-Terme; and Pisa (leaning tower). On Friday, November 2, your group will "motor-coach" to the Italian Riviera to the town of Savona where you'll board your deluxe Italian ship. Your exciting ports include: Barcelona, Spain; St. Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands; Guadelope, French W. Indies; St. Maarten; Catalina Island, Dominican Republic; and Nassau, Bahamas. Arrive in Ft. Lauderdale November 17. Prices (per person, double occupancy) including taxes and port charges start at only $2347. Add $300 for outside and $500 for balcony cabins. Optional airfare from Charlotte add $1,000.

Space is limited and $100 deposits are now due!

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 18, 2007

March 18, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Cycle C Readings:

1) Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
Psalm 34:2-7
2) 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
3) Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

God helps us discover unconditional love

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Like most others, our family has its share of psychological and emotional baggage. A particularly difficult part of it is in the story of our own prodigal son.

It would have been easier if it had been only half a chapter long, as it was in Luke's Gospel. But it's lasted 15 years.

Now that we're almost there, I realize that a journey to wholeness is like following switchbacks up a mountain.

In our case it began with a serious trauma and five people, including the injured one, ill equipped by our human weakness to recover quickly. Unlike Luke's lost son, ours was agonizingly slow to even begin the return home.

The home front wasn't particularly welcoming either. But step by step, bac
and forth, he'd try and we'd try. Eve
with predictable fallbacks and periodi
failures, we progressed.

Mostly, I think, it was because we al
wanted to so badly. We just didn't hav
it within our capabilities to make ful
reconciliation happen.

But we all continually sought God'
help and strength. Through it we'v
grown in understanding; we've learne
to love with patience and selflessness
we've matured and rediscovered th
unconditional love at the heart of us.

In the last year something happened
I can't explain it, but without us knowin
how, the slow, arduous journey broke int
a trot. Now we find ourselves embracin
in the road.

The words of Paul explain what ha
happened for us through the constan
saving act of Christ: "The old things hav
passed away; behold, new things hav
come."

We have a new relationship, a nev
family life, and Paul reminds us too, "Al
this is from God."

It wouldn't have been otherwise.

Questions:

What relationships in your own lif
need reconciliation? What attitudes o
the loving father in Luke's story of th
Prodigal Son are required to make
happen?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Your brother was dead and ha
come to life again" (Lk 15:32).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 11-17

Sunday (Third Sunday of Lent), Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9; **Monday (Lenten Weekday),** 2 Kings 5:1-15, Luke 4:24-30; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 7:23-38, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday, St. Patrick),** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 18-24

Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; **Monday (St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Luke 2:41-51; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Toribio),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...

"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.

We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®

(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord

Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties

www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Fame and faith

Embracing his Catholic faith changed pop music star's life

BY LINDA REEVES
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Fame brought rugs and the fast life for many pop stars ecades ago, but for the singer known as ion it also came with an emptiness and a oracious hunger for more.

"I was always seeking," said Dion iMucci, now 67 years old and a member f St. Jude Church in Boca Raton.

"In the '60s, I used to pray, 'God, I ant to know the truth. Why am I here? am open and I am ready,'" he said. "I ad a powerful religious experience. It hanged my life and I have never been ie same since."

DiMucci believes that experience has iven him the secret to peaceful living nd a good life, and he wants to share his isights with men and teen boys.

So the artist, who was nominated or a 2006 Grammy for his latest album, Bronx in Blue," does so at events in the alm Beach Diocese, such as a Spiritual Rally for Men planned for March.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF DION DIMUCCI

Dion DiMucci, star of the 1950s pop group Dion & the Belmonts, is pictured in an undated file photo. DiMucci, a parishioner of St. Jude Church in Boca Raton, Fla., says his faith has changed his life.

DiMucci tells the story of how he began to reap great rewards along with career success when he slowed down and began to pray and study the teachings of the church and Christ.

"To know Christ is very freeing and empowering," he said. "In my case, it has kept my family together."

DiMucci, a lifelong Catholic from New York City, began his music career in the 1950s with Dion & the Belmonts, racking up hits including "I Wonder Why" and "A Teenager in Love." He went solo in the early 1960s, rising to the top with hits such as "Runaround Sue" and "The Wanderer." He landed a spot on the album cover of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" in 1967.

Once he embraced his Catholicism, his love of the faith led him into Christian music and five gospel albums. He was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1989. Today, he pursues prison ministry and reaches out to men going through addiction recovery.

"I love working with men," he said. "They are in search for truth but coming to accept it and living by it is a whole different thing.

"Faith helps you focus, and prayer is the substance of my life. It is what keeps me on track. It keeps me hopeful and centered, and it gives me wisdom," he said.

CFCA

Offering hope.
Restoring dignity.
Worldwide.

To learn more or sponsor

- visit our Web site at www.cfcausa.org
- call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564

A+ rating by the
American Institute of Philanthropy
www.charitywatch.org

Highest rating of **four-stars** from
Charity Navigator
www.charitynavigator.org
★★★★

26110

'I realized I could do something big to help others in the world'

William J., 13,
New Hampshire

After hearing a presentation at his church six years ago about Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, William J., 13, of New Hampshire, began sponsoring a boy from Costa Rica. Soon he and his family sponsored another child from Costa Rica, and orphans from Kenya and Bolivia. "CFCA is a true blessing to me," he said. "I realized I could do something big to help others in the world. I could change the lives of other people." William contributes half of his allowance and also hosts events such as walk-a-thons to raise money for his sponsored friends. "Kids can make a difference, too," he said. "I am a regular 13-year-old teenager but I also include helping others in what I do."

CFCA has served more than 475,000 children and elderly in developing countries over the last 25 years—empowering them to make more choices in their lives, live with dignity and reach their potential.

You can improve someone's life, too. Your sponsorship of $30 a month helps your sponsored friend with critical immediate needs such as nutrition, medical care and clothing. But it goes much further. It also develops self-reliance through education, skills and livelihood training for families, and community involvement.

Founded by Catholic lay people and grounded in Catholic social teaching, CFCA works with people of all faiths. Sponsor a child or aging friend today and help make the world a better place for all.

Sponsor a child through CFCA. It works.

Movie Capsules

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Into Great Silence"

Poetically filmed documentary about a Carthusian monastery in the French Alps, which follows the cloistered monks in their daily (mostly silent and solitary) routines.

German filmmaker Philip Groning's respectful no-frills approach utilizes no narration or background music, but by combining alternately a painterly formality and a verite intimacy, skillfully captures the textures and rhythms of their highly structured existence, resulting in a rewarding — and, due to the film's austerity and nearly three-hour length — somewhat demanding cinematic and spiritual experience.

In French and Latin. Subtitles. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

"Two Weeks"

Heartfelt yet unflinchingly frank story of a dying mother (the transcendent Sally Field) and the four adult children who've come to be with her in her last days including her eldest son, a filmmaker (Ben Chaplin), who hopes to tape her for posterity.

First-time director Steve Stockman accomplishes the near-impossible in mixing naturalistic tragedy with genuine laughter that rises from the human condition, generating tears from each.

Some rough and crude language and a graphic depiction of the ravages of cancer. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

"Zodiac"

Solid, well-acted crime story about the hunt for San Francisco's so-called Zodiac killer who terrorized the region beginning in the late 1960's, focusing on an investigative reporter (Robert Downey Jr.) and cartoonist (Jake Gyllenhaal) at the San Francisco Chronicle and two police detectives (Mark Ruffalo and Anthony Edwards) whose obsession with catching the killer wreaks havoc on their personal lives.

Director David Fincher handles the murders, horrific though they are, with admirable restraint and minimal on-screen gore and though the plot, which spans a couple of decades, is at times complex, the nearly three-hour film holds one's interest.

Rough and crude language and profanity, brutal — though brief and non-graphic — shootings and stabbings, a vulgar gesture, alcohol and drug use, reference to child molestation and fleeting images of porn magazines.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Lenten messages stress ties with God, combating social problems

LENT, *from page 1*

MISERERE
MEI DEUS

CNS PHOTO FROM CROSIERS

A church window in Minnesota with the Latin words "Miserere Mei Deus" ("May God Have Mercy on Me)" depicts symbols associated with the penitential season prior to Easter.

Wednesday Mass — "We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled with God" (2 Cor 5:20) — offers Catholics a good theme for Lent.

"Confession refreshes the soul and renews our relationship with God," said Bishop Jugis. "It should be a regular part of our program of spiritual growth throughout the entire year."

During Lent, he said, many parishes offer additional times for reconciliation beyond the regular confession schedule, as well as plan parish penance services.

"I encourage everyone to enter into the spirit of reconciliation that the church asks of us this season, and make plans to use the sacrament of reconciliation during Lent," said Bishop Jugis.

Being reconciled to God should produce the good fruit of works of charity to benefit our neighbors, said Bishop Jugis.

"As a sign of our being reconciled to God, will we comfort the sick? Will we visit the lonely? Will we be reconciled with those from whom we are estranged? Will we be helpful to those in need?" asked the bishop.

"These works will demonstrate that the heart has been reconciled to God, and that Jesus has entered front and center into our life once and for all," he said.

"During this season, may we present to the Lord a heart renewed with love for him and love for our neighbor," said Bishop Jugis.

Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl accompanied a Lenten pastoral letter with a major campaign encouraging Catholics to receive reconciliation.

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., issued a similar pastoral letter and called on pastors in all parishes to set up an extra hour each week during Lent for confessions.

Archbishop Wuerl of Washington on Jan. 25 made public a Lenten pastoral letter which said that by using the sacrament of reconciliation each Catholic becomes "a witness to God's wondrous mercy." To encourage greater use of the sacrament, the archdiocese also initiated a campaign called "The Light Is On for You."

The campaign includes a user-friendly brochure, which offers a guide on how to go to confession and a wallet-size card with an act of contrition on it. The archdiocese was promoting the initiative in ads on buses and subway cars. Parishes also were instructed to make confession available each Wednesday in Lent starting Feb. 28.

In Rockville Centre, Bishop Murphy warned that there is a tendency today to forget about the reality of sin.

"I pray that this will change because ultimately this constant act of individual censorship by which we repress the acknowledgment of sin in our lives and pretend that 'all is well' will destroy us," he wrote.

He reaffirmed the diocese's tradition of hearing confessions in every parish from on Monday of Holy Week and asked pastors to institute, in addition to regular Saturday afternoon confessions, another regular hour during the week to invite people to come and celebrate the sacrament.

"No Catholic should ever fear entering the confessional," he said.

Other Lenten messages

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida likened Lent to "spring training" when baseball players limber up their bodies before the regular season.

"Lent is about learning to stretch — reaching out toward the God who is already reaching out toward us," Cardinal Maida said in a statement in the Feb. 16 issue of the archdiocesan newspaper, The Michigan Catholic.

"Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we also 'stretch' ourselves by reaching out to our neighbors in need," he said.

The Diocese of Orange, Calif., launched a "Hunger for Justice" campaign asking Catholics to fast for one day during the week of March 26 and to send cards to their elected representatives calling for comprehensive immigration reform.

"For many of these people (immigrants), hunger is not a choice. Their hunger moves them to look for a better life," said Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto of Orange, in announcing the campaign Feb. 21 during an Ash Wednesday Mass homily.

"Together we can hunger and pray for justice. We are all invited to ask our elected representatives to work for an immigration reform that is just and humane," said Bishop Soto.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony asked Catholics to help ease the pains of "children in special need." These include victims of "neglect and abuse, even within the church," said the cardinal during an Ash Wednesday Mass homily.

He also listed "children without a father or mother because of their death while serving in our military," orphans and refugees of the fighting in the Darfur region of Sudan, victims of forced labor and human trafficking, and "children left behind as undocumented parents are deported to their country of origin."

The cardinal asked Catholics to dedicate prayers and charitable activities to one of these groups during Lent and said that his efforts would be aimed at helping the children of immigrants.

Denver Archbishop Charles Chaput asked that Lent be a time to reinforce the church's "culture of life," especially its efforts to abolish the death penalty.

Regarding the death penalty, he said that "we don't need it. It does not deter crime."

In a column on Lent appearing in the Feb. 21 issue of the Denver Catholic Register, his archdiocesan newspaper, Archbishop Chaput called the death penalty "gravely flawed and unworthy of a civilized culture."

San Antonio Archbishop Jose H. Gomez said that the church's emphasis on forgiveness and reconciliation during Lent offers society a countersign to "an emerging culture of revenge" in which stirring up divisions takes precedence over dialogue.

"So much of our politics is polarized and angry," he said in a Feb. 21 pastoral letter on Lent.

"Instead of trying to settle differences through conversation and compromise, more and more people are turning to the legal system, seeking to have judges and juries punish their adversaries or push their legal agendas," he said.

Archbishop Gomez criticized a "terrorist mind-set" that opposes forgiveness.

"The terrorist instead harbors anger and bitterness for the wrongs he believes to have been done to him. He seeks not reconciliation but violent revenge, even against the unsuspecting innocent," he said.

Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali said Lent is a time to use the "arms of Christian penance," defined as prayer, fasting and good works.

These "attune us more closely to the workings of God's grace in us," he said in a Lenten letter to be distributed in parishes during the Feb. 24-25 weekend.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services said that Lent is a special time to renew the promises made at baptism.

"Prayerfully concerned as we are about the war that engages us across the ocean, Lent directs our concern to the war within, where the flesh wars against the spirit," he said in an Ash Wednesday letter.

"May the prayers on our lips — prayers for peace and for our military peace-seekers — find a hearing in the generous heart of our Father in heaven," said Archbishop O'Brien.

The military archdiocese includes all U.S. military personnel and their families.

Contributing to this story was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

CAMPUS MINISTER

We are currently accepting applications for the position of campus minister in the Diocese of Richmond for 2007-2008. Positions are available for priests, religious or laypersons. Pastoral experience and a graduate degree in theology or a related discipline required. For further information about this ministry, visit the Web site at www.richmonddiocese.org/cyam and contact Sr. Diane Guy at 804.359.5661.

**Principal – Catholic Elementary School
Chantilly, Virginia**

St. Veronica Catholic School, a K through 8th-grade school located in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is currently seeking a principal starting in the 2007-2008 school year. St. Veronica is a medium-size parish with a growing school population. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school, as well as assist in developing long range goals.

For more information about this exciting opportunity and for instructions on how to apply, please visit the St. Veronica parish website at: http://www2.stveronica.net/principal.

Classifieds

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

A life of service and ministry

Father Patrick Gavigan, retired priest of diocese, dies at 81

HIGH POINT — Father Patrick Paul Gavigan, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, died March 4 at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point. He was 81.

Father Gavigan came to the Diocese of Charlotte after 16 years as a Trappist monk and three years as a diocesan priest in Tennessee.

Born March 12, 1925, in Dodgeville, Wis., he decided to become a priest while in high school and began his studies in a Maryknoll junior seminary in 1941.

In 1947, he transferred to the Trappist seminary at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, Ga., where he was ordained a Trappist priest May 3, 1953.

Desiring more active ministry after almost 16 years as a monk, Father Gavigan transferred to the Diocese of Nashville in January 1969 and served in several parishes.

In July 1972, then-Bishop Michael J. Begley granted Father Gavigan's request to serve in the then-6-month-old Diocese of Charlotte, and he became an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

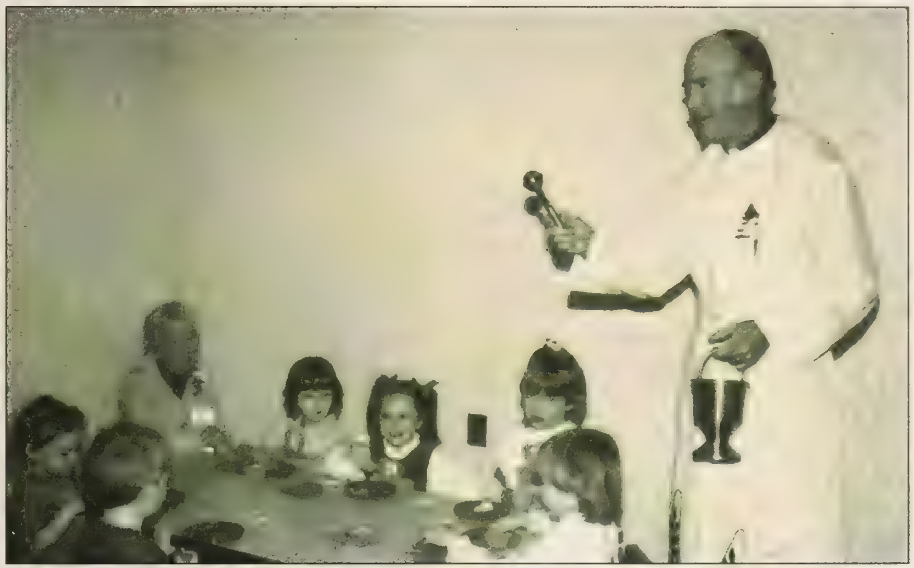
Father Gavigan served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Shelby and Christ the King Mission in Kings Mountain from November 1973 until March 1976. He then served as pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard until September 1980, when he became pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

In 1985, he became pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon until 1989, when he took a sabbatical. He became pastor of St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton in June 1990 and then parochial vicar of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro in August 1991.

In February 1992, Father Gavigan took early retirement due to health reasons.

For much of his life, Father Gavigan maintained an interest in photography, tennis, swimming and horticulture. He was fond of travel and occasionally led tours to shrines in Canada and Europe.

A funeral Mass was held in Maryfield Chapel March 9.



ARCHIVE PHOTO

Father Patrick Gavigan blesses a kindergarten class taught by Martha Moran at St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon in March 1987.

"When I'm gone, who will receive the gifts God gave me?"

A will is your answer to the question. 60-70% of Americans die without a valid will. If you die without a will, the laws of the state you live in will determine how your assets are divided including assets to your family. Without a will or other charitable estate plan, charitable desires you may have for your parish, Catholic school, agency, diocese or the diocesan foundation will be ignored. *Don't let your answer be silence.*

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

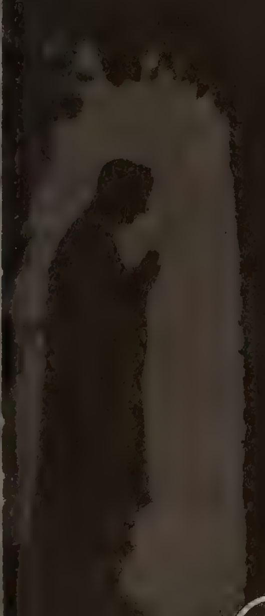
Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

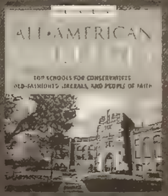
What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE





Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Commercializing doubt

Media interpretations confuse true Christian message

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Over the last couple of years I have noticed a new tradition that is taking hold during Lent. Call it the Doubting Thomas Syndrome, after the apostle whose skepticism about the Resurrection was dispelled by Christ.

Thanks in large part to the media hype engine, our religious holidays have been co-opted. Take the Nativity of the Lord, which to save billboard space is often referred to as "Xmas." It is saturated with commercial messages that usually enter our collective consciousness soon after the Fourth of July fireworks. Credit card fatigue soon follows.

Except for candy makers, Easter is a tougher holiday for the world of commerce. How do you urge people to excess during Lent? An effort at wholesale revelry pops up around St. Patrick Day, but it is short-lived.

The season of the fasting, abstinence and introspection culminates with a fairly bloody account of an execution. Easter Bunny aside, it's tough to dress up this holiday.

So, instead of selling us computer gizmos and iPods, what is sold during Lent is doubt. Two years ago this commercialization of doubt came from the National Geographic Society, which gave us the Gospel of Judas.

This "gospel" was a translation of a second century gnostic text in which Judas is Jesus' closest confidant rather than his betrayer. The translation of the Gospel of Judas was financed by the society and heavily promoted with tie-in books and a TV documentary.

Interesting stuff, but even in the second century it was characterized as false. Judas' so-called gospel was forgotten faster than you can say "Easter Triduum."

Last year the media whale Sony Pictures brought us the film "The DaVinci Code," based on the international bestseller by U.S. author Dan Brown — basically a snoozer of a detective story about whether or not Jesus was married and had children. The Tom Hanks movie didn't meet its hype projections, and by Oscar time it wasn't nominated for anything because there isn't a category for biggest dud.

This year the Discovery Channel stooped to sow the Lenten seeds of doubt with "The Lost Tomb of Jesus." One of the themes of this documentary questions the divinity of Jesus by suggesting he did not ascend into heaven.

By using new technology and DNA studies, the film claims that among 10 ossuaries — burial boxes used in biblical times to house the bones of the dead — found in a cave in 1980 are those of Jesus, his brothers, Mary, another Mary whom they believe is Mary Magdalene, and "Judah, son of Jesus."

The fact that in the first century these names were as common as Smith and Miller didn't deter "Titanic" director James Cameron from lending his name to the project.

Jimbo, I gotta be your iceberg here. He seems to think that Jesus was unknown two millennia ago and that his bones could repose undisturbed beneath the streets of Jerusalem for centuries. The fact is, during Jesus' lifetime and after his death, there were a lot of people who were pretty uncomfortable with his claim of divinity. Give those skeptics a little credit; don't you think they would have been glad to expose the bones as a way of proving Jesus a hoax?

The reason skeptics didn't expose Jesus as a fake is because he wasn't and isn't. Scholars — with the exception of James Tabor, chairman of religious studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte who claims Jesus is not the Son of God but the child of a Roman soldier — have said for decades that these ossuaries are not significant artifacts.

The bones of Jesus, along with the rest of his body, ascended into heaven. There is a 2,000-year-old account of this in the gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Doubt as the apostle Thomas expressed it isn't a bad thing. When we ask questions about the divinity of Jesus and other core issues of our faith, we are using the free will God gave us.

Thomas was blessed when he saw for himself that the resurrected Jesus was as real as the nail holes in his sacred hands. The apostle's eloquent response, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28), transformed him into Thomas the believer.

Questions about our faith are a welcome way to grow in understanding God's great mysteries. Unfortunately, when the medium of television is involved, the doubt being created is just another way to sell soap.

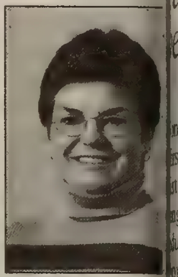
David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org.

Lent's challenge to generosity

It's not about getting, it's about giving

For the Journey



EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

Lent has begun, and once again I was amazed at the turnout at my parish for Ash Wednesday Mass.

I heard it happened all over town. Why does this day produce such an explosion of devotion?

"Well, it's Lent," some might say, "so of course people are coming." But at my church, the numbers on Ash Wednesday often greatly exceed Holy Thursday's turnout.

"But some people mistakenly think it's a holy day of obligation," say others. Again at my church the real holy days do not see the numbers that Ash Wednesday does.

The secretary at my church had a suggestion: "I think it's because people come away with something. The ashes are a symbol they carry with them."

At every Mass we come away with the Eucharist, however, and isn't that the greatest gift of all? There may be some truth to all those ideas, but I think there is a deeper reason.

As Lent begins we fervently embody a hope contained in the words of a song: "This time, change my heart."

Lent brings out the affirmation in all of us. We want to be better, we want to be changed, we want to somehow walk this journey with Christ.

You know the old proverb that says a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step? We desire to take that step on Ash Wednesday but then sometimes we veer off the road.

I think that happens because we forget that Lent is not all about us. We decide what we are going to "do" for Lent. We make a lot of promises, some of them sounding like the retreads of doomed New Year's resolutions.

Then we reach Holy Week and feel like we did not really "do" Lent. We have a vague feeling of disappointment ourselves and in the spiritual developme we desired.

This time I wrote in my journal tha hoped to grow according to God's will told myself that this would be my pray each day — a prayer for generosi openness, a willingness to listen for a do what God was leading me to.

Yes I did also "give up" something have a weakness for designer coffee. F the second year in a row, I am staying hon and brewing my less pricey cup of joe a donating the money I save to charity.

It is no big deal, but it is a litt something. The real deal will be stickin to my prayer each day, my simple pray to open my hands to God's will while a examining how God's will is happeni in my life.

In the book "Fresh Bread," Servi Sister Joyce Rupp challenges us to generosity that is particularly appropria during the Lenten season:

"Give away something material th you cherish and hold dear. Give it aw with no strings attached. Give aw something nonmaterial that you cheri and hold dear. Give it away with strings attached."

Do not expect to "get" anything fro Lent. Just enter Holy Week looking ba at your open hands, ready to receive a ready to give.

Global warming: All smoke, no fire

Letters to the Editor

I suppose now that we have abortion, euthanasia, same-sex marriage, embryonic stem-cell research, etc., all wrapped up and under control, we should now turn our attention and energy to solving the "burning" issue of global warming ("Winds of change," Feb. 23).

Scientists on all sides of the global warming controversy have documented statistics to prove their particular theories. The very fact that the physical universe and its complexities exist in time means that change is constant.

Reason dictates that humans, for their own survival, should use universal resources wisely. It is difficult to believe that emissions from automotive devices and factories, etc., can radically change the temperature of our world. But if in fact there is global warming, this could be a good thing for humanity — longer periods for growing food and such.

— Anita Joan Di Pietro
Charlotte

The environment is on the list of Catholic concerns, but nowhere near such concerns as abortion and euthanasia. Global warming is nowhere to be seen in the Catholic catechism.

It's irresponsible to blame Hurricane Katrina on global warming ("Winds change"). In fact, no major hurrica touched the U.S. mainland this year.

Scientific analysis of ice cores ha shown the same unmistakable 1,5 year cycle. It was determined that C changes over a million years do n correlate with temperature increas This past year, Greenland has gained i mass and Antarctica has been gaining billion tons per year.

Sea levels have been rising since t last ice age, but there is no evidence any acceleration. Data for the last f years indicate warming — but only degrees Celsius for the last 100 yea Very recent data proves that cosm radiation from deep space increas cloud formation, which directly impa warming.

Global warming fanatics seem to coming out of the woodwork as to h this will destroy the earth. Does everyo forget what the Book of Revelation sa about the end of the world? The end w come by God's hands — not man's.

— Kevin Roet
Ashevi

Legislation is not enough

airness, dignity will build a etter nation

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

When Democrats took control of ongress last January, they used the irst 100" or "first 1,000" theme from storians of past presidencies and ngresses and, in making it their own, duced the time frame from "days" to ours."

They pledged to get a lot done for the untry in the first 100 legislative hours their watch.

"We will restore civility, integrity d fiscal responsibility to the House of epresentatives," said the new House peaker, Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

"We will make our nation safer ; we will make our economy fairer ; we will make health care more fordable ...; we will broaden college pportunity ...; we will energize America achieving energy independence ...; we ill guarantee a dignified retirement."

No one thought this would be hieved in 100 hours, but this Congress d get off to a good legislative start on e long road to new ways of doing things our country. However, we have to keep minding ourselves that in the struggle r justice and equality a lot more than gislation needs to be accomplished.

As Pope Paul VI wrote in "Call to Action" ("Octogesima Adveniens"), "Legislation is necessary, but it is not sufficient for setting up true relationships of justice and equality. ... If beyond legal rules there is no deeper feeling of respect for and service to others, then even equality before the law can serve as an alibi for flagrant discrimination, continued exploitation and actual contempt" (23).

It is time now — in the months and years ahead — to focus national policy on the dignity of the human person. If there is "no deeper feeling of respect" for all, then our legislative efforts amount to an "alibi," an excuse for our societal failure to right the wrongs and heal the wounds in our body politic.

If we Catholics live under a commandment to "love one another," as we most certainly do, it should come as no surprise that we are expected to respect the dignity of one another, of each and every other person on the face of the earth.

One of my Catholic friends wrote a letter offering unsolicited advice to a re-elected Catholic leader in Congress. He shared it with me and I offer a paragraph from that letter here:

"When you speak, avoid talking about 'justice.' It's too abstract and seldom connected with the gut. I say this of course as a long-.time supporter of justice.

"Instead, speak of 'fairness.' It touches the heart and makes common sense. Speak about our common journey to restore 'fairness.' Without 'fairness' in all our national dealings you might say we are betraying the values of our nation. So keep on talking about fairness. It will take you a long way forward."

Indeed, a preoccupation with fairness will carry all of us a long way forward in all areas of private and public life. This takes me back to the notion of human dignity. Is it fair to ignore the dignity of another human person at home, school, work or in the wider reaches of national life?

Moreover, concern for the dignity of everyone, friend and foe alike, will function as a control in the quest for fairness, protecting it from the excesses of violence and contempt. We can build a better nation simply by being fair.

The hearing impaired and penance

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. I am almost completely deaf and ven't been to confession in years. If meone is unable to understand the iest, even with a hearing aid, can that rson make confession between oneself d God? (New York)

A. As you know, I'm sure, many ople with serious hearing difficulties are your problem. I presume that, pending on your age when it became fficult for you to hear, you may have me speech handicaps as well.

And it's not likely the priest will ow sign language.

It is important, however, that you t let this keep you from the sacrament penance, at least without considering hat I will suggest. I have heard ndreds of confessions of people with ese handicaps, and it can be done ther simply.

Nearly all Catholic churches today ve confessional rooms that allow nitents to sit across from the priest. You ay write a note to the priest informing m that you are deaf.

If you feel you cannot speak clearly ough for him to understand you, ention that also.

On the paper write the sins you wish confess, and ask the priest to write ur penance on the same note. When u leave, the priest should return the per to you. You can destroy it later.

This manner of confessing is entirely propriate and accords with the church's ual for this sacrament (Introduction,), and the Code of Canon Law, which, for example, allows even human interpreters to assist the penitent in confession if the penitent is not familiar with the language.

It may be most convenient to take advantage of a time announced for the sacrament of reconciliation in your parish or another church. It may also help to ask a relative or friend to talk to your parish priest about your situation so he can arrange to help you.

One way or another, however, try not to deprive yourself of the benefits of this sacrament.

Baptizing children of unmarried mothers

Q. My 21-year-old granddaughter, one of the many unwed mothers, is raising her 2-year-old daughter alone. Is it possible for her to have her baby baptized? What would you advise her to do?

Also, can she give the baby the father's name even though they are not married? (Florida)

A. Children of unmarried mothers may be baptized. It is done often. As in any other baptism, however, some requirements must be met before a priest could baptize the child as a Catholic.

To summarize these requirements briefly, the church insists that, apart from imminent danger of death, a priest cannot lawfully baptize a child unless he has solidly founded hope the baby will be properly raised as a member of the Catholic faith (Canon 868).

Do the parents or the Catholic parent practice their faith now by faithful prayer, attendance at Mass, reception of the sacraments and so on? If this evidence is lacking, the priest should delay the baptism until he can counsel the parent and explain why this is being done.

Unless a marriage between the couple is pending and imminent, I would strongly advise your granddaughter to think twice before naming the baby after the father. They're still young and much can happen in the coming years or before they decide finally whether or not to marry.

Please ask the mother to talk with her parish priest and ask him to help her.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Pope says church hierarchy was willed by God to ensure unity in faith

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The hierarchical structure of the Catholic Church was willed by God to ensure unity in faith, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The church "is not a place of confusion or anarchy where each person can do what he wants at the moment," the pope said March 7 at his weekly general audience.

The pope's speech marked the beginning of a new series of audience talks on the "apostolic fathers," the first and second generation of church leaders after the Twelve Apostles.

Pope Benedict began the series by focusing on St. Clement, the bishop of Rome at the end of the first century, and on his letter to the Christian community in Corinth.

St. Clement wrote the letter to address "the serious problems" the Corinthians were experiencing, the pope said.

Pope Benedict said the letter is particularly important because it demonstrates that "the concern of the church of Rome, which presides in charity over all the other churches," was an idea accepted as far back at the first century.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 7.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our catechesis on the early church, we now turn to the apostolic fathers. St. Clement, bishop of Rome and third successor of Peter, lived in the last years of the first century. He had met the apostles personally.

Clement wrote an important letter to the church in Corinth at a time when the Christian community was deeply divided. He encourages them to renew their faith in the message received from the apostles and to be reconciled with one another.

In this way, he shows the essential connection between the content of the Gospel and the way we live. This connection is essential to Clement's ideal for the church, in which the hierarchical structure is intrinsically ordered to the service of charity.

Laity and hierarchy are not opposed, but organically connected in the mystery of the one body. According to Clement, not only the church, but also the entire cosmos reflects God's providential love and mercy.

Clement concludes his letter by praising God for this marvelous order. Let us join him as we beg the Lord to "make his face shine upon us in goodness and peace. Amen."

ADVERTISEMENT

AN INVITATION TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Come join us for a Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College!
Sunday, March 25 2 pm–6 pm

"TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST"

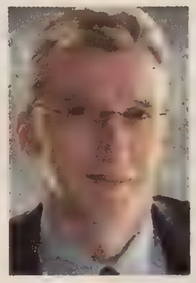
—I COR 2:2

Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to join them for the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Lenten Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at exit 26).

2007
Diocese of Charlotte
IHS
Eucharistic Congress
TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

Bishop Peter Jugis

Abbot Placid Solari


Dr. William Thierfelder

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Peter Jugis, Bishop, Diocese of Charlotte; Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; and Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College.

Your day also will include:

- Campus tours
- Praise and worship music
- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Pledge to the Holy Spirit
- Vespers with Monks of Belmont Abbey
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

(Bring a bag dinner to eat together at event's conclusion)

Information at www.GoEucharist.com

FC282
C363

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MARCH 16, 2007 — SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE — VOLUME 16 Nº 22

In the News

Archbishop opposes moves to 'bleach out God' from public life

| PAGE 4

From waste to miracles

More federal funding urged for umbilical cord-blood collection

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Lack of ederal funding could jeopardize herapeutic advances made in ising umbilical cord blood for uring diseases, said Richard)oerflinger, deputy director of he U.S. bishops' Secretariat or Pro-Life Activities.

Doerflinger told Catholic Jews Service that the bishops upported the 2005 law which uthorized funds for collecting nd storing cord blood and or the establishment of a National Cord Blood Inventory vhich would enable doctors to natch patients with compatible lonors through a centralized omputer data bank.

Although the 2005 law uthorizes $15 million per ear from 2007 through 2010,

See CORD BLOOD, page 7

A Mass for all people

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Ed Sheridan, pastor, gives his homily during the annual Developmental Disabilities Awareness Sunday Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte March 11.

Mass reveals the abilities of the disabled

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Brian Johnson performed a song he co-wrote and accompanied the Joy Class of Providence United Methodist Church. Beth Kennedy read from Exodus and Corinthians.

Kennedy, Johnson and the Joy Class were among the young people with mental or physical disabilities who participated in the Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte March 11 as part of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Sabbath/Sunday.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Sabbath/Sunday provides an opportunity for religious organizations to recognize the needs and abilities of people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities and their families.

The Mass was coordinated by St. Gabriel Church

See DISABLED, page 5

CNS PHOTO BY ALI JAREKJI, REUTERS

Catholics offer prayers for peace in Iraq during a special Mass in Amman, ordan, Jan. 23. The church is the first point of reference for Christian Iraqi efugees when they arrive in Jordan. In a March 7 statement, 35 prominent eligious and social justice organizations asked for support from members f Congress to strengthen U.S. efforts to stabilize and rebuild Iraq.

A plan for peace

Catholic groups join call to bring peace to Iraq

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A new consortium of organizations — including several with Catholic roots — have proposed a $590 million plan to bring "proven strategies of peace-building, humanitarian relief and responsible economic development" to Iraq.

"Two-and-a-half days worth of funding the military could get you all of this for a year. Not bad, huh?" said Sister Simone Campbell, a Sister of Social Service who is head of Network, the Catholic social-justice lobby which is one of the backers of the proposal.

The plan would include:

— $290 million to respond to the needs of an estimated

See PEACE, page 9

A journey of faith

Tens of thousands prepare to enter church at Easter

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — In dioceses across the country at the beginning of Lent, tens of thousands of Americans began the final stages of their journey toward baptism or entering into full communion with the

See RCIA, page 6

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
5-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Iraq War

Chaplain urges troop support

| PAGE 8

In our Schools

Science award winners; youth rugby tournament

| PAGES 12-13

Perspectives

Post-abortion trauma; Stations of the Cross

| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

LABOR OF LOVE

CNS photo by Dan McWilliams, East Tennessee Catholic

John Irwin (right) of Farragut, Tenn., stands outside his local grocery store with his pastor, Father John Dowling of St. John Neumann Church. Irwin is a 74-year-old retired engineer who in spring 2005 took a job stocking shelves and unloading trucks at the store until he could earn $25,000, his pledge toward the building fund for the Farragut parish's new $7.4 million church.

Retiree, 74, returns to work, donates earnings to church fund

FARRAGUT, Tenn. (CNS) — An east Tennessee retiree has returned to work — stocking shelves and unloading trucks at a supermarket — as part of a three-year pledge to help his parish build a new church.

John Irwin, 74, of St. John Neumann Church in Farragut, retired from his engineering career two decades ago but returned to the workforce in spring 2005 at his local supermarket. The store keeps him busy 35 hours a week.

He is more than halfway toward completing a promise to his pastor, Father John Dowling.

"I told Father Dowling that I would work for three years, and he could have whatever I make," Irwin said. "After taxes it'll be something a little over $25,000. It's about $700 a month that I give."

In February, Irwin made the 21st of his planned 36 monthly contributions to the parish's Growing in Faith Together campaign, which is funding the $7.4 million building project.

Father Dowling said he was "as close as I've ever been to feeling guilty" over receiving a contribution when he learned of Irwin's labor of love.

"It was just amazing. Many people in and outside of our parish have given tremendous amounts of time, talent and treasure to make the building of our church possible and also our new great room, kitchen, office space and various other multipurpose rooms," said the priest.

"But his sacrificial gift is something I think a lot of people would be in awe of," he said.

Irwin lives on his retirement savings and could not afford to withdraw some of the money to make the donation he desired to the parish's funding campaign.

"So I prayed about it, and I went in to the store one day, and here's this big sign: 'Help Wanted.' I thought, 'Maybe that sign is a sign.'"

His hiring may have been one of the quickest in the store's history.

"They had me start to go through their application. I've had the good fortune to have a lot of education, and I got about halfway through and they said, 'You're fine.' I never did fill out the whole application." said Irwin.

Irwin does not consider his job a tremendous sacrifice since he had been retired 20 years at the time he started.

"It's good exercise, and it's a lot more physically demanding than I thought it would be, but that's a plus side — I don't have to belong to the gym anymore," he said.

St. John Neumann Church broke ground for its new church Sept. 24, 2006. Foundation work is nearly finished on the new building and the project is on track for completion by the end of this year.

English-speaking liturgists design multimedia education project

ROME (CNS) — Although a new translation of the Mass is a couple years away from parish use, a group of liturgy specialists is designing a multimedia package to help Catholics prepare.

Msgr. James P. Moroney, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy, said the liturgy offices of other English-speaking bishops' conferences will be invited to participate in the education project, which could be ready by late 2008.

He said the project flowed from discussions about how little was done to prepare people for the Mass in English after the Second Vatican Council; many people felt efforts to get the original English Mass into use were "very hurried."

As the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) continues to prepare new English translations of the Mass prayers and as bishops' conferences await Vatican permission to use the translations they have approved, the group met in Rome in late February to continue outlining what members believe an education package should include.

The participants decided to produce a DVD, which would include the history of the liturgy, liturgical spirituality and language and how to preside at the liturgy.

"Ministry guides" and bulletin inserts also would be part of the package they hope would get "massive distribution in the English-speaking world," Msgr. Moroney said.

He said the materials would include suggestions "to help priests effectively proclaim the (new) texts, but a discussion about translations is only a very small part of the project."

Msgr. Moroney said the group was not convoked by the Vatican or by the ICEL, although ICEL chairman Bishop Arthur Roche of Leeds, England, and its executive director, Msgr. Bruce Harbert, are involved.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin De Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, 564 Long Shoals Rd. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* March 17, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Msgr. John McSweeney will speak on the Trinity. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — *St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Church* will have an informational meeting on the Eastern Rite at Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., March 18 at 1 a.m. Mass will follow at 11 a.m. The Mass is ope to anyone who would like to attend. For mor information, please contact Father Deacon Mar Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — The South Charlotte Cursill movement welcomes all to join us for faith fellowship, and food at our *Weekend Ultreya* i the family room of St. Matthew Church, 801 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., March 18, 12- p.m. Lisa Wilson will give an inspirational talk o "Practicing Holiness in Everyday Life." There wi be a potluck lunch. Babysitting will be availabl with early reservations. For more information, ca Paul Mitchell at (704) 841-9441.

CHARLOTTE — Father Peter Pham, priest i residence at St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, wi celebrate *Mass in Vietnamese for the Lenten seaso* at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, 42 Shamrock Dr., March 25 at 1 p.m. Reconciliatio will be offered at 12:30 p.m. For more informatio call the church office at (704) 535-9965.

CHARLOTTE — Father Fred Pompei will prese a *Parish Mission* at St. Thomas Aquinas Churc 1400 Suther Rd., March 19-21 at 7 p.m. The retre mission will focus on our Catholic Identity, wh the soul, heart and uniqueness of being a Cathol Christian is. For more information, call the chur office at (704) 549-1607.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryo St. will have *Eucharistic Adoration* Fridays duri

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MARCH 16, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 22

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Chur St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks duri June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per ye for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserv the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deem appropriate. We do not recommend or guarant any product, service or benefit claimed our advertisers. Second-class postage paid Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTE Send address corrections to The Catho News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlot NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official says Catholics must repent for not sharing good news

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics, and Catholic communicators must ask forgiveness for the times they have failed to share God's love and compassion, said U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley March 5.

"Certainly, it is necessary to identify the evils in society and warn people against them, but our major effort should be in proclaiming the knowledge and love of our merciful savior, Jesus Christ," said the archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Archbishop Foley asked council members to examine the ways they have failed to use modern media to spread the good news as well as ways they may have contributed to a public view of the church as a body that speaks mainly to condemn.

The archbishop said Pope Benedict XVI "has justly counseled us not to be seen as always saying 'no,' but to reflect — and to be seen to reflect — in our use of the media the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ."

The good news and the good deeds undertaken by the church out of love for God and for other people need to be shared every bit as much as the church warnings about evil, he said.

The media are used successfully "to sell soap and automobiles and clothing and vacation experiences," he said.

But Christians, "who have the responsibility to proclaim the most important message in the history of the human race, have often lacked the imagination and the dedication to use the media well in making known the good news of Jesus Christ," the archbishop said.

Archbishop Foley prayed that Christian communicators would renew their commitment not only to share the good news of Christ through their programs and publications, "but may we also be perceived as being loving and merciful, following his example and, indeed, his mandate."

Lent following the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 12 p.m. Benediction will follow with Mass at 12:10 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 12:45 p.m. A sign-up book will be available in the Church narthex. Call (803) 517-2600 with questions.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet March 22, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The *Ancient Order of Hibernians* Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-[illegible]472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — Rev. Gary Litchfield, pastor of Andrews Presbyterian Church, will lead the reflection for the *Ecumenical Lenten Service* at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., March 21, 12-12:30 p.m. Rev. James Johnson, rector of Episcopal Church of the Messiah, will lead the reflection March 28. This series is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Rick Appel will speak on "Spirituality of Henri Nouwen: Return of the Prodigal Son" at the March 21 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *Eucharistic Adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336)940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays).. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 17 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Baptiste de la Salle Church, North Wilkesboro

March 18 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Lexington

March 24 — 5 p.m.
Boy Scout Camporee Mass
Clear Creek Scout Camp, Midland

March 25 — 2 p.m.
Youth Pilgrimage
Belmont Abbey College

Pope, Russian president discuss Catholic-Orthodox relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI and Russian President Vladimir Putin spent 25 minutes speaking privately March 13, discussing Catholic-Orthodox relations and ways to strengthen the relationship between the Vatican and the Russian government.

A Vatican statement said the pope's meeting with Putin and the meeting held simultaneously by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, and Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, "took place in a very positive atmosphere."

While officials of the Russian Orthodox Church continue to insist relations have not improved enough to permit a meeting between Pope Benedict and Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow, the Vatican's nuncio in Russia said there are signs of progress, especially in relations between bishops of the two churches.

Archbishop Antonio Mennini, the nuncio, told Vatican Radio March 10 that a Russian Catholic-Orthodox commission has been working to investigate and resolve conflicts and tensions, usually involving Orthodox claims that Catholics have been trying to proselytize Orthodox believers.

The work is going well, the archbishop said, and the members are working in "an optimum climate of friendship and understanding."

Archbishop Mennini said the Vatican hoped a meeting between the pope and patriarch could be organized soon, "because it would be a very important thing, not just for the Christian world, but also precisely for safeguarding common values" in Europe.

The Vatican statement about the March 13 meetings said the two delegations expressed a desire to further develop their official relations, particularly through cultural exchanges.

Putin presented Pope Benedict with a 1663 lithograph of St. Peter's Square featuring a third arm of its colonnade. The pope told Putin the third set of columns was never built and an aide explained that the Vatican ran out of money before it could be erected.

Putin gave Pope Benedict an icon of St. Nicholas of Myra, explaining that it was made in 2006 strictly following the traditional Russian method of painting on a gold-covered piece of wood.

Cardinal Bertone presented the Russian delegation with a first-edition copy of the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church in Russian.

In addition to Catholic-Orthodox relations, the Vatican said, the Pope Benedict and Putin also discussed international affairs, particularly regarding tensions in the Middle East as well as "the problems of extremism and intolerance, which are serious threats to civil coexistence among nations."

The pope and the president, the statement said, emphasized their belief in "the need to preserve peace and promote the negotiated and peaceful resolution of conflicts."

A ministry of love

CNS PHOTO BY ANTO AKKARA

WARANGAL, India (CNS) — An HIV-positive wife feeds her dying husband at the Catholic AIDS hospice Karunalayam (Home of Love) near Warangal, India, Feb. 7 as Sister Bessy Sebastian, a Missionary of Mary Mediatrix, looks on. The Warangal Diocese's home-based care program is supported by Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and aid agency.

Resist moves to ‘bleach out God’ from public life, archbishop says

BY MARK ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — America must “look again at the place of religion and Gospel values in our efforts to build the common good,” Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said March 8 in a talk for the Presidential Leadership Lecture Series sponsored by Mount St. Mary’s University.

The lecture series, held at the University Club of Washington, explores the concept of leadership in today’s society.

Speaking on “Religious Faith and American Political Life” to a luncheon crowd that included Mount St. Mary’s officials, alumni and guests, Archbishop Wuerl expressed concern about the “current effort to bleach out God from our public life.”

He noted that “until very recently in our public civil life, mention of God was taken for granted and prayer inspired by belief in God was a routine part of public, government-sponsored programs and activities.” Now, he said, many consider such things unacceptable, and that poses a great risk for society.

“Without some transcendent reference point that binds all of us, moral value is reduced to personal opinion and a simple majority of voters,” he said.

“Without a value system rooted in morality and ethical integrity, there is the very real danger that human choices will be motivated solely by personal convenience and gain,” he added. “Law can become a matter of might, who has more power, rather than right, what we know we ought to do.”

The Washington archbishop said it should be seen as a “blessing, rather than a cause for concern,” that moral principles are “proclaimed by the religious faith of the majority of people in the country.”

“To speak out against racial discrimination, social injustice or threats to the dignity of human life is not to force values upon our society but rather to call it to its own, long-accepted moral principles and commitment to defend basic human rights,” he said.

Archbishop Wuerl said the belief that “we are a free people who recognize the sovereignty of God and God’s law in our personal and societal life ... has long been a cornerstone of the American experience.”

The Mayflower Compact in 1620 recognized that freedom in the new land would be guided by “the law of God and the common good,” the archbishop said. Documents such as the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the U.S. Constitution in 1787 reflected a similar understanding, he added.

“One is struck,” he said, “by how comfortable the framers of the foundational documents for the United States were with the recognition of their relationship with God as an integral part of their personal and political experience and the existence and role of a natural moral order that necessarily made an impact on and was normative for civil law.”

Today, the archbishop said, society faces a challenge from secularism that tries to divorce faith from public life. That view, increasingly promoted by the media, is artificial and wrong, he said.

Secular humanism cannot provide the “moral guidance we as society so desperately need,” the archbishop said. He also noted that science and technology can enable people to accomplish great things but cannot help people answer questions like “Is what we can do always what we ought to do?”

He said popes and bishops have written important documents on questions of war and peace, economic justice and the rights of workers, and the church likewise today has important insights to offer on issues such as “embryonic stem-cell research, partial-birth abortion, physician-assisted suicide and migration involving Asian, Pacific Rim and Latin American people.”

Archbishop Wuerl called on people of faith and on religious institutions to reclaim their place in the public square.

On questions of medical and bioethical decisions, for example, there is a need “for a clearer articulation of the rationale of our moral and ethical positions,” he said. “We need to be able to communicate not only at the level of scientific journal and intellectual elite, but also at the level of the masses, the participants in the consumer society.”

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington celebrates the Eucharist at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington during his 2006 installation. America must “look again at the place of religion and Gospel values in our efforts to build,” Archbishop Wuerl said in a March 8 lecture in Washington.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:

- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations Coming Soon!

We’re ready to help with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we celebrate with you their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or one of our **scheduled parish visits:**
St. Mark, Huntersville - Monday, March 26 — 4-7pm
St. Philip, Statesville – Sat. & Sun., April 21-22 after Masses

SPECIAL PARISH VISITS: If you’d like to arrange a parish visit, ask your pastor to call me, manager Allen Bond, and we’ll make every effort to meet his schedule. May God Bless you all as we approach Easter.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

NEW

YOUR ORGANIZATION RECEIVES $6.00 FOR EVERY PACK SOLD

The Sock FUNDRAISING COMPANY

- Everybody wears socks!
- Latest Designs
- 24/7 Ordering
- In Stock
- Ready to Ship

Easy Profit!

1-866-986-4271
www.TheSockFundraisingCompany.com

Annual Mass highlights abilities of disabled

DISABLED, *from page 1*

disABILITY Ministry, established n 1995 to encourage those people with physical or mental disabilities to participate fully in parish life.

"Our main goal is to encourage participation in activities from worship services to study groups to recreational activities," said Mary Kennedy, a member of the disABILITY Ministry and Beth's mother.

Through financial assistance from St. Gabriel Church, a grant from the N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities, memorials and other donations, the disABILITY Ministry was able to mprove St. Gabriel Church and other campus buildings to be more handicap-accessible.

When the ministry was established n 1995, there were 50 to 60 people with various disabilities participating in the ministry's activities. Today, about 160 people are involved.

The ministry also sponsors social events, including dances and bingo games, throughout the year for those with developmental disabilities.

Approximately 20 people with disabilities actively participated in the Mass, including the musical performances, readings, assisting ushers and presenting the gifts. Among the congregation were many people with disabilities attending the Mass with their families or group-home housemates.

"We want people with mental or physical disabilities to be a part of our church family," said Kennedy. "For a church the size of St. Gabriel, there has been very little participation by our own members with disabilities, and we cannot explain that. We are just prayerful that through this Mass and the activities we offer, they will feel welcomed and led to participate."

The Mass also serves to demonstrate the talents of those with disabilities, Kennedy said.

"The response from the parish has been terrific," Kennedy said. "The parishioners understand and welcome these people."

In the future, Kennedy said she hopes that the Diocese of Charlotte will be able to provide more housing opportunities for the disabled.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Members of the Joy Class of Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte sing during the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Sunday Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte March 11.

St. Gabriel Church was recently joined by St. Matthew Church in Charlotte in offering programs designed especially for persons with developmental disabilities.

In 2006, St. Matthew Church implemented Special Religious Development (SPRED), a program of religious education specifically designed to meet the spiritual needs of persons with developmental disabilities.

SPRED is a network of services that assists those people with developmental disabilities to realize their own giftedness and dignity and become more integrated into their parishes.

St. Matthew Church is hoping to establish a support group for parents, family members and friends of persons with disabilities. It will be an opportunity to hear special education experts, obtain valuable information on community resources and share ideas.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about St. Gabriel Church's disABILITY Ministry, call Mary Kennedy at (704) 364-6964.

For more information about St. Matthew Church's SPRED program, call Jan Clemens at (704) 341-8978.

Reserve now for best cabin choice!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Reserve today for best cabin choice! Call for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

CFCC
Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and
inspiration about
the Diocese of Charlotte!
Bishop Jugis
on Holy Week in Rome —
Subscribe today
— it's FREE!
Check it out at
www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Tens of thousands prepare to enter church at Easter

RCIA, *from page 1*

Catholic Church at Easter.

For catechumens — people not yet baptized — the final part of the journey began with a Rite of Election on or near the first Sunday of Lent. For candidates, who are already baptized Christians, the start of Lent meant participating in a Call to Continuing Conversion.

Many candidates were raised in a different faith. Some were baptized Catholic but never received first Communion as children or were not confirmed.

Catechumens will receive baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Candidates will enter full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Eucharist.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults spells out the formation of catechumens and the steps of their preparation for the three sacraments of initiation. For candidates, because they are already baptized, the program of formation and preparation is distinct, although there are often parallels with the RCIA and members of both groups often meet together in their parish formation programs.

By the numbers

In the Diocese of Charlotte, about 800 catechumens and candidates participated in the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, held at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Feb. 25, the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville March 3 and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point March 4.

In the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., there were 580 catechumens and candidates. In Arlington, Va., there were 623, while in Brooklyn, N.Y., there were 902 catechumens and candidates. Pittsburgh had 748. Dodge City, Kan., had 190. Louisville, Ky., had 567.

Manchester, N.H., had 415. There were more than 1,500 in Los Angeles, more than 300 in Peoria, Ill., more than 500 in Boston and nearly 900 in Portland, Ore.

In many places, candidates outnumbered catechumens.

The Diocese of Metuchen, N.J., for example, had 144 candidates and 72 catechumens. The Diocese of Albany, N.Y., had 142 candidates and 87 catechumens. Harrisburg, Pa., had 398 and 207. Sioux City, Iowa, had 120 and 46. Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., had 199 and 114. Lincoln, Neb., had 89 and 31.

New York had 645 and 375. San Francisco had 214 and 162. Camden, N.J., had 274 and 163. Toledo, Ohio, had 398 and 217.

Detroit had 793 candidates and 550 catechumens at archdiocesan services but reported that "several hundred more" participated in ceremonies in their home parishes.

Atlanta reported 769 candidates and 457 catechumens participating in archdiocesan ceremonies, but the archdiocesan worship office said that 300 to 500 more participated in such services in their own parishes.

In Salt Lake City the 321 catechumens outnumbered the 257 candidates.

Some dioceses hold separate liturgies for candidates and catechumens, often a day or week apart, to help emphasize that the process of a baptized person entering into full communion with the church is not the same thing as the RCIA.

The RCIA was established in the church in 1972 specifically as a modern revival of the catechumenate in the early church, a period of time combining formation and ritual through which non-Christians were prepared for their sacramental initiation into the church.

In the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., a Feb. 25 Rite of Election service was held for the diocese's 200 catechumens. In a separate service three months earlier, 291 candidates answered the Call to Continuing Conversion.

The Diocese of Trenton, N.J., welcomed 150 catechumens Feb. 25, but since last year the Call to Continuing Conversion for candidates has been celebrated at the parish level rather than in a diocesan ceremony.

The Archdiocese of Edmonton, Alberta, which welcomed 215 catechumens Feb. 24, has also adopted that approach. This year was the first in which the service was for catechumens alone and did not include the Call to Continuing Conversion with candidates.

A heavy snow in the District of Columbia forced the Washington Archdiocese to postpone its Feb. 25 ceremony. In two services March 4, the archdiocese welcomed 1,129 catechumens and candidates. Snowstorms in the Midwest caused several other cancellations or postponements.

Growing faith

Since 1993, when the Official Catholic Directory began recording separate statistics on adult baptisms and entries into full communion in the church in the United States and U.S. territories, the combined total of adults welcomed into the church has generally been running in the range of 154,000 to 162,000 a year.

There were three above-average years: about 171,000 each year in 1999 and 2000, and more than 178,000 in 2001.

In most years receptions into full communion have outnumbered adult baptisms by a few thousand nationwide, but the baptisms outnumbered the receptions by 1,400 in 2003 and by more than 7,000 in 2005, according to the directory. Figures for 2006 will not be available until the 2007 directory is published later this year.

The Diocese of Charlotte normally welcomes 800 new Catholics each year.

Editor Kevin E. Murray was among more than 20 contributors to this story.

Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Deacon Edwin Rodriguez and Bishop Peter J. Jugis watch as catechumens and their sponsors gather around the altar during the Rite of Election at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point March 4. The rite acknowledges the readiness of catechumens preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation — baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil.

Come and join us —

Keeping the Faith in a Violent Age

St. Gabriel Parish Mission
March 26, 27 and 28

Very Reverend Father Dennis M. Corrado, c.o., Provost of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, Brooklyn, will lead this annual event. Fr. Corrado will focus on how to sustain our faith in the violent times we face. He has preached retreats and missions in New York, New Jersey, California, Alabama, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida, and North Carolina.

Daily schedule –
11 a.m. – Mass followed by Mission presentation
(Light luncheon follows in the Ministry Center)
7 p.m. – Evening service in the Church

Babysitting by reservation is available for the evening services. Call 704-362-5047, ext. #210 to reserve childcare.

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte

TRAVEL WITH OTHER CATHOLICS DEPARTING SEPTEMBER 22, 2007

"Autumn Leaves" Tour Visits Historical East

15 Days from $1148*

Depart September 22, 2007 with other Roman Catholics and combine a New England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motorcoach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); New York City; Milford, and New Haven. You'll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There's even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and "bewitching" Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence in "upper NY" to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying home. *Prices, per person, double occpy. start at only $1148 including all taxes. Add $400 r/t airfare from Charlotte.

Space is limited to 46 on our motor coach. ***$300 deposits are now due.***

ASK TO BE ON THE SAME BUS WITH OTHER CATHOLICS!
For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626
America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

More federal funding urged for umbilical cord-blood collection

CORD BLOOD, *from page 1*

Congress has to approve the funding each year. For fiscal year 2008, which begins in October, the Bush administration budget proposes only $2 million in funding.

"We were active in supporting the underlying legislation and we are in favor of full funding," Doerflinger said March 7 after attending a briefing organized by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., the main sponsor of the 2005 law.

Smith called on his congressional colleagues to approve the $15 million permitted by law.

Doctors and cord-blood bank officials at the briefing said that stem cells from cord blood that were transplanted into patients have been successful in curing people with brain, heart and blood diseases.

They also provide an alternative to the ethical problems involving embryonic stem cells. Human embryos are destroyed to extract the stem cells.

Cord blood is collected from the umbilical cord and the placenta discharged by the mother during childbirth. Stem cells are basic cells that are capable of reproducing as stem cells or as other types of specialized cells, offering promise that they can help cure numerous diseases.

Noting that placentas are discarded after childbirth, Smith said that fully funding the cord-blood program "enables us to turn medical waste into medical miracles."

Smith said that that cord-blood stem cells have resulted in treatments for 70 diseases, including leukemia, sickle cell anemia and some forms of mental retardation.

Full federal funding would provide seed money to allow the cord-blood banks to collect, store and catalog 150,000 units of blood, including units from different racial and ethnic groups so that more people can use the therapies, he said.

Experts at the briefing said that collecting units from different ethnic and racial groups is important because compatible genetic material in the cord blood is more likely when donors and patients are from the same racial and ethnic group. Without a certain amount of genetic compatibility, the patient's body can reject the donor cells, they said.

Smith said that the 150,000 units is the minimum amount needed to serve the wide-ranging needs of patients and to permit the blood banks to become economically self-sufficient.

Experts said that current cost for collecting and storing a unit is $2,000, putting the cost of collecting and storing 150,000 units at $300 million.

They added that future funding would come from hospitals and insurance companies paying for the use of the blood units in treatments.

They added that stem cells from cord blood are easier to match with patients than stem cells from bone marrow and are starting to replace bone marrow in some treatments.

Doerflinger told CNS that for compatibility in bone marrow transplants six of six genetic factors have to be compatible while for cord-blood stem cells, four of four factors need to be compatible.

Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg, a pioneer in using cord blood in cures for children, said that there is something, yet to be discovered, in the cord blood cells that reduces the likelihood that they will be rejected once transferred to a patient.

The evidence that something special exists in cord blood is that although half of the genetic material of a fetus comes from the father, the mother does not reject the fetus, said Kurtzberg.

She is program director for both the Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant Program and the Carolinas Cord Blood Bank for Pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center.

The cord-blood transplant procedure is similar to a blood transfusion with the units introduced intravenously in the arm of the patient, she said.

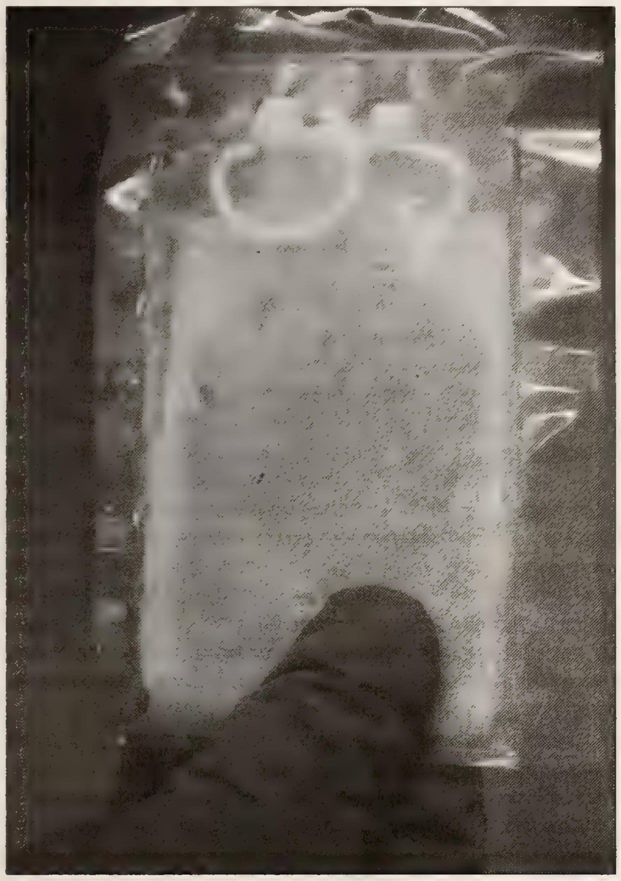
There is no need to introduce the cord blood directly to the part of the body needing the therapy because "the cells seem to know how to get to the organ where they are needed," she said.

Kurtzberg, who began using cord blood on sick children in 1988, said there is medical evidence that cord blood has been responsible for successful therapies.

This includes the fact that regenerative cells with female genetic characteristics have appeared in the repaired organs of boys who have received female cord blood, she said.

Science still does not know whether the cures come from the blood cells themselves or from other cells carried in the blood, she said.

"We need five to 10 years still to work out what cells do what," she said.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVID V. KAMBA, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Displayed is frozen umbilical-cord blood at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., in this photo from July 2006. A lack of federal funding could jeopardize therapeutic advances made in using umbilical cord blood for curing diseases.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

Pennsylvania is latest state to approve 'Choose Life' license plates

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Pennsylvania has become the latest state to approve the use of a "Choose Life" specialty license plate.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation receives $20 for each plate ordered, and another $20 is an annual membership fee in Pennsylvania Choose Life.

Every year, when people renew their registration, they will receive a reminder from the pro-life organization to renew their annual $20 membership.

Pennsylvania Choose Life will administer the funds it collects, using the money to support women in crisis pregnancies.

The project began several years ago, but it stalled until the Legislature decided that the Department of Transportation would give the approval, not the Legislature.

"All we had to do was prove we were a charitable organization and provide information about what our homes do for women in crisis pregnancies," Wurtz said.

"In Florida, we sold 8,000 plates in our first five months," said Russell Amerling, national publicity coordinator of Choose Life Inc., in Ocala, Fla., where the idea for the plates originated.

The success of the program depends on getting the word out that "Choose Life" plates are available.

In states such as Florida, where the plates have become popular, monthly revenues generated by the plate sales can be as high as $65,000. In only two years, more than $2.5 million has been raised for adoption services in that state.

In his 10 years of work, Amerling has seen groups that support keeping abortion legal initiate lawsuits to block their sale where a state's legislature has to approve the plates.

Amerling has found that in states that offer both pro-life and pro-choice plates, sales of pro-life plates are far more successful.

"In Hawaii, where we have a 'Choose Life' plate," he said, "Planned Parenthood got a 'Respect Choice' plate, and we're outselling them 5-to-1. In Montana, we're outselling them 8-to-1."

CNS photo courtesy Father Iasiello

Franciscan Father Louis Iasiello (right), the president of Washington Theological Union, is pictured praying with Navy Special Forces in Fallujah, Iraq, in this undated photo. Father John Hannigan, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and a military chaplain, says more priests are needed in Iraq to boost the spiritual drive of the U.S. servicemen.

‘Making headway’

Chaplain says people in U.S. must keep up support for troops in Iraq

BY PAUL STORER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

FRANKFORT, Ill. — Support from people in the United States is important to the nation’s troops who are serving in Iraq and must continue, especially for soldiers “in harm’s way,” a military chaplain told a congregation in the Diocese of Joliet.

Father John Hannigan, a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese, has been on leave from active duty since January, but before that he had been stationed in Iraq since the early days of the war.

He would travel every day in convoys with U.S. soldiers along desert roads, dodging bullets and roadside bombs with his comrades while evading rocket-propelled grenades.

The priest’s mission was to boost the spiritual drive of the infantry Marines stationed within a 30,000-square-mile region stretching across Baghdad and Fallujah to the borders of Syria and Jordan.

The U.S. Navy commander who is a Marine Corps chaplain relied on donations from people stateside — including members of St. Anthony Church in Frankfort — to secure rosaries, Bibles, medals and other religious items for the troops.

He paid a visit to the parish in mid-February to express his thanks.

With regard to the situation in the volatile Middle East, Father Hannigan believes that the plan to send 21,500 additional soldiers to Iraq is needed, as American troops are training Iraqi police officials and soldiers while fighting off insurgents.

“We are winning there. We’re making headway. Those aren’t just empty words. The American public needs to hear that. And, the Iraqi people really appreciate our presence there,” he said.

Ordained in 1976, Father Hannigan served as an associate pastor at three parishes in the Chicago Archdiocese before beginning his career as a military chaplain in 1990.

The 56-year-old clergyman said that for as long as he could remember he always had the desire to be a Catholic priest and, at the same time, he wanted to be in the military. Being a military chaplain seemed like an appropriate fit, he said.

Father Hannigan explained that military chaplains are responsible for strengthening the morale of the troops and are stationed across battle lines.

Enemy forces understand the positive impact chaplains have on the lives of the soldiers, he said, so chaplains are targets along with combat commanders, communication officers and physicians.

“I’ve had six close calls,” he said.

He noted that there are 75 percent fewer Catholic priest chaplains than Protestant chaplains serving the Marines. Those numbers are similar in the other branches of the military, he said.

“We really need priests out there,” the chaplain said, noting that it was impossible for him to adequately serve all the Catholics in his assigned perimeter in Iraq.

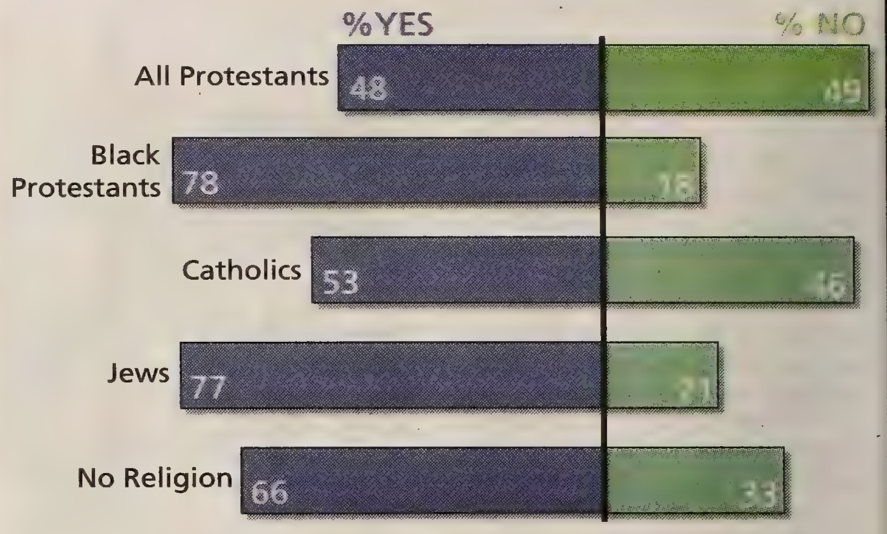
“The bishops have been very supportive, but they just don’t have enough priests,” he said, referring to the priest shortage in the United States.

Priests serve the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services as chaplains with permission from their bishops.

When he reports back to active duty sometime in March, Father Hannigan has been assigned to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

War Views by Religious Affiliation

Do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq?



Source: 2007 Gallup Poll

©2007 CNS

St. Thomas Aquinas Academy — Arden
A high school that offers
Academic Excellence through Classical Education
Self-Discipline through Catholic Formation
(828)687-7714
www.stthomasaquinasacademy.org
St. Thomas Aquinas Academy is a private school, independent of the Charlotte Diocesan school system.

Voices and Places *of* The People of God

The Diocese of Charlotte is commemorating its 35th Anniversary with the publication of a special volume of beautiful photographs, spiritual reflections and fascinating history.

You will enjoy more than 35 spiritual reflections from laity throughout the diocese as well as from clergy including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, and Archbishop John F. Donoghue.

Plus, the book is filled with numerous historical photos and interesting facts about the growth and development of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Cost of this beautiful book is $25.99 plus tax and $4.85 shipping and handling. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Order your copy at www.Diocesebook.com.
If you do not have Internet access, call 704-370-3333.

Catholic groups join call to bring peace to Iraq

PEACE, *from page 1*

3.7 million Iraqis displaced in and outside their own country, including an estimated 712,000 displaced since the a Shiite mosque in Samarra was bombed in February 2006.

— $100 million to restore full funding of the Community Action Program and an Iraqi war victims' fund commonly known as the "Marla Fund."

— $100 million to support Iraqi civil society, conflict resolution and peace-building strategies, and the advancement of human rights and rule of law.

— $100 million to rebuild 143 Iraqi state-owned industries with the potential to employ 150,000 Iraqis, which would reverse the decline in U.S. economic assistance — a recommendation found in the Iraq Study Group's report.

The money would be included in a supplemental appropriations bill, the groups said in their March 7 statement.

"These are unexpected bedfellows working together," Sister Campbell told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from St. Louis, referring to the broad base of organizations behind the proposal.

She pointed to "the fact that we've got Mercy Corps and Amnesty (International), and endorsements from the peace community, which is also supporting this as part of their message, getting this engaged. We're also getting a lot of support from the NGOs (nongovernmental organizations)."

A similar effort by such varied groups "might have happened before, but not in my memory," she said.

Catholic groups behind the plan also include the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Pax Christi USA, the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, and the Holy Name Province of the Franciscan Friars.

Nine other religious denominations are backing the initiative.

Major NGOs supporting the plan include the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights, the International Human Rights Law Institute, the International Medical Corps, International Relief and Development, Refugees International, Relief International and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Copies of the proposal were distributed in early March to members of Congress.

"We understand that Murtha's (Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa.) office has seen it, is interested in it, but whether it will make it to the markup, we don't know," Sister Campbell told CNS.

"There's a lot of interest in trying to find alternative ways of talking about this whole situation that exists there" in Iraq, Sister Campbell said, "and when even the president starts talking about the need for development, it's beginning to gain some traction."

Ideas are being bandied about over what to do next in Iraq.

Murtha, a Vietnam War veteran now regarded as one of Congress' leading doves on Iraq, has advocated a bill with troop-deployment restrictions, a counter to President George W. Bush's "surge" of 21,500 additional U.S. soldiers. Other Democrats call for defunding the war effort.

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, in a confidential recommendation reported March 8 by The New York Times, called for the post-surge troop level of 180,000 to be sustained through next February, and to take steps to halt a decline in numbers expected to start in August.

The AFL-CIO, which in 2005 called for "rapid withdrawal" of U.S. forces, said March 8:

"It is time to bring our military involvement in Iraq to an end," recommending reconsideration of the Iraq Study Group's recommendations, and for Congress to "insist on a timetable for disengagement. If the president refuses to act, Congress must use its powers under the Constitution and act."

The Department of Defense had identified 3,171 U.S. troop deaths since the war began nearly four years ago.

"If you have development, then you can't have such a dependence on the troops and you can draw down," Sister Campbell said.

"Our Iraqi friends who are left in Iraq are still pretty terrified about a withdrawal. They don't believe in a surge, but they believe that a presence at some level is necessary to keep the lid on," she said. "We (Network) haven't taken a position on the (number of) troops because of this."

CNS PHOTO BY FABRIZIO BENSCH, REUTERS

U.S. soldiers patrol a Shiite neighborhood in the village of Alwardah, south of Baghdad, Iraq, March 6. In a March 7 statement, Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, and 34 other prominent religious and social justice organizations asked for support from members of Congress to strengthen U.S. efforts to stabilize and rebuild Iraq.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent on the campus of Belmont Abbey College

Meet at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes

3 PM

Take the stairway down the hill behind the Monastery and Basilica

For more information please contact
Ruth Payne,
Director of Campus Ministry,
704-829-7196 or email
RuthPayne@bac.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Youth Camps
Nursing
Retreats
Campus Ministry
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:

Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Extension Magazine marks centenary with great cover art of past

CHICAGO (CNS) — For 100 years Extension Magazine, monthly publication of the Catholic Church Extension Society, has entered the homes of Catholics, many of whom sent in donations to help the church's home missions.

For those old enough to remember, many of Extension's covers in the 1940s and '50s, painted by some of the leading artists in the heyday of magazine illustration, were celebrations of Catholic Americana done in a style reminiscent of the Norman Rockwell classics that graced the covers of The Saturday Evening Post.

The first issue of Extension Magazine was dated April 1906, just a year after the society was founded. At its peak it was one of the nation's largest Catholic family magazines, with a circulation of nearly 600,000.

To mark its centenary year, the magazine is reproducing some of the best of those mid-century covers.

Extension Magazine started reproducing the selected classic covers with its January 2006 issue and is continuing up to its April 2007 issue, when the centenary year ends.

Five of the revived covers are by Robert Abbett, who also produced promotional art for major movie studios, including paintings of film stars such as Marlon Brando and Jimmy Stewart, as well as illustrations for books by major novelists.

"Extension was a great learning ground for me," said Abbett, now 80.

He is still painting — though now he does most of his work on natural wildlife scenes, splitting his time between homes in Connecticut and Arizona.

One of Abbett's covers features two nuns in full habits teaching a young boy how to kick a football. Another shows a pastor digging his car out of a snow bank on his way to a mission for Mass. Another shows a pastor basting the Thanksgiving turkey as a reproachful housekeeper looks on.

"This was an era of Americana art that's been lost, so it's been a big hit with many of our readers, young and old," said Extension editor Bradley Collins.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
Extension
MAGAZINE

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF EXTENSION

This is the 100th anniversary issue of Extension magazine. Extension, published by the Catholic Church Extension Society in Chicago, is celebrating 100 years of bringing Catholics the stories of the church in rural mission areas across the United States.

Extension communications director Mark Andel said copies of the anniversary issues were still available and the covers can be viewed on the society's Web site, www.catholicextension.org.

Anyone interested can also order a full year of Extension Magazine free of charge by signing up on the Web site; by telephoning (800) 842-7804; or by writing to Catholic Extension, 150 S. Wacker Drive, 20th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606.

In the past century the Catholic Church Extension Society has distributed more than $400 million in support of the home missions. Its activities included funding for the building of 12,000 parishes and parish centers as well as contributions to the training of countless priests and catechists, funding for religious education and salaries for missionaries.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MARCH 25, 2007

March 25, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Cycle C Readings:

1) Isaiah 43:16-21
   Psalm 126:1-6
2) Philippians 3:8-14
3) Gospel: John 8:1-11

Christ taught us to sympathize with, not condemn, sinners

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Righteous indignation is the fuel that makes scandals burn so hot. Ironically, the person most often burned is the one who lights the fire.

Despite that, high dudgeon seems hard to resist, especially for people who have been successful at religion. After all, who hasn't, on discovering people caught in a major public offense, felt the pleasurable desire to savor the sinner's fall from grace? Who among us hasn't, from time to time at least, been tempted by the corrosive allure of watching someone receive a richly deserved comeuppance?

When we have given ourselves over to rigorously following all the rules and regulations, when we've suffered patiently the loss of freedom required by strict adherence to the law, when we've triumphed over our own weakness at great personal cost, then it's all the more infuriating to see someone get away with flouting the very laws we have followed so diligently. It's hard not to want to see such scoffers punished, shamed.

In the story in Sunday's Gospel, the revelation of adultery provides the religious elite of Jesus' time a double helping of righteous indignation. Capturing the adulterous woman gives them the chance to denounce publicly someone of demonstrably lower moral standards than themselves — always its own pleasure — and at the same time to put Jesus, their most irritatingly peaceful and clever opponent, in the hot seat.

Jesus slips out of their trap with an elegance that belies the strength of his confrontation. "Let the one among you who is without sin cast the first stone," he says, and slowly, starting with the eldest, they drop their weapons and slink away.

To the extent that we recognize ourselves in the self-righteous accusers, it is a story that invites sober reflection in these remaining Lenten days. To the extent that we see ourselves in the forgiven sinner, it's cause for great rejoicing.

QUESTIONS:

What stones of condemnation might my hands be holding, and how can I let go of them? Who in my life has given me second chances after failures? How might I express gratitude for that gift?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 18-24
Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent), Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; **Monday (St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Luke 2:41-51; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-16; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Lenten Weekday, St. Toribio),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25-31
Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11; **Monday (The Annunciation of the Lord),** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday),** Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Daniel 3:52-56, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday),** Jeremiah 20:10-13 John 10:31-42; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday),** Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-56.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

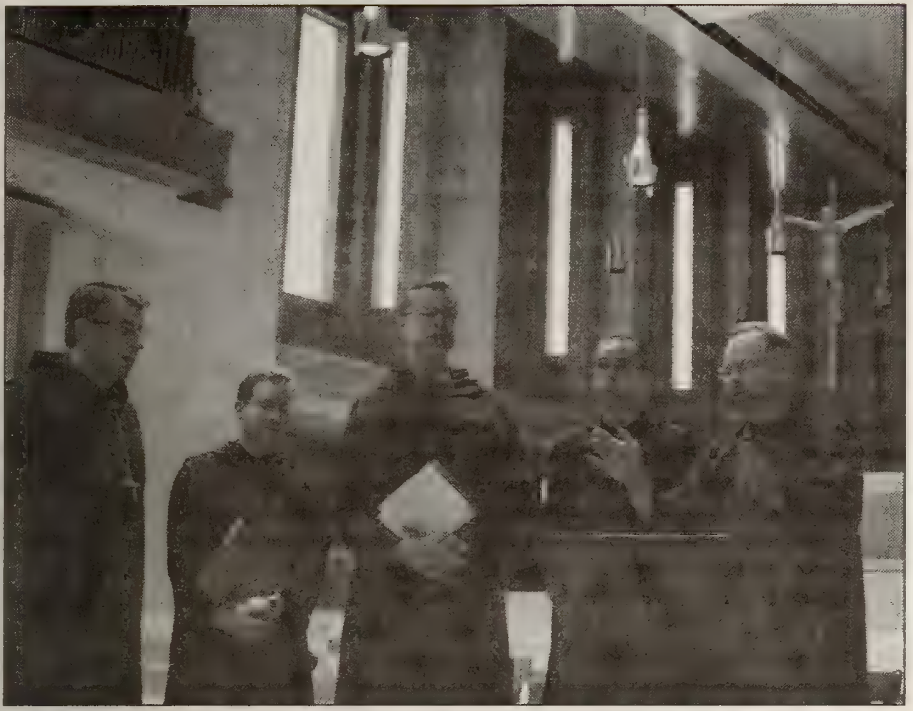
11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Kansas monks record compact disc as fundraiser for Benedictine abbey



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. BENEDICT'S ABBEY

The monastic schola, or core choir, of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, Kan., has recorded a new CD, called "On a Musical Journey," to benefit the abbey's capital campaign. The schola is comprised of (from left) Abbot Barnabas Senecal, Brother Luke Baker, Father Matthew Habiger, Father James Albers and Brother Ambrose Nelson. The monks are pictured singing during a practice session at the monastery.

BY TAMMY DODDERIDGE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ATCHISON, Kan. — Benedictine Abbot Barnabas Senecal — known as "the singing abbot" — is renowned throughout the Kansas City Archdiocese for his rich tenor and his a cappella renditions at Masses, weddings, confirmations and other liturgies.

To the delight of his longtime fans, his singing has been captured on a compact disc that also features the musical talents of other members of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison.

The CD of liturgical music, "On a Musical Journey," celebrates 150 years of monastic life in Kansas.

The varied collection features the monastic schola, the core choir of any Benedictine monastery.

Father Blaine Schultz, another monk of the abbey, is the organist and choirmaster for the recording, with Brother Ambrose Nelson directing.

"We sing every day in our common prayer and not very many people are witnesses to that," Abbot Senecal said. "This CD gives them a touch of the way we do choral prayer, both in Latin and in English."

The CD is more than an expression of faith. It is also a fundraiser for capital improvements to the church, monastery and guesthouse.

The three-phase project, to be carried out over five years, includes the replacement of the 75-year-old monastery roof and 885 windows, as well as improvements to the abbey's accessibility.

"The church was built in 1957, and the structure reflects the times," Abbot Senecal said. "Every entrance has steps."

The abbey church has been serving students and visitors in Atchison and the surrounding area for 50 years. People frequent the abbey for Mass, to receive spiritual direction, and to attend retreats and concerts.

It serves the community, said the abbot, and the monks would like to ensure that it remains a welcoming refuge.

Mary Easterday, a member of Corpus Christi Parish in Lawrence, described the CD as "just beautiful," and she is especially fond of Abbot Senecal's rendition of "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman."

Mary Sayers, of Cure of Ars Parish in Leawood, concurs.

"I have listened to the CD many, many times since I got it," she said. "The whole CD is beautiful, but 'Hail Mary' is the best."

Both women have been fans and friends of the abbot for years and have enjoyed his singing at church events. They have been encouraging him for years to record some of his songs. Now, they say, they can listen to him at their leisure.

Along with five solos by Abbot Senecal there are three original compositions by Father Schultz.

One, an all-organ piece composed four years ago, features an abbey organ with a tale to tell.

When the church was built in the 1950s, said Father Schultz, only part of the original design of the organ was completed because of a lack of funds.

"The idea was that they would finish it in a few years, but that didn't happen," he said. "So more than 40 years later, we finally were able to finish it."

The upgrade included adding wooden pipes in five different locations, resulting in a better distribution of sound.

"When you pull out all the stops, it has such a wonderful sound," said Father Schultz, "not only because of the instrument that it is, but also because of the acoustics of the room."

Father Schultz is pleased as well with the range of selections featured on the CD.

"The CD represents a mixture of the old and the new — Gregorian chants that are over 1,000 years old, plus new pieces," he said.

'I realized I could do something big to help others in the world'

William J., 13, New Hampshire

After hearing a presentation at his church six years ago about Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, William J., 13, of New Hampshire, began sponsoring a boy from Costa Rica. Soon he and his family sponsored another child from Costa Rica, and orphans from Kenya and Bolivia. "CFCA is a true blessing to me," he said. "I realized I could do something big to help others in the world. I could change the lives of other people." William contributes half of his allowance and also hosts events such as walk-a-thons to raise money for his sponsored friends. "Kids can make a difference, too," he said. "I am a regular 13-year-old teenager but I also include helping others in what I do."

CFCA has served more than 475,000 children and elderly in developing countries over the last 25 years—empowering them to make more choices in their lives, live with dignity and reach their potential.

You can improve someone's life, too. Your sponsorship of $30 a month helps your sponsored friend with critical immediate needs such as nutrition, medical care and clothing. But it goes much further. It also develops self-reliance through education, skills and livelihood training for families, and community involvement.

Founded by Catholic lay people and grounded in Catholic social teaching, CFCA works with people of all faiths. Sponsor a child or aging friend today and help make the world a better place for all.

Sponsor a child through CFCA. It works.

CFCA

Offering hope.
Restoring dignity.
Worldwide.

To learn more or sponsor

- visit our Web site at www.cfcausa.org
- call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564

A+ rating by the
American Institute of Philanthropy
www.charitywatch.org

Highest rating of **four-stars** from
Charity Navigator
www.charitynavigator.org
★★★★

26110

Students sweep science awards

CHARLOTTE — Students from three Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools recently racked up an array of science awards.

Students from Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Patrick schools in Charlotte and St. Mark School in Huntersville participated in the 2007 Regional Science Fair at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Feb. 24.

Joseph Joyce, a fifth-grader at Our Lady of the Assumption School, won first place in the elementary division of the biological science category. Joseph will represent the school at the N.C. State Science Fair at Meredith College in Raleigh March 24.

Also participating from Our Lady of the Assumption School were third-graders Sofia Montilla and Angeline Morales and fourth-grader Meghan Santschi.

Maria Shea and Will Larsen, fifth-graders at St. Patrick School, won first place in the elementary division of the technology category. Third-graders Megan Almon and Madison Demmit won third place in the elementary division of the earth sciences category.

Ten sixth-grade students from St. Mark School participated in the fair. Billy Lech took first place in the junior technology division and will represent the school at the state science fair in Raleigh.

Maegan Habedl placed third in the junior technology division, Sean Dougherty placed third in the junior physical science division and Kaitlin Magliocco placed third in the junior biological science division.

Special awards were given to Kaitlin and Billy for the Discovery Channel's Young Scientist Challenge, a science and engineering competition for fifth-through-eighth-graders.

Also participating from St. Mark School were Colleen Buck, Lauren Ducey, Kevin Kirchmer, Paul Modzelewski, Lucia Ahrensdorf and Alex Rouse.

COURTESY PHOTO

Maria Shea and Will Larsen, fifth-graders at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, are first place winners at the 2007 Regional Science Fair at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Feb. 24. Maria and Will won in the elementary division of the technology category.

COURTESY PHOTO

Sixth-graders from St. Mark School in Huntersville are pictured at the 2007 Regional Science Fair at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Feb. 24.

Pictured are (front row, from left) Colleen Buck, Lauren Ducey, Kaitlin Magliocco, Sean Doughtery, (back row, from left) Maegan Habedl, Kevin Kirchmer, Paul Modzelewski, Lucia Ahrensdorf, Billy Lech and Alex Rouse.

COURTESY PHOTO

Joseph Joyce, a fifth-grader at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte, holds his first place award in the elementary biological science category at the 2007 Regional Science Fair at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte Feb. 24. Also pictured are Alisa Wickliff, assistant director of UNC-Charlotte's Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology Education, and Allana-Rae Ramkissoon, assistant principal at Our Lady of the Assumption School.

CAMPUS MINISTER

We are currently accepting applications for the position of campus minister in the Diocese of Richmond for 2007-2008. Positions are available for priests, religious or laypersons. Pastoral experience and a graduate degree in theology or a related discipline required. For further information about this ministry, visit the Web site at www.richmonddiocese.org/cyam and contact Sr. Diane Guy at 804.359.5661.

Principal – Catholic Elementary School Chantilly, Virginia

St. Veronica Catholic School, a K through 8th-grade school located in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is currently seeking a principal starting in the 2007-2008 school year. St. Veronica is a medium-size parish with a growing school population. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school, as well as assist in developing long range goals.

For more information about this exciting opportunity and for instructions on how to apply, please visit the St. Veronica parish website at: http://www2.stveronica.net/principal.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

J.S. Paluch Co., established in 1913, the nation's oldest Catholic Publisher, is now interviewing for the position of Sales Representatives for parish church bulletins Realistic earnings potential of 40K+, health insurance, paid vacation, 401K. Some travel required. Self-motivation a must. Bilingual helpful in some areas. To arrange an interview call Les Black at 800-432-3240. Seniors welcome to apply. EOE

Classifieds

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

BMCHS senior awarded memorial scholarship

KERNERSVILLE — Neil Thomas Goodman, a parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, was recently awarded the Staddon-Cain Scholarship by Knights of Columbus Council 8509.

Neil was presented with the $500 scholarship award during a Lenten fish fry at the parish March 2.

The John R. Staddon and Frank L. Cain Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1986 to perpetuate the education of individuals in the Catholic faith. The fund was named for the two non-Catholics, who married into the Catholic faith and encouraged their children to pursue Catholic education.

Neil, a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, maintains a 4.2 GPA, is a member of the Model United Nations club, and participated in the Harvard Model Congress debating competition at Harvard University in Massachusetts, where he earned an award of excellence.

Neil will study engineering at the University of North Carolina in the fall.

Neil was selected for the scholarship by the Staddon and Cain families.

Courtesy Photo

Grand Knight Lance Cancro (right) of Knights of Columbus Council 8509 presents Neil Goodman (second from left) with the Staddon-Cain Scholarship Award at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville March 2. Also pictured are Neil's parents, Joseph and Bernadette.

Courtesy Photo

The Charlotte Catholic High School rugby team (on right) prepares to engage the Greyhounds during the fourth annual Charlotte Youth Rugby Tournament March 10-11.

CCHS competes in tourney

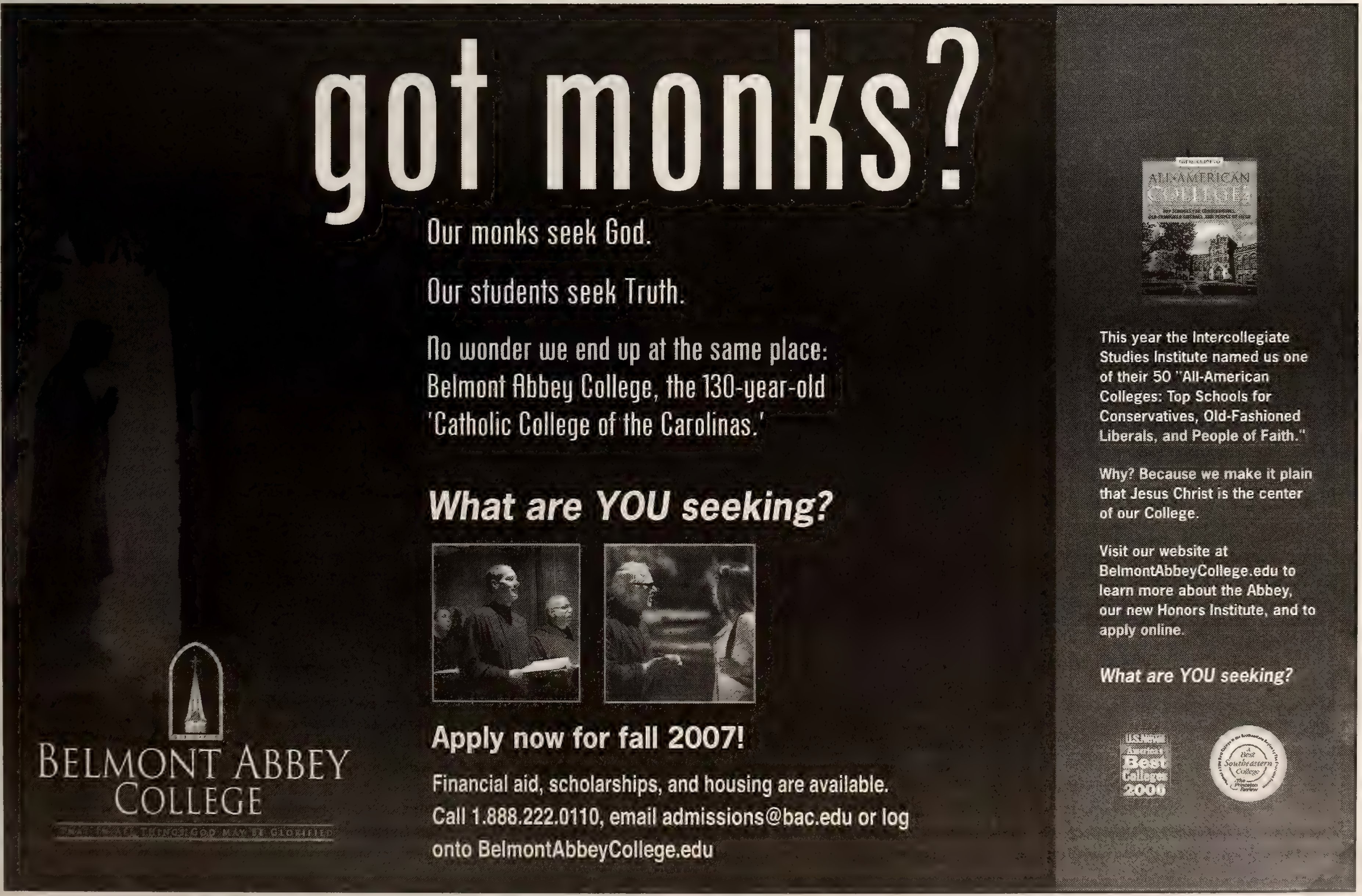
CHARLOTTE — Two teams from Charlotte Catholic High School were among several girls' and boys' teams from the United States and Canada to participate in the fourth annual Charlotte Youth Rugby Tournament March 10-11.

"(The tournament) involved constant examples of skill and energy, plus that certain glorious knowledge you're doing something not many others would attempt, because players and spectators know this is a pretty rough sport," said Glenn Shorkey, vice-president for membership for the St. Gabriel Church Men's Club.

The Men's Club prepared a banquet for 400 tournament participants and their families March 9. This was the third major community-dinner event the Men's Club has sponsored in 2007.

"This was a terrific outreach event for St. Gabriel, and awareness and potential membership was our pre-determined goal, though hopefully some fundraising accrued to the Charlotte Youth Rugby," Shorkey said.

Charlotte Catholic boys' team ended the tournament 3-0-1.



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

ALL-AMERICAN COLLEGES
U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006
Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The reality of post-abortion trauma

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Back in the late 1960s, when abortion was a headline topic for everyone from politicians to religious leaders, I was a reporter with The Long Island Catholic. As a Catholic mother of seven, I plunged deeply into reporting the pros and cons of this deeply important issue. I did extensive research on the effects of abortion in countries such as Sweden, Hungary, Romania and Japan, which had liberalized abortion laws.

The picture was alarming. Prestigious publications like the World Medical Journal were reporting a rarely mentioned fact: the extensive "mental injury" experienced by women after abortion.

"In the clamor for liberalization of abortion laws, 'side effects' of the procedure are sometimes overlooked," said the World Medical Journal in 1966. "Both physical and mental injury may result from legal as well as illegal abortion."

The following year I interviewed Dr. Mary Calderone, then executive director of the Sex Education and Information Council of the United States. She was talking openly about the "mental condition of women post-abortion," and told me, "Aside from the fact that abortion is the taking of a life, I am also mindful of what was brought out by our psychiatrists — that in almost every case abortion, whether legal or illegal, is a traumatic experience that may have severe consequences later on."

Now, exactly 40 years later in an era of legalized abortion, we still are debating the negative effects of abortion.

The Jan. 21, 2007, issue of the New York Times magazine ran a hefty article that asked, "Is There a Post-Abortion Syndrome?" While the article maintained that abortion is not "at the root of women's psychological ills," it did focus on what is definitely a growing movement, the abortion-recovery ministry.

While the Catholic Church "runs abortion-recovery ministries in at least 165 dioceses in the United States," according to the article, "abortion-recovery activists go one step further to make people aware of a simple truth: "Abortion doesn't help women. It hurts them."

This is the same message I heard from the research I did four decades ago!

Recently Cathy Trowbridge, an Illinois mother, sent me a copy of a manuscript she wrote that came from the depths of her own long-term pain following an abortion. Her book, she said, was "about my life in sin and return to our Lord."

Trowbridge was forthright in explaining that she had an abortion when she was a teenager in the wrong place at the wrong time. She turned away from her Catholic faith then. Now she is convinced that her "special angel" child has brought her back to God.

Trowbridge wrote: "It has been a long journey ..., and I have scars that will remind me of my mistake, and although it is forgiven, it is not forgotten. ... I have now returned to the church with a hunger for knowledge about my faith, and I seek to deepen my relationship with our Lord."

I remember back in the 1950s when I was a young mother of four. I had gone to a restaurant with a friend. An older man and woman were at the next table. The woman accused, "You made me kill my baby." She kept saying this.

The man quietly countered, "That was 25 years ago."

But she didn't stop, and so we left.

Discarding a baby. Can that ever be forgotten?

I had seen first-hand the everlasting trauma of abortion and never forgot it.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

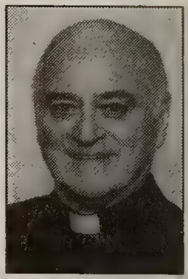
The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Uniting with Jesus

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



When Mother Teresa of Calcutta addressed a group of major religious superiors from all over the world, she made this salient point: "To be really united to Jesus we must all strive to be united with him in his passion. It is his passion to be intensely aware of the suffering of others. He unites with the suffering of the poorest of the poor and wants to help them. He wants to bring his love, peace and joy to them, and he needs us to do that. And that is why we must radiate joy!"

Her emphasis on joy was striking! And her interpretation of Christ's "passion" as "a yearning to help others" was enlightening. If his passion was to help the downtrodden, maybe the emphasis many of us put on Christ's physical pain misses the point.

Ultimately it was his love for the poor that led to Jesus' crucifixion. He told the outcasts that they were blessed. The Pharisees told them that they were defiled, and the Pharisees became furious when Jesus defended the poor.

According to Mother Teresa, being united with Jesus means entering fully into his passion to help others. To do this she asks us to radiate his joy, which is the "Joy" of the Blessed Trinity. Joy liberates us all from sorrow.

At times suffering is unavoidable. When it comes it purifies the soul and wins us grace, but we do not need to increase our physical pain in order to grow closer to Jesus. All we need to do is unite with his passion for helping those in need. What the Lord wants us to communicate is his love and his joy.

When I write about the importance of joy, some people think that I am watering down the faith. They think I should preach Christ crucified. But I do.

Preaching Christ crucified does not mean focusing only on his physical suffering; it means being united to his passion. This involves the deepest level of love and self-surrender. The sacrifices we make in the name of love do not diminish us; rather, they serve to intensify our joy. Joy is the byproduct of love.

If we are to bring "joy to the world," as Jesus did, we must understand his mission. Helping others to triumph over their sorrow requires an abundance of love and joy on our part, and that is why Mother Teresa insists that we "radiate joy."

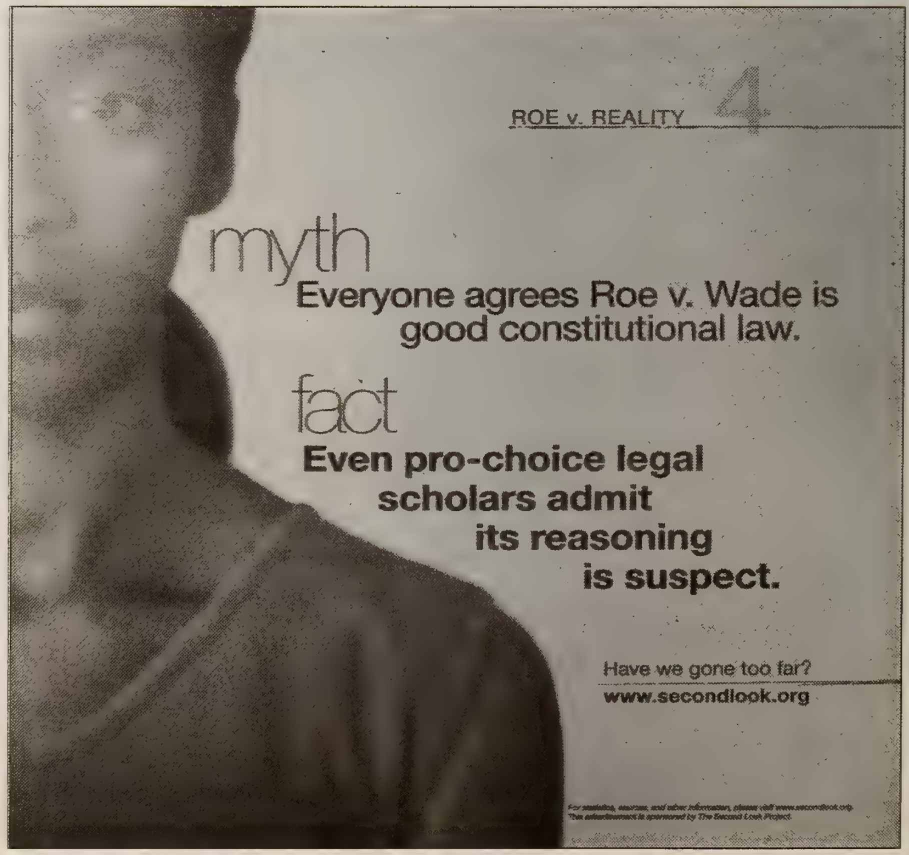
Christianity is not primarily about sadness and suffering. Quite the opposite! All Christians are called to the fullness of God's joy.

Mother Teresa continued, "We are called to be carriers of God's peace, love and joy. ... You can't give what you do not have, so it is important that we ask for God's joy. We must pray to grow in joy."

Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is "love, peace and joy."

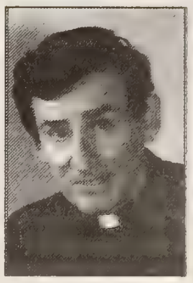
The Lord loves us so much that he wants to liberate us from pain and suffering. He died that we might live. He plans a brighter tomorrow for all of us. The hope of heaven permeates our lives here and now. Jesus frees us from fear and self-pity.

The demands of the modern world take a heavy toll on our bodies and our souls, but Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. ... I have told you this that your joy may be full."


ROE v. REALITY
4
myth
Everyone agrees Roe v. Wade is good constitutional law.
fact
Even pro-choice legal scholars admit its reasoning is suspect.
Have we gone too far?
www.secondlook.org

Bringing out the best in ourselves

The Human Side



FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"Confessions will be heard in all parishes on Wednesday evenings during Lent."

With this announcement by Archbishop Donald Wuerl, the Archdiocese of Washington began a renewal in appreciating the sacrament of reconciliation. For people unfamiliar with the sacrament, the archdiocese is providing an updated understanding of it and a wallet-sized guideline to help them during confession.

Not long ago, lines in front of the confessional were long and packed. This was especially true during Lent and Advent. Equally true was the fact that most people feared confession.

Much has changed to make the sacrament of reconciliation cherished. Confession of sins still exists, but the emphasis is on reconciling oneself with God and self rather than emphasizing the need to be fearful and guilty.

Penitents now have the option of face-to-face confession; this emphasizes reconciliation as a communal event. The priest is not there to judge another; he too is a repentant sinner working with the penitent in exploring ways to improve his or her spiritual life.

When the U.S. bishops' conference conducted its first study of this sacrament in 1990, I fervently wished a renewal would occur then, like the one being undertaken by the Archdiocese of Washington. Why was I so desirous for this renewal? Because of the beautiful insights Pope John Paul II brought to the sacrament.

In order to conduct the study, research on everything written on the topic of reconciliation was conducted. One of the documents researched was the apostolic exhortation of Pope John Paul II, "Reconciliatio et Paenitentia."

In it he wrote: "Since by sinning man refuses to submit to God, his internal balance is also destroyed and it is precisely within himself that contradictions and conflicts arise. Wounded in this way, man almost inevitably causes damage to the fabric of his relationship with others and with the created world.

"This is an objective law and an objective reality, verified in so many ways in the human psyche and in the spiritual life, where it is easy to see the signs and effects of internal disorder."

The pope is showing us that we are at our best and happiest when we are internally balanced. First and foremost, he sees God as one who desires for us an inner harmony because of the beauty, goodness and inner composure this creates.

God desires our psychic health, peace of mind. This is a far cry from God depicted as a stern judge only interested in exacting a penalty for transgressing his laws.

We now have an example of the renewal we had hoped for after the bishops' study in 1990. Interestingly, it is being created in our nation's capital. I hope it will spread throughout the nation and unite the hearts of all with a loving God who wants his peace to thrive within us.

Origins of the Stations of the Cross

Centuries-old devotion evolved during Middle Ages

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. A Protestant friend happened to go with me to Lenten Stations of the Cross in our parish. She asked later where this practice came from. I couldn't answer, except that I believe they mark different events when Jesus was crucified. She said she doesn't think most of them are in the Bible, and I agree. Where did the Stations come from? Do they go back to the time of Christ? (Texas)

A. No, they originated many centuries after Jesus lived and died. The Stations (or Way) of the Cross is one of many devotions that arose during the very late Middle Ages, generally in the 1200s or 1300s.

Politically, culturally and religiously, those were chaotic and painful times for the majority of ordinary people. Practicing and passing on their faith was enormously difficult, and a variety of new devotional practices developed to help people live and learn what it meant to be a Christian. St. Francis of Assisi and St. Dominic and their followers were among those who helped popularize such expressions of faith as the Christmas crèche (Francis) and the rosary (Dominicans).

The Stations were one of these, serving both as prayer and a sort of catechism about the sufferings and death of our Lord. Franciscan priests, brothers and sisters who already held responsibility for the holy places in Jerusalem for Latin-rite Catholics did much to spread the devotion.

At one time the Stations included seven falls under the cross. Another form included 43 separate stations. But the 14 as we know them became fairly stabilized by Pope Clement XII about 300 years ago.

As you have possibly experienced, for some years now most publications of the Stations have included a 15th station or meditation calling to mind Christ's victory over death in the resurrection.

About 40 years after the death of Jesus, Roman armies leveled the city of Jerusalem, making the precise location of, for example, any falls on the way to Calvary nearly impossible to determine. The present markings of the 14 stations along the Via Dolorosa (Sorrowful Way) in old Jerusalem are comparatively recent. The accuracy and even historical validity of some of them are highly doubtful. Nevertheless, the Stations remain one of the richest ways in our tradition to reflect on our Lord's suffering and death.

As your friend has found, Protestant Christianity did not carry on many Catholic devotions such as the Stations for complicated reasons. Some Reformed churches mistrusted the use of pictures or other images in worship and prayer. This may be part of the answer.

Another could be, as you note, that the Stations have always included incidents which are found in Christian tradition but not in the Gospels. Our fourth station, for example, commemorates Jesus meeting his mother. Luke notes that Jesus stopped along the way to speak to "many women who mourned and lamented him," but he doesn't say Mary was among them. John places her at the foot of the cross but not on the road.

With the Protestant emphasis on Scripture as the rule of faith, it is perhaps understandable that some of these popular devotions would not be picked up in their spirituality.

The story of Veronica wiping the face of Jesus is also not in the Gospels.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Faith in God's oneness, church unity essential to Christianity, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Faith in the oneness of God and a commitment to the unity of the church are essential components of the Christian life, Pope Benedict XVI said March 14 at his weekly general audience.

Pope Benedict said St. Ignatius of Antioch "is called the 'doctor of unity,'" because his primary concerns were to preach the oneness of the triune God, the unity of Jesus' humanity and divinity, and the importance of unity within the Christian community.

St. Ignatius emphasized both its hierarchical structure and the fact that all the faithful are bound to one another through their baptism in Christ, the pope said.

St. Ignatius is the first Christian writer to refer to the church as universal, the pope said, and he recognizes that the church in Rome is called to exercise "a type of primacy in love" over all Christian communities to foster their unity in supporting one another and maintaining fidelity to the faith.

Pope Benedict repeated St. Ignatius' plea that Christians "love one another with an undivided heart."

"Let us pray that the Lord will help us to find this unity ... because it is love that purifies souls," the pope said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 14.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The subject of today's catechesis is St. Ignatius of Antioch. He was the third bishop of Antioch in Syria, from the years 70-107. While traveling to Rome to face martyrdom, he urged the Christian communities, through preaching and letters, to be on their guard against emerging heresies, to remain faithful to the apostolic tradition and to maintain ecclesial harmony and cooperation.

Among the Fathers of the Church, Ignatius is renowned for his intense desire for union with Christ, even pleading that his martyrdom come quickly in order to be with Jesus. Ignatius taught that unity is a prerogative of God, and so for Christians is an imitation of the divine. In his letters, he insists on communion among believers and with their bishops. Such harmony precludes any sense of opposition between ecclesial roles and instead echoes Christ's prayer: "that they may be one" (cf. Jn 17).

Little wonder that Ignatius is called the "doctor of unity." His realism still prompts believers today to seek configuration to Christ and dedication to his church through communion with our bishops and generous service to our communities and the world. Let us beseech the Lord for the grace of unity, and strive to live the fullness of communion and mission!

ADVERTISEMENT

AN INVITATION TO ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH AND COLLEGE-AGE YOUNG ADULTS

Come join us for a Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College!
Sunday, March 25 2 pm–6 pm

"TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST"

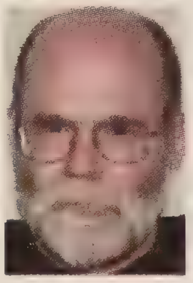
—I COR 2:2

Bishop Peter Jugis and Abbot Placid Solari invite you to join them for the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Lenten Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey College (I-85 at exit 26).

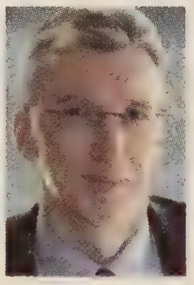
2007
Diocese of Charlotte
IHS
Eucharistic Congress

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

Bishop Peter Jugis



Abbot Placid Solari



Dr. William Thierfelder

You will hear inspirational talks by Bishop Peter Jugis, Bishop, Diocese of Charlotte; Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College; and Dr. William Thierfelder, President, Belmont Abbey College.

Your day also will include:

- Campus tours
- Praise and worship music
- Eucharistic procession
- Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
- Adoration
- Pledge to the Holy Spirit
- Vespers with Monks of Belmont Abbey
- Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament

(Bring a bag dinner to eat together at event's conclusion)

Information at www.GoEucharist.com

FC 292

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

MARCH 23, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 23

Perspectives

Bishop Jugis discusses knowing Christ; David Hains examines Bible literacy

| PAGES 14-15

Bonds of faith and family

Photo by Karen A. Evans

David, Alex, Luis and Maritzabel Piñuera-relax in their Charlotte home March 20. David and Alex both have autism, a neurological disorder affecting language, socialization and learning skills.

'The Sacrament of Charity'

Pope reflects on Eucharist, makes concrete suggestions for Mass

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Catholics must believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, celebrate the liturgy with devotion and live in a way that demonstrates their faith, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The celebration and worship of the Eucharist enable us to draw near to God's love and to persevere in that love," the pope said in his apostolic exhortation, "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("The Sacrament of Charity").

The 131-page document, a papal reflection on the discussions and suggestions made during the 2005 world Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist, was released March 13 by the Vatican.

See EUCHARIST, page 7

Faith helps family cope with sons' autism

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When David Piñuera was about 3-and-a-half years old, his parents noticed his speech didn't seem to be at the same level as that of other children his age.

"Our oldest son had had some speech delay, and we thought it was the same with David," Maritzabel Piñuera, David's mother, said.

The Piñueras took David to see a doctor, who evaluated him for autism. That's when bad news became even worse.

"When the doctor was asking about David's symptoms, I began to realize Alex might be autistic, too," Maritzabel Piñuera said.

See AUTISM, page 4

Green Charlotte

CHARLOTTE — Catholic schools and other local Catholic organizations marched in the 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charlotte March 17. The parade was followed by a community festival featuring Irish food and live entertainment.

MORE COVERAGE
See photos on pages 8-9

A life-altering mission of love

Dominican Republic trip benefits all involved

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

MINT HILL — For Melissa Platko, the experience will stay with her for a long time to come.

"I am consumed with the thoughts and visual memories of the people and sites of my past week in the Dominican Republic," she said. "I had imagined what could and might happen to me spiritually and emotionally on this journey, but I clearly had no idea or control."

Platko was one of 17 people, mostly from the Diocese of Charlotte, who took part in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic Feb. 26-March 3.

The group spent the week building latrines, providing health care and taking family photographs in the Batey Lecheria, a mission in a ghetto north of Santo Domingo.

The trip was part of St. Luke Church's ministry "Agape Missions to the Islands," which coordinates and supports two

See MISSION, page 5

Courtesy Photo

Pictured are children who are residents of the Batey Lecheria in the Dominican Republic. Members of a recent mission trip, organized by St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, assisted residents with construction and health care needs.

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-B P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Around the Diocese

Parishes hold retreats, missions on faith

| PAGE 6

Culture Watch

Books on late pope; Christopher Awards

| PAGES 10-11

In search of hope

Parishioners pray for peace

| PAGE 12

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

TO BETTER BRAZIL

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. CONSULATE IN SAO PAULO

Sister Angela Mary Carey (right) dialogues with U.S. President George W. Bush at a round-table discussion March 9 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, during the president's trip to Latin America. The Holy Cross nun, a native of Chicago who has worked in Brazil since 1965, is known for her work with underprivileged youths in a Sao Paulo slum.

U.S. nun working in Brazil part of round-table event attended by Bush

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — A U.S. Holy Cross nun known for her work with underprivileged youths in a Sao Paulo slum participated in a March 9 round-table discussion that drew U.S. President George W. Bush during his five-country trip to Latin America.

Sister Angela Mary Carey was invited to take part in the discussion by Christopher J. McMullen, U.S. general consul in Sao Paulo.

She was the only American, the only woman and the sole member of a religious congregation among the representatives of the nongovernmental organizations involved in the round table, which was held at a community center. U.S. Ambassador to Brazil Clifford Sobel and his wife, Barbara, also were in attendance.

Bush, accompanied by first lady Laura Bush, sat down for 40 minutes with the nongovernmental representatives, all of whom work in a variety of arenas to encourage the observance of human rights and improve the welfare of the disadvantaged.

Bush told those seated around him, "Laura and I are so thrilled to be in Brazil. ... I love the fact that there are people who are deeply concerned about the plight of the least of us ... being part of that social fabric that helps heal the broken heart and provides hope for the future."

Sister Carey, whose congregation is based in Notre Dame, Ind., described the mission of her organization, known in Portuguese as Projeto Sol (Project Sun).

"Mr. President, Project Sun is based on the objective to transform the lives of young people — imbued with a profound faith in God — through exposure to the fine arts, theater, dance and sports," she said. "This experience of beauty leads to the ultimate beautiful, which is God."

The president asked the missionary nun about funding for the work she does with more than 200 youngsters.

"We rely totally for support from donations," she replied. "In God we trust," she added, a reference to the motto on U.S. currency.

Bush replied, "Thank you for the life you give. I'm so honored to be with you all. We're all members of God's family. ... When one of us hurts, we also hurt. The people of the United States care."

A Chicago native, Sister Carey has worked in Brazil since 1965. She first was a teacher at a high school run by her order in an upper middle-class neighborhood, then in 1976 began working in youth ministry at a parish in a poor area.

Project Sun is an umbrella organization for the Center for the Guidance and Education of Youth, founded in 1978 by Sister Carey and a sociologist in a Sao Paulo slum. The center helps children stay away from violence and drugs by offering ballet classes, theater workshops and a soccer program.

In 1998 Sister Carey received the honorary title of citizen of Sao Paulo in recognition of her ministry.

After the round-table discussion with Bush concluded, the group was joined by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Study: Women having abortions more likely to engage in child abuse

WASHINGTON — According to a report on LifeNews.com, a new study finds that women who have a history of abortion are more likely to abuse children born from subsequent pregnancies.

The study, published in the Internet Journal of Pediatrics and Neonatology, confirms previous research that suggests a link between abortion and child abuse.

The study is based on an analysis of data on 237 low-income women in Baltimore who had physically mistreated or neglected at least one of their children or allowed someone else to do so.

While all the women in the study had some connection with child maltreatment or neglect, the authors found that those who reported a history of abortion reported significantly more frequent acts of physical violence, such as slapping, hitting or beating, directed at their children.

Dr. Priscilla Coleman, a researcher at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and lead author of the new report, cited many possible explanations for the association — including "unresolved bereavement, disruption of mother-child attachment mechanisms, feelings of abortion-related guilt, and/or negative mental health effects of the abortion."

The study found that pressure from others to have an abortion may also impact later cases of child abuse.

Dr. David Reardon, director of the Illinois-based Elliot Institute and a leading researcher who has been involved in more than a dozen studies on the impact of abortion on women, said Coleman's study confirms the general findings of previous studies linking abortion with a higher risk of abuse or neglect.

Other research conducted in New Zealand found that young women who had abortions were significantly more likely to experience subsequent depression, suicidal behavior and substance abuse, even after the researchers controlled for previous mental health problems.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — *Faithful Stewards of God's Creation* will take place March 31, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m., in the St. Francis Room of Immaculate Conception Church, 208 Seventh Ave. West. The conference will include presentations on church teaching on environmental justice, recent scientific findings, energy saving ideas and how to become more effective advocates. Attendance is free. Call (704) 370-3228 by March 26 to register and reserve a lunch. Sponsored by the Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace through a grant from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Environmental Justice Program. Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for a flyer and schedule.

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, 564 Long Shoals Rd. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church and the Autism Society of North Carolina will offer a presentation titled *"Autism 101"* March 29 at 7 p.m. in the banquet room of the New Life Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. A representative from the Autism Society will provide an overview of the Autism Spectrum Disorder and will answer questions associated with autism. Speakers will provide information on community resources and the Special Religious Development program (SPRED). For more information, call (704) 341-8978.

CHARLOTTE — A meeting to establish a *Core (Continuing our Retrouvaille Experience) Group* in Charlotte will take place March 31 at 7:30 p.m. Core Group is a monthly support group for couples who have attended Retrouvaille weekends. Retrouvaille is a program to help couples heal and renew their marriages. For directions and more information, e-mail minivicky79@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. will have *eucharistic adoration* Fridays during Lent following the 7:30 a.m. Mass until 12 p.m. Benediction will follow with Mass at 12:10 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 12:45 p.m. A sign-up book will be available in the church narthex. Call (803) 517-2600 with questions.

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to attend a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., April 1 at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Bernard Potepa, a Franciscan retreat master from Poland. Confession will be available from 1:30 pm. For more information, please call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes will be awarding a *$1,000 scholarship* in memory of Gene Marie Alfaro to a graduating high school senior who will pursue a career in the nursing or health care field. The application deadline is April 10 and the scholarship will be awarded in May. For more information, call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MARCH 23, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 23

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Iraqi bishop: Four years of war brought increased spiral of cruelty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Four years of war have brought an increasing spiral of cruelty and killing to Iraq, and left the country in a state of chaos, said Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad, Iraq.

The war also has prompted a massive flight of Catholics and others from the country, leaving behind a shrinking Catholic minority, he said.

Bishop Warduni made the comments to Vatican Radio March 19, the fourth anniversary of the U.S.-led bombing and invasion of Iraq.

"The cruelty and the killing have increased from day to day. Children, youths, the old, the sick, we are all suffering, because the world is not thinking of what's good for the Iraqi people," said Bishop Warduni.

"Everyone is thinking of their own interests and so the Iraqis have been forgotten. Terrorism is increasing, and with it the number of orphans and widows," he said.

Asked about estimates that more than 60,000 people have died in the conflict, Bishop Warduni said the number could be much higher. No one knows the real number, he said.

"So often we go out of our homes uncertain whether we'll return safe and sound. The kidnappings, the kamikazes, the car bombs, the missiles: You cannot eat calmly, study calmly or pray calmly," he said.

"So many people are afraid to come to church, and so many children are afraid to go to school," he said.

With Iraq's infrastructure nonexistent and electricity outages that last most of the day, everyone who can leave the country does so, he said.

The church tries to encourage those who remain, asking them to pray.

"Only the Lord can do something for Iraq," the bishop said.

Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* with a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet April 15 at 3 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be offered prior to the celebration. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 15 with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m. including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information, call Gail Abraham at (704) 786-0709.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace, 2205 W. Market St., invites all parishioners and friends to participate in a *Divine Mercy Holy Hour and Benediction* April 15 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — Rev. James Johnson, rector of Episcopal Church of the Messiah, will lead the reflection for the *Ecumenical Lenten Service* at St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., March 28, 12-12:30 p.m. This series is designed to strengthen ecumenical bonds within the community. For more information, call Joan Kennedy at (828) 837-8519.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Catechism of the Head and Heart* religious education series for adults meets in the library at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South. Martin Mata will speak about "Forming Youth for Leadership" March 29 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Loretta Bedner at (336) 564-1040.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Teresa Radomski, professor of voice and consultant for the Center for Voice Disorders at Wake Forest University, will speak on "Praying Twice" at the March 28 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

March 24 — 5 p.m.
Boy Scout Camporee Mass
Clear Creek Scout Camp, Midland

March 25 – 2:30 p.m.
Youth Pilgrimage
Belmont Abbey College, Belmont

March 27 – 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

March 31 – 11 a.m.
Jubilee Mass for women religious
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Vox Clara advisers urge quick completion of English Mass translation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments and a committee of congregation advisers have urged the quick completion of the new English translation of the Mass.

The Vox Clara Committee, a group of English-speaking bishops who advise the Vatican on English translations, met March 12-15 at the Vatican.

A press release about the meeting repeatedly referred to hopes that the translation of the Roman Missal, promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2002, would be completed quickly.

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) is preparing the translation in several sections. When individual bishops' conferences approve the texts translated into English from Latin, they request Vatican permission to use them.

The new translation of the Order of the Mass, which contains the main prayers used at every Mass, has been approved by all the English-speaking bishops' conferences.

The Vox Clara press release said Vatican permission to use the text is expected "in the near future," although most bishops' conferences have said they would wait until the entire Missal has been approved to begin using the new translation.

Vox Clara members also said they discussed a report on "musical considerations" involving the translation of the Order of the Mass and proposed "appropriate revisions" to the texts.

The Vatican had asked musicologists to evaluate how easily and smoothly the translation of the people's parts of the Mass — for instance the Gloria and the Sanctus — could be set to music.

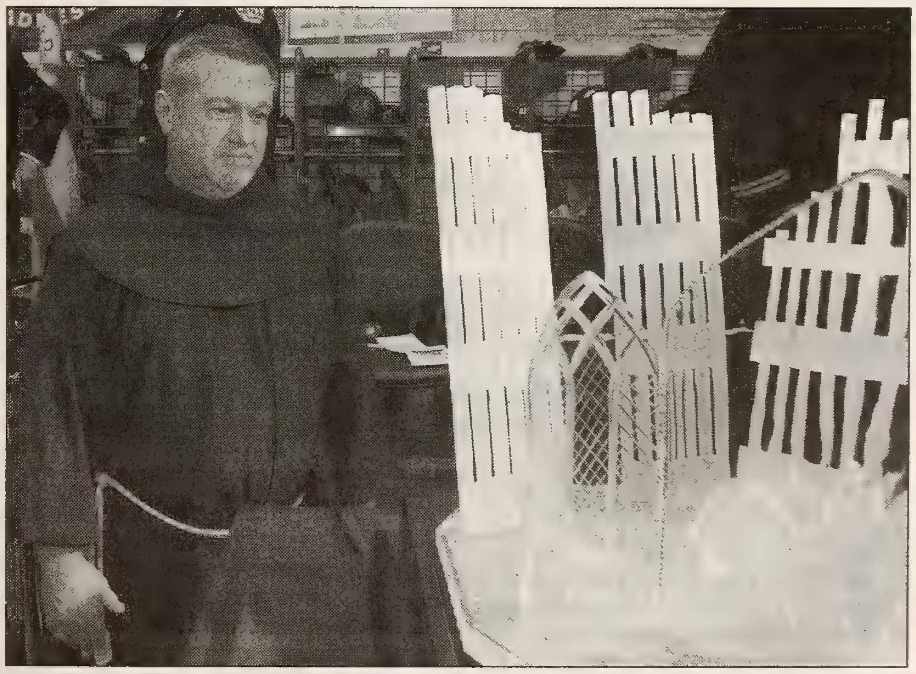
It was expected that in granting permission for the new translation to be used the Vatican could make minor changes to the translation or word order to facilitate singing the texts.

Vox Clara also called for the preparation of "accurate and accessible formational materials" to introduce the new translation to priests and congregations before the new Mass prayers are used.

In reference to the principles used for liturgical translations, Vox Clara members conducted their final review of the congregation's proposed translation style guide, the "'Ratio Translationis' for the English Language."

"The 'Ratio Translationis' was first proposed in draft form to all conferences of bishops in June 2005," the Vox Clara statement said. "Following widespread consultation, it is anticipated that the congregation will promulgate the 'Ratio' in its final form in the near future."

Crystal memorial



CNS PHOTO BY OCTAVIO DURAN

Franciscan Father Jerome Massimino looks at the 20-pound, 2-by-3-foot sculpture an Irish sculptor created using Waterford crystal that shows Franciscan Father Mychal Judge, a chaplain with New York Fire Department, being carried out of the World Trade Center rubble. The sculpture was dedicated March 14 at Engine 1, Ladder Co. 24. Father Judge died Sept. 11, 2001, while giving last rites to a firefighter in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the center's twin towers.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following pastoral assignments:

Effective Feb. 20: Augustinian Father Anthony Tomasulo as parochial vicar at St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

Effective March 19: Deacon Richard Voegele as permanent deacon at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

Family uses faith to cope with sons' autism

AUTISM, ***from page 1***

Alex, the Piñueras youngest son, was about 18 months old at the time of his diagnosis.

Autistic children have problems with language, socialization and learning. Those with severe problems are referred to as "low-functioning."

David and Alex are both considered to be high-functioning, as they have less severe problems.

Seemingly simple undertakings such as sitting through an hour-long Mass can be difficult for an autistic child.

"When we lived in Miami, we couldn't go to Mass," said Luis Piñuera, David and Alex's father. "It was too noisy, and the boys didn't like it."

When the family moved to Charlotte in 2003, they attended Mass at nearby St. Matthew Church. Luis and Maritzabel Piñuera were surprised to find that David and Alex now liked attending Mass.

"We're not sure why we can go to Mass here, but we're glad," Luis Piñuera said. "It's been wonderful."

Although they enjoy Mass, "The boys like to sit together, and sometimes will talk loudly to each other," Maritzabel Piñuera said.

Fortunately, parishioners have been accommodating of David and Alex's disruptions.

"A man sitting in front of us a few weeks just laughed about their talking," said Maritzabel Piñuera.

The Piñueras feel it's worth the extra effort their sons' religious education requires.

"Now, they're starting to pray, and they follow the Mass better than they used to," Maritzabel Piñuera said.

Every other Sunday, David and Alex attend religious education classes through St. Matthew Church's Special Religious Development (SPRED) program.

SPRED is a network of services that assists people with developmental disabilities to realize their own giftedness and dignity and become more integrated into their parishes.

"They love their SPRED lessons and this is the first time they've been in such classes," said Maritzabel Piñuera, who hopes her sons will be able to receive their first Communions this year.

Luis and Maritzabel Piñuera don't deny the emotional and financial toll having two autistic sons has taken on them. Both boys are in special education classes in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools; receive speech and occupational therapy; and Maritzabel Piñuera works with the boys at home.

Health insurance doesn't cover any of the therapy costs.

Still, the Piñueras are grateful for their faith.

"The church gives us a lot of comfort," Maritzabel Piñuera said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org

WANT MORE INFO?

St. Matthew Church and the Autism Society of North Carolina will offer "Autism 101" March 29 at 7 p.m. in the New Life Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. An Autism Society representative will provide an overview and will answer questions about autism. Speakers will provide information on community resources and SPRED. For more information, call (704) 341-8978.

Facts about autism

- Autism is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.
- 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with autism
- 1 in 94 boys is on the autism spectrum
- More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined
- Autism costs the nation over $90 billion per year, a figure expected to double in the next decade
- Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism; girls appear to manifest a more severe form of the disorder
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism
- Autism knows no racial or ethnic boundaries.

Incidence vs. Private Funding

- Leukemia: Affects 1 in 25,000; funding: $310 million
- Muscular Dystrophy: Affects 1 in 20,000; funding: $175 million
- Pediatric AIDS: Affects 1 in 8,000; funding: $394 million
- Juvenile Diabetes: Affects 1 in 500; funding: $130 million
- Autism: Affects 1 in 150; funding: $15 million

National Institutes of Health Funds Allocation

- Total 2005 NIH budget: $29 billion
- $100 million of NIH budget, or 0.3 percent, goes towards autism research

Source: Autism Speaks, Inc.

Early signs of autism

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by 6 months or thereafter
- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles or other facial expressions by 9 months or thereafter
- No babbling by 12 months
- No back-and-forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months
- No words by 16 months
- No two-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating) by 24 months
- Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age

Source: First Signs, Inc.

TRAVEL WITH OTHER CATHOLICS DEPARTING SEPTEMBER 22, 2007

"Autumn Leaves" Tour Visits Historical East

15 Days from **$1148***

Depart September 22, 2007 with other Roman Catholics and combine a New England & East Coast historical tour with fall foliage. Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motorcoach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); New York City; Milford, and New Haven. You'll visit gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; tour Boston including the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. There's even one free day in Boston with an optional tour to historic Concord, Lexington, Gloucester, and "bewitching" Salem. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal, both with city tours, and travel along the St. Lawrence in "upper NY" to Niagara Falls. YMT will also take you to Gettysburg, Amish Country, Valley Forge, Hershey World and other attractions before flying home. *Prices, per person, double occpy. start at only $1148 including all taxes. Add $400 r/t airfare from Charlotte.

Space is limited to 46 on our motor coach. ***$300 deposits are now due.***

ASK TO BE ON THE SAME BUS WITH OTHER CATHOLICS!
For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**
America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent
on the campus of
Belmont Abbey College

Meet at the
Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes
3 PM

Take the stairway down the hill behind the Monastery and Basilica

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

For more information please contact
Ruth Payne,
Director of Campus Ministry,
704-829-7196 or email
RuthPayne@bac.edu

WWW.BELMONTABBEYCOLLEGE.EDU

Mission trip benefits all involved

MISSION, *from page 1*

established missions in the Caribbean — the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica, and the Batey Lecheria mission run by the Society of the Holy Child Jesus in the Dominican Republic.

The term "agape," which appears many times in the Greek translation of the New Testament, indicates the self-giving love of one who looks exclusively for the good of the other.

The mission group included 13 people from St. Luke Church in Mint Hill; one from Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte; Father Edward Sheridan, pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte; and two people from Phoenix, Ariz.

"Whether it was building the latrines, working in the clinic, the family photo project or simply embracing these people, I have seen our faith community at work in a way I didn't know possible," said Platko, a 23-year-old nurse and parishioner of St. Luke Church.

Bateys are rural "ghettos," originally communities of Haitian workers brought in to work the sugar cane fields in the early 1900s. The Haitian government wouldn't allow them to return to Haiti, and the batey residents are descendants of the original workers.

Although they were born in the Dominican Republic, they have no birth certificates and no established citizenship in either country. They have very limited access to health care, education, employment or proper housing.

The Batey Lecheria is a community of one-room, cement block dwellings and metal shanties with limited electricity and no running water. Most residents cook over open fires and gather water from a river more than a mile away.

> "I went with the impression ... that I was helping the people ... but, ironically, they helped and inspired me."
>
> — Melissa Platko

The river is the same water they drink, bathe in and wash their clothes in. Many people are ill with parasitic diseases from the lack of clean water.

"Children walk around with huge bellies from bacteria in the water and naked because their families — if their parents are even alive — are too poor to afford clothes," said Matt Riffle, a student from Corona del Sol High School in Phoenix.

"The elderly often have very poor dental heath ... and their bones and muscles are in such poor condition that each move is the greatest labor," said Riffle.

Platko was one of three nurses from the group who worked on a hypertension project through Faye Allegria, a clinic and school at the edge of town run by Society of the Holy Child Jesus sisters and volunteers.

The school serves about 100 children who are taught through the Montessori Method. The clinic provides health care for AIDS, tuberculosis and other medical conditions suffered by the locals.

"There is so much hope surrounding Faye Allegria, but also much desolation," said Riffle.

COURTESY PHOTO

Melissa Platko, a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, performs a blood pressure check on a resident of the Dominican Republic during a mission trip Feb. 26-March 3.

Two members of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, Sisters Jay McCann and Veronica Grover, serve as pastoral associates at St. Luke Church. They first introduced the parish to Sister Ann Joyce Peters in Santo Domingo, whose "Latrine Project" was established to improve the batey's sanitation conditions.

St. Luke Church parishioners began raising money and sending members to the batey to build latrines. Locals help dig the 15-foot-deep holes and contribute 100 pesos to the construction of each latrine. To date, more than 35 latrines have been built and there is a waiting list for about 105 more.

"I am proud to have been a part of such a great group in helping make their home a little safer and more sanitary by virtue of our latrine construction project," said Tim Somers, a parishioner of St. Luke Church.

Although they were assisting the locals, members of the mission trip felt as if they were the ones being helped.

"I went with the impression that in some small way, I was helping the people of this community," said Platko, "but ironically, they helped and inspired me."

"I went down there with the intention of putting some blisters on my hands doing 'the Lord's work,' but found so much more to take away from it all," said Somers.

"I was touched at how beautiful the children were despite having nothing, and how grand their smiles were just to have an 'Americano' to stand beside as we did our work," he said.

"They had such a sense of hope and it was contagious — it made me think of how fortunate I am and how much I take for granted at home," said Riffle.

While Platko said she "witnessed hunger, disease and death," she also "witnessed compassion, love and the work of God's hands ... a community that took care of each other." The experiences were life-altering, she said.

"I've learned I take for granted the simplicities in my life and rely too much on the irrelevant for happiness," said Platko. "I've learned the value of a simple touch and the power and necessity of faith. I cannot change the world, but by changing myself I am changing how I affect the world."

Contributing to this article was Greg Platko.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Come and join us —

Keeping the Faith in a Violent Age

St. Gabriel Parish Mission
March 26, 27 and 28

Very Reverend Father Dennis M. Corrado, c.o., Provost of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, Brooklyn, will lead this annual event. Fr. Corrado will focus on how to sustain our faith in the violent times we face. He has preached retreats and missions in New York, New Jersey, California, Alabama, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida, and North Carolina.

Daily schedule –
11 a.m. – Mass followed by Mission presentation
(Light luncheon follows in the Ministry Center)
7 p.m. – Evening service in the Church

Babysitting by reservation is available for the evening services. Call 704-362-5047, ext. #210 to reserve childcare.

St. Gabriel Catholic Church
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte

Exploring 'Who We Are'

COURTESY PHOTO BY ROSEMARY HYMAN

Father Fred Pompei, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., speaks about "Who We Are" during an annual parish mission held at St. Therese Church in Mooresville March 12-14. Approximately 300 people attended the mission each night, which began with a prayer service followed by presentations on Catholic identity. Topics included how to be a merciful, forgiving and just family of God.

Father Pompei wrote, "As Catholics, we have much to share about life and freedom, forgiveness and healing. However, in order to do this, I believe we must first know who we are, why we are who we say we are and what is at the core of our goodness, greatness and joyfulness as followers of Jesus Christ who call ourselves Catholic."

Faith and forgiveness

COURTESY PHOTO BY DORICE NARINS

Joan Peterson of Little River Baptist Church in Penrose, N.C. leads women in song during the Second Christian Women's Day of Reflection at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard March 10. More than 300 women from 28 area churches attended the event, which featured Kathy Saint Down of Asheville speaking about forgiveness, the theme of the event.

Women from five churches worked together to plan the day. Debbi Felker of Sacred Heart Church welcomed the attendees and Karen Hanegar of Brevard Community Church said an opening prayer. Peterson, accompanied by Donya-Kaye Merrill of Little River Baptist Church, led the group in singing hymns focusing on forgiveness.

Saint Down, who runs womens' retreats in Central and South America, spoke about forgiving the men who murdered her missionary father, Nate Saint, in Ecuador in 1956. She reminded the audience that love keeps no record of every wrong and that in the Lord's Prayer we are told to forgive as we will be forgiven.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

New Pennybyrn at Maryfield Cottages Going Fast.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield cottages let you have it all.

A Pennybyrn at Maryfield cottage is a superb choice for those wanting to secure a full-service retirement lifestyle and still experience the feel of a residential neighborhood.

These charming two-bedroom, two-bath cottages range from 1,458 to 1,710 square feet and are available in three floor plans. Each is smartly appointed with fully equipped kitchens, bright, open interiors, generous storage and important safety features. Two of the floor plans feature a garage and all have an inviting porch. A range of standard and upgrade interior options is available in kitchen and bath cabinetry, countertops, carpet and appliances.

With sponsorship by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, Pennybyrn at Maryfield is the culmination of 60 years of rich history, quality service and excellent reputation. The cottages are just one component of the new 71-acre Pennybyrn full-service retirement community now under construction on the Maryfield campus. Scheduled to open in the Fall, Pennybyrn at Maryfield will also offer gracious apartment residences, superior amenities, unparalleled services and the provision of on-site assisted living and nursing care.

All the Perks in a Private Setting

"A cottage home at Pennybyrn at Maryfield offers the best of both worlds," says Pennybyrn Marketing Director Tricia Pratt. "You will be just steps away from all the activities, with easy access to Pennybyrn at Maryfield's exceptional wellness opportunities, gorgeous commons area, elegant dining, healthcare center and more. All this, in a beautiful neighborhood. As a resident, you can trust the reputation, stability and rich tradition of this faith-based community."

Only a few cottages remain.
Call today.

Already almost 85% reserved, Pennybyrn at Maryfield is filling fast, with only a few more cottages available.

Call (336) 886-4103 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 or visit the web at www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com.

NPCNH07

Pope makes suggestions for Mass

EUCHARIST, *from page 1*

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, he did not simply thank God for the ways he had acted throughout history to save people, the pope said. Rather, Jesus revealed that he himself was the sacrifice that would bring salvation to fulfillment.

"The institution of the Eucharist demonstrates how Jesus' death, for all its violence and absurdity, became in him a supreme act of love and mankind's definitive deliverance from evil," Pope Benedict wrote.

Celebrating the Eucharist, he said, "the church is able to celebrate and adore the mystery of Christ" who is present in the bread and wine through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In addition to offering a spiritual reflection on the meaning of the Eucharist, the liturgy and eucharistic adoration, Pope Benedict made several concrete suggestions for further study and for celebrating the Mass in the Latin rite:

— While he encouraged wider knowledge and use of the Mass prayers in Latin and of Gregorian chant, he also repeated the synod's affirmation of the "beneficial influence" of the liturgical changes made by the Second Vatican Council on the life of the church.

However, he also endorsed the synod's suggestion that at Masses with a large, international congregation, the liturgy be celebrated in Latin "with the exception of the readings, the homily and the prayer of the faithful."

— He encouraged bishops' conferences, in collaboration with the Vatican, to examine their practices for the order and timing of the sacraments of Christian initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

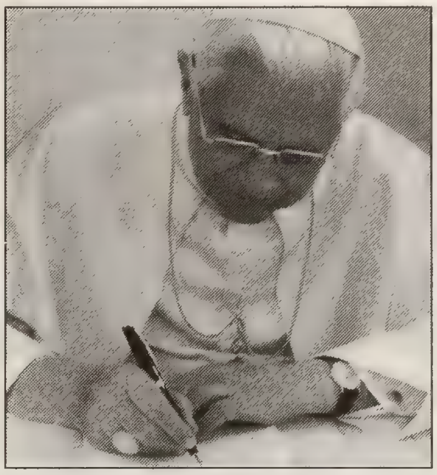
— In expressing his concern for the number of Catholics unable to receive Communion because of irregular marital situations, Pope Benedict confirmed church teaching that those who have been divorced and civilly remarried without having obtained an annulment are not to receive Communion.

However, the pope encouraged bishops to ensure they have fully trained and staffed marriage tribunals to deal with annulment requests "in an expeditious manner."

— Pope Benedict said the sign of peace at Mass "has great value," especially in demonstrating the church's responsibility to pray for peace and unity in a world too often troubled by division, violence and hatred.

While Catholics at Mass should exchange a sign of peace with those near them, he also called for "greater restraint" to ensure the moment does not become one of irreparable distraction.

— The pope also said the church should consider providing new texts for the rite of dismissal at the end of Mass so that Catholics would understand better the connection between what they have just celebrated and the fact that they are sent out in a mission to bring God's love and truth to the world.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI signs a 131-page apostolic exhortation "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("The Sacrament of Charity") at the Vatican March 13.

— Pope Benedict said in order to help Catholics "believe, celebrate and live ever more fully the mystery of the Eucharist," several Vatican offices are preparing a compendium of texts, prayers and explanations of the church teaching on the Eucharist and of the eucharistic prayers used at Mass.

— He called for a general improvement in the quality of homilies and said bishops have a particular responsibility to ensure that the liturgies they celebrate provide an example for the whole diocese of a liturgy celebrated with dignity, beauty and fidelity to the approved rites.

— The pope asked Catholics to pay more attention to how their postures and gestures at Mass communicate their faith in the Eucharist, particularly by "kneeling during the central moments of the eucharistic prayer."

"Amid the legitimate diversity of signs used in the context of different cultures, everyone should be able to experience and express the awareness that at each celebration we stand before the infinite majesty of God, who comes to us in the lowliness of the sacramental signs."

— As for church architecture, Pope Benedict encouraged parishes to ensure their facilities are fully accessible to people with disabilities and that the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament is "readily visible to everyone entering the church."

In the letter, Pope Benedict also formally reaffirmed the obligation of celibacy for priests in the Latin rite and the fact that, in most cases, Catholics and other Christians should not share the Eucharist, which is a sign of full unity in faith.

He reminded Catholics of the obligation to be in a "state of grace," free from serious sin, before receiving Communion, and of the fact that by receiving Communion they are publicly proclaiming their unity with the teaching of the church.

Politicians and lawmakers must introduce and support laws inspired by those values, the pope said, adding, "bishops are bound to reaffirm constantly these values as part of their responsibility to the flock entrusted to them."

The pope reminded bishops that they must call all Catholics, particularly politicians, to coherence of faith and action, "but he cannot substitute himself for the pastoral prudence of the bishop," said Cardinal Angelo Scola of Venice.

"GOD'S MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE"
A SPIRITUAL RETREAT
WITH REV. MR. CURTISS P. TODD

MAY 18-20, 2007
LIVING WATERS
CATHOLIC REFLECTION CENTER
MAGGIE VALLEY, NC

Come to the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina to praise and worship God's creative and diverse beauty. This retreat is meant to be an experience in spirituality and personal reflection. It will provide an opportunity for participants to encounter nature while experiencing the pleasures of silence, peaceful reflection and prayer.

Our world today offers us few opportunities to "steal away" for prayer, reflection and rest. We must develop our spirituality and attune it to our times, as each of us has an individual spiritual path.

Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in beautiful Maggie Valley will be the setting. Participants will enjoy private room accommodations, five (5) meals, sessions for spiritual understanding and reflection as well as time to "steal away" and have a true experience in God's creation. For more information on the Center go to the website - http://www.catholicretreat.org.

The Retreat begins Friday, May 18th. Please arrive at 5 pm. The retreat concludes after lunch on Sunday, May 20th. Our Spiritual Leader will be Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd.

Cost: $100 per person – Advance registration and payment required. Space is limited.

REGISTRATION – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

Phone: ____________________

In case of emergency contact: ____________________

Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________________

Phone: ____________________

E-Mail Address: ____________________

Form of Payment: ___Personal Check ___Money Order ___Certified Check

Date of Registration: ____________________

(SORRY, NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED)

Complete the registration form, attach your payment and return by Friday, May 4th to:

African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Catholic parishes, schools

Photos by Kevin E. Murray

Members of Belmont Abbey College's alumni (above), St. Patrick School in Charlotte (below left) and St. Ann School in Charlotte march in the 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 17.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Knights of Columbus lead the 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 17. Thousands of spectators viewed the parade, which made its way along Tryon Street past St. Peter Church.

St. Patrick Cathedral

The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Rector

Rev. Robert Conway
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero
Deacon

Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina
Deacon

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 3, 11 a.m.
Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Holy Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Good Friday, April 6, 3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross

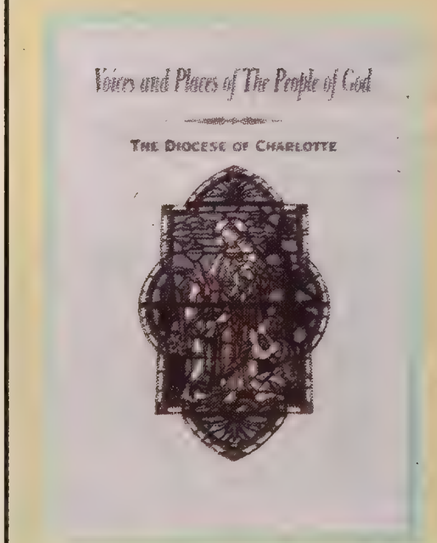
Good Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Easter Vigil Mass, April 7, 8:30 p.m.
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Easter Sunday Masses
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
11 a.m., Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant
12:30 p.m.

1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 334-2283
Visit our Web site at www.stpatricks.org

Voices and Places *of* The People of God



The Diocese of Charlotte is commemorating its 35th Anniversary with the publication of a special volume of beautiful photographs, spiritual reflections and fascinating history.

You will enjoy more than 35 spiritual reflections from laity throughout the diocese as well as from clergy including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, and Archbishop John F. Donoghue.

Plus, the book is filled with numerous historical photos and interesting facts about the growth and development of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Cost of this beautiful book is $25.99 plus tax and $4.85 shipping and handling. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

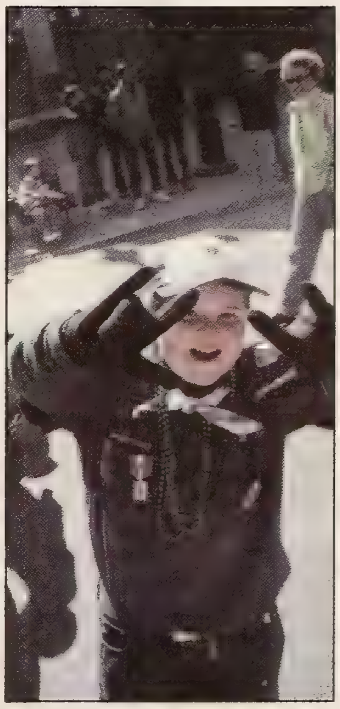
Order your copy at www.Diocesebook.com.
If you do not have Internet access, call 704-370-3333.

ganizations participate in St. Patrick's Day Parade

Photos by Kevin E. Murray

Taking part in the 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 17 are members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (above left), the Ancient Order of Hibernians (above right), St. Matthew Church in Charlotte (below left) and Cub Scout Pack 174 at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte (below right).

St. Mark
Rocks



Catholic School

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Above: Members of St. Mark School in Huntersville march past St. Peter Church during the 11th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in uptown Charlotte March 17.

Reserve Now
to guarantee lowest rates!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Reserve today for best cabin choice and lowest rates! Call for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Two inside views of late pope's life don't make for redundant reading

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II's sainthood cause rolled forward, two people close to him have offered quite different insider accounts of his life and times.

Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, the late pope's personal secretary for 39 years, has produced a conversational memoir called "A Life with Karol." In anecdotal fashion, it sketches many of their major and minor experiences together.

Pope Benedict XVI has meanwhile released "John Paul II: My Beloved Predecessor," a more analytical look at the philosophical and theological impact of his pontificate.

Although the books focus on the same subject, they don't make for redundant reading. That says something about the breadth of Pope John Paul's 26-year pontificate.

The volumes arrived in European bookstores just as church officials announced that the diocesan phase of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause would end April 2, the second anniversary of his death. The cause now goes to the Vatican.

Cardinal Dziwisz's more or less chronological account in "A Life with Karol" begins with the day Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow asked him to be his personal secretary.

When Pope John Paul II's election was announced in 1978, Father Dziwisz was under the main balcony in St. Peter's Square with a crowd of Romans, most of whom didn't recognize Cardinal Wojtyla's name. "That's my bishop!" was the incredulous secretary's first thought. "It happened!"

The book reveals some private papal moments with the world's powerful and powerless. In Chile in 1987, shortly after being constrained to appear with Gen. Augusto Pinochet on his presidential balcony, the pope told the dictator it was time to think about handing back power to a civilian government.

After visiting Blessed Mother Teresa at her home for the dying in Calcutta in 1986, the pope whispered to her: "If I could, I'd be pope from here."

Frequently, Cardinal Dziwisz wrote, the pope would direct his motorcade to pull over so he could visit poor families in between official stops on foreign travels to Third World countries.

The pope's visits to his native Poland helped spark a spiritual-political revolution, and Cardinal Dziwisz tells the story from the pope's perspective. The book recounts that when the government allowed the pope to meet in 1983 with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa in a mountain hut, the pope figured the place must be bugged and so led Walesa outside for their talks.

Pope Benedict's book is a collection of previous talks and essays; so there are no real revelations. Perhaps because Popes John Paul and Benedict were so much in synch on nearly every issue, press reports have focused on one minor disagreement: the Bob Dylan concert of 1997.

As news, it's recycled — from a paper he wrote as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in 1998, for the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul's election. The concert closed out the World Eucharistic Congress in Bologna, Italy, and Cardinal Ratzinger said he had been skeptical of the idea of an increasingly frail and ailing pope sharing the stage with a group of rock and pop stars ("Bob Dylan and others whose names I don't remember.").

"They had a message that was completely different from the one the pope was committed to," then-Cardinal Ratzinger wrote. He said he wondered whether "it was really right to let these types of 'prophets' intervene."

His comment was probably aimed more at a genre of music than at Dylan, who played a short but great set for the pope and 300,000.

Pope John Paul listened, chin in hand, and then capitalized on the moment to give a sermon based on the lyrics to "Blowin' in the Wind." It was a characteristic effort by someone who was always trying to build bridges to younger generations.

In response, Dylan sang an encore that seemed intended for the aging pontiff: "Forever Young."

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations Coming Soon!

We're ready to help with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we celebrate with you their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or one of our **scheduled parish visits:**
St. Mark, Huntersville - Monday, March 26 — 4-7pm
St. Philip, Statesville – Sat. & Sun., April 21-22 after Masses

SPECIAL PARISH VISITS: If you'd like to arrange a parish visit, ask your pastor to call me, manager Allen Bond, and we'll make every effort to meet his schedule.
May God Bless you all as we approach Easter.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 1, 2007

April 1, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Cycle C Readings:

Procession: Luke 19:28-40
1) Isaiah 50:4-7
  Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18a,
  19-20, 23-24
2) Philippians 2:6-11
3) Gospel: Luke 22:14 to 23:56

Holy Week a time to appreciate all the bodies of Christ

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Body consciousness: It's been around since Adam and Eve first discovered they were naked.

The human body has been the subject of Greek sculpture, Renaissance paintings and modern science. In our time it's the great concern of the fashion, diet and health care industries.

In today's readings, references to specific human body parts occur no less than seven times in Isaiah and eight times in the psalm; the epistle to the Philippians speaks at length about Jesus and his human form, and the Gospel is one long narrative about Jesus' giving over his body — not once, but twice — for the life of the world.

The resurrection of that same body will be the focus of the anticipated great feast of Easter.

An Irish professor in one of my theology courses loved to quote Latin in his rich brogue, and his most frequent saying was "caro est cardo salutis," which translates, "the flesh is the hinge of salvation." It's a concise way of saying that the saving act of Jesus hinges upon bodies — his and ours — surrendered in self-gift.

Yet Catholic Christians have had a long, unfortunate and dualistic tendency to separate the "body" from the "soul," often deeming the body a mere vehicle of human activity, a "necessary evil" from which one must escape for salvation of the soul to truly take place.

We pummel our bodies into submission or ignore them altogether; abuse them with substances or obsess about their appearance. Then when death comes, it is often welcomed as a release from a body that has betrayed us through disease or the ravages of age.

We rarely reflect upon the crucial role of the human body as the means through which God has chosen to love us.

At the beginning of this holiest of weeks, I resolve to reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus without soft-pedaling or spiritualizing their physical aspects. Jesus didn't take on human flesh only at his birth; he embraced what being "enfleshed" means.

My body, your body, the bodies of the poor, the abused, the unborn and the neglected are all holy and worthy of love and care. The Eucharist, the gift of Jesus' body as food, reminds us of this truth. That's the sort of "body consciousness" that Christians are to practice.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25-31
Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent), Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11; **Monday (The Annunciation of the Lord)**, Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (Lenten Weekday)**, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Daniel 3:52-56, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (Lenten Weekday)**, Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Lenten Weekday)**, Jeremiah 20:10-13 John 10:31-42; **Saturday (Lenten Weekday)**, Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-56.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1-7
Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14—23:56; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 42:1-7 John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 50:4-9 Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday)**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday)**, Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1—19:42; **Saturday (Easter Vigil)**, Exodus 14:15—15:1, Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18, Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Gates' worth unlocking

CNS PHOTO BY IFC

hn Hurt (foreground) and Hugh Dancy star in "Beyond the Gates," a gripping dramatization about e 1994 siege of a Rwandan secondary school at the height of the genocide. As a dedicated Catholic iest and an idealistic young British teacher, they attempt to protect some 2,500 Tutsi citizens from e machete-wielding Hutus hovering just outside the school gates. This important film is acceptable for ature teens. Much disturbing if discreetly handled violence, description of atrocities, images of dead nd wounded, some rough language and mild profanity uttered under duress, a childbirth scene. The SCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of merica rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

Christopher Awards honor the best in films, TV/cable, books

Awards recognize works that affirm the highest values of the human spirit

NEW YORK (CNS) — Seven films, five television/cable shows and 11 books were honored March 15 with Christopher Awards in New York.

The Christophers, sponsor of the awards, estimated that 114 writers, directors, producers and illustrators in all were honored. The organization recognizes works that affirm the highest values of the human spirit.

Films receiving awards were "Akeelah and the Bee," "Charlotte's Web," "Miss Potter," "Sophie Scholl: The Final Days," "The Nativity Story," "World Trade Center" and "Water."

The TV/cable programs honored were HBO's "Baghdad ER," "A Simple Twist of Fate" from ABC's "20/20," TNT's "The Ron Clark Story," Cinemax's "Cinemax Reel Life: Favela Rising," and "Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History" from PBS' "Nature."

Six books for adults and five books for young people also were honored.

The six books for adults were all nonfiction titles:

"Barefootin': Life Lessons From the Road to Freedom" by Unita Blackwell with JoAnne Prichard Morris; "Enrique's Journey" by Sonia Nazario; "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief" by Francis S. Collins; "Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust" by Immaculee Ilibagiza with Steve Erwin; "My Life With the Saints" by Jesuit Father James Martin; and "The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East" by Sandy Tolan.

The five winners in books for young people were in different age categories:

— Preschool: "Hero Cat" by Eileen Spinelli and illustrated by Jo Ellen McAllister Stammen.

— Ages 6-8: "How We Are Smart" by W. Nikola-Lisa and illustrated by Sean Qualls.

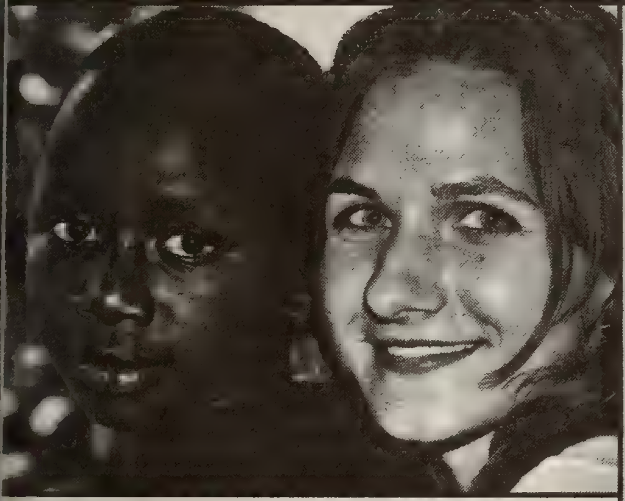
— Ages 8-10: "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo and illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline.

— Ages 10-12: "Listen!" by Stephanie S. Tolan.

— Young adult: "Bread and Roses, Too" by Katherine Paterson, author of the perennial favorite children's novel "Bridge to Terabithia."

Also presented during the ceremony was only the fourth Christopher Leadership Award in the 58-year history of the Christopher Awards to longtime television executive William Baker, and a Special Christopher Award to NBC's long-running "The More You Know" public service announcement campaign.

The Christophers, founded in 1945, goes by the credo "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."



Bridget, 8, from Kenya, and sponsor Mary L., U.S.A.

CFCA

Offering hope.
Restoring dignity.
Worldwide.

To learn more or sponsor

- visit our Web site at www.cfcausa.org
- call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564

A+ rating by the
American Institute of Philanthropy
www.charitywatch.org

Highest rating of **four-stars** from
Charity Navigator
www.charitynavigator.org
★★★★

26110

'What a blessing my sponsored child is'

Mary L., who lives in New Jersey, chose to sponsor a child through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging so she could help make the world a better place. In particular, she liked the opportunity CFCA offered to build a friendship with someone in a developing country. The letters and photographs she exchanged with Bridget in Kenya allowed her actually to see the difference her sponsorship was making in the 8-year-old's life: "All you have to do is look at her picture for yourself. This girl's soul radiates. What a blessing she is." Mary also had a chance to visit Bridget on one of CFCA's mission awareness trips. "CFCA is confident enough to show us the projects and that so much of the donations go to the children and aging," Mary said.

CFCA has served more than 475,000 children and elderly in developing countries over the past 25 years—empowering them to make more choices in their lives, live with dignity and reach their potential.

You can improve someone's life, too. Your sponsorship of $30 a month helps your sponsored friend with critical immediate needs such as nutrition, medical care and clothing. But it goes much further. It also develops self-reliance through education, skills and livelihood training for families, and community involvement.

Founded by Catholic lay people and grounded in Catholic social teaching, CFCA works with people of all faiths. Sponsor a child or aging friend today and help make the world a better place for all.

Sponsor a child through CFCA. It works.

CFCC

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

In search of peace

Lectures, prayer service mark 'month of peace'

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — At noon, just as the sun briefly lit the gray clouds, the procession made its way from St. William Church's parish hall for a prayer service on the church's labyrinth.

In a world that often seems immersed in war and other forms of violence, parishioners at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville paused in January to "Celebrate a Month of Peace."

Parishioner Mike Kauffman, carrying the processional crucifix, led the group Jan. 15. Some 16 members of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches followed, each carrying a candle to light from the peace candle carried by another parishioner.

"I think (the peace-month idea) probably started with Pope Benedict's message for the World Day of Peace (Jan. 1)," Kauffman said after the service. "(St. William Church parishioner) Michelle Calascione and I started to talk about it."

"Meanwhile," he continued, "a couple came over from Immaculate Heart of Mary —Mary Joyce and Vernon Dixon — who have done workshops on centering prayer. They were very enthusiastic that we had installed a 3,000-paver labyrinth and said, 'Let's do a prayer service at the labyrinth.'"

Peace month began with Mass at St. William Church on Jan. 5.

On Jan. 8, Notre Dame Sister Patricia McCarthy, associate provincial for the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame and a lecturer on peace and nonviolence, gave presentations at the churches on "Peace: More Than Just a Word on a Christmas Card."

The morning of Jan. 15, the Texana Community Development Club in Murphy was packed for its 14th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast. Members of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches attended, and Notre Dame Sister Terry Martin of Hayesville led a prayer to end world hunger.

At noon, the prayer service at St. William Church began as the participants assembled on the labyrinth.

Mary Ann Schwane read the opening prayer, which affirmed that, "In a world marked by darkness of terrorism, war and injustice, we boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ … has the power to overcome this darkness."

"We are called, in our own life situations, which can often be marked by conflict, to welcome Christ, the light, into our hearts, marriages, families, neighborhoods and parishes," the prayer continued. "As we begin, let us pray that the light of Christ will radiate from within us to change our own lives and radiate out to change the world."

Everyone lit his or her individual candles from the peace candle.

Colossians 3:11–17 was read, a reminder that all are equal in God's sight and that we must "put on … heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience …."

After silence and reflection, and the church's bell tolling for peace, more candles were lit as the group prayed for peace "in our hearts … Church … nation … world — the peace of your will, the peace of our need."

Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches, also asked God to "bless all those today who are working for peace."

After the bell tolled again three times, many stayed to walk the labyrinth in silent prayer for peace.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBAC

People walk a labyrinth in silent prayer for peace during a prayer service held at St. William Church i Murphy Jan. 15.

Pope Benedict XVI's World Day of Peace message wasn't the only impetus for a month devoted to promoting peace.

The month of peace celebration continued with four showings of the film "Gandhi" at St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary churches.

A few months ago, Augustinian Father Bob Dueweke, who is involved in Hispanic ministry in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, gave a presentation on the just-war doctrine, Kauffman said.

"The Gandhi film kind of worked its way into the program because of Father Dueweke's presentation," Kauffman said. "We hoped the film would clarify the difference between nationalism and patriotism."

"Nationalism — my country right or wrong — could get into idolatry," Kauffman explained. "Patriotism is support of righteous ideals but not jus any policy."

The film tells the story of Mohanda K. Gandhi (honorific title, Mahatma), who, as the peace-month brochur explained, "developed a method of actio based upon the principles of courage nonviolence and truth called Satyagrah (passive resistance). He believed that th way people behave is more importan than what they achieve.

Peace month ended Jan. 31 wit a Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mar Church. The date was chosen to be a close as possible to the anniversary o Gandhi's assassination, Jan. 30, 1948.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 o e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

J.S. Paluch Co., established in 1913, the nation's oldest Catholic Publisher, is now interviewing for the position of Sales Representatives for parish church bulletins Realistic earnings potential of 40K+, health insurance, paid vacation, 401K. Some travel required. Self-motivation a must. Bilingual helpful in some areas. To arrange an interview call Les Black at 800-432-3240. Seniors welcome to apply. EOE

Principal – Catholic Elementary School
Chantilly, Virginia

St. Veronica Catholic School, a K through 8th-grade school located in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is currently seeking a principal starting in the 2007-2008 school year. St. Veronica is a medium-size parish with a growing school population. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school, as well as assist in developing long range goals.

For more information about this exciting opportunity and for instructions on how to apply, please visit the St. Veronica parish website at: http://www2.stveronica.net/principal.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

CUTHBERT ALLEN LECTURE SERIES

MR. JOHN ALLEN

A lecture by Vatican expert John Allen entitled: "Understanding the Megatrends Affecting the Catholic Church" will be held on April 2, 2007, in the Haid Theatre on the Belmont Abbey College campus at 8:00pm. Admission is free.

To read some of Mr. Allen's articles, go to www.ncronline.org.

Reservations are required.
Contact Denise Boykin at (704) 825-6728
or DeniseBoykin@bac.edu

Belmont Abbey College is located 10 minutes from Charlotte: I-85 Exit 26

Classifieds

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!

Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)

Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication

How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Mercy Sister Mary Emmanuel Blasi dies at 94

Sister Blasi remembered for strong faith, sweet demeanor

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Mary Emmanuel Blasi died March 19 at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 94.

Received as a Sister of Mercy Jan. 5, 1935, she was in her 73rd year as a Sister of Mercy.

Born Catherine Florence Blasi in Brooklyn, N.Y., March 13, 1913, she took the name Sister Mary Emmanuel upon entering the Sisters of Mercy in August 1934. In 1937, Sister Blasi began her ministry as a substitute teacher at both St. Patrick School in Charlotte and Sacred Heart School in Salisbury.

In 1938 she began another type of service when she was assigned to the dietary department at Nazareth Orphanage in Raleigh. She remained there until 1940, when she transferred to the dietary department of St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville. She ministered there until 1945.

Mercy Sister Mary Emmanuel Blasi

> "Each day was a new challenge."
>
> — Mercy Sister Blasi

The mid-1940s also saw her serving in the dietary departments of both St. Leo's Boarding School and Sacred Heart Junior College. In 1947, she became director of the dietary department at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, where she remained until 1968.

That year, Sister Blasi took over management of the coffee shop at Mercy Hospital, where she ministered until 1972. Not one to relax, she also volunteered as a Sister Visitor at Mercy Hospital while serving as local superior of Mercy Hospital Convent.

Following her return to Belmont in 1974, she managed the Sacred Heart College bookstore while serving as local superior of the motherhouse until 1976.

Sister Blasi was very involved in the charismatic renewal movement within the Diocese of Charlotte, faithfully attending monthly charismatic Masses and a weekly prayer group.

The movement "meant everything to me. It really opened up a whole new way of thinking, loving and caring … a personal relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Father God," she once said.

It was her loving relationship with the Lord that once drew her to undertake a month-long mission to Juarez, Mexico, where she helped distribute food and clothing to needy families.

"The best thing about my trip was the peace I found in understanding how you can live without all the comforts of life and be at peace and enjoy every moment of life," she said upon her return. "Each day was a new challenge."

There were two things almost guaranteed to bring a smile to her face. The first, frequently done in solitude, was fishing; the second was often a group event. Whenever children would visit Marian Center, you could be assured that Sister Blasi's sweet demeanor would draw them to her side.

Sister Blasi is survived by her religious community; one sister; three sisters-in-law; a niece; and her close friend, Brother James Toman of the Beloved Disciples of El Paso, Texas.

A Mass of Christian burial was held at Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel March 22, with internment following at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, N.C. 28012.

Sisters of Mercy foundation gives grants

CHARLOTTE — The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation recently announced grant awards totaling $1,480,385 to 35 nonprofit organizations in North and South Carolina.

The grant funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include affordable housing, crisis assistance, education, food distribution, health care, immigration assistance, job training, legal services and social services.

Since 1996, the foundation has awarded 720 grants totaling more than $34 million to organizations serving unserved or underserved populations.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

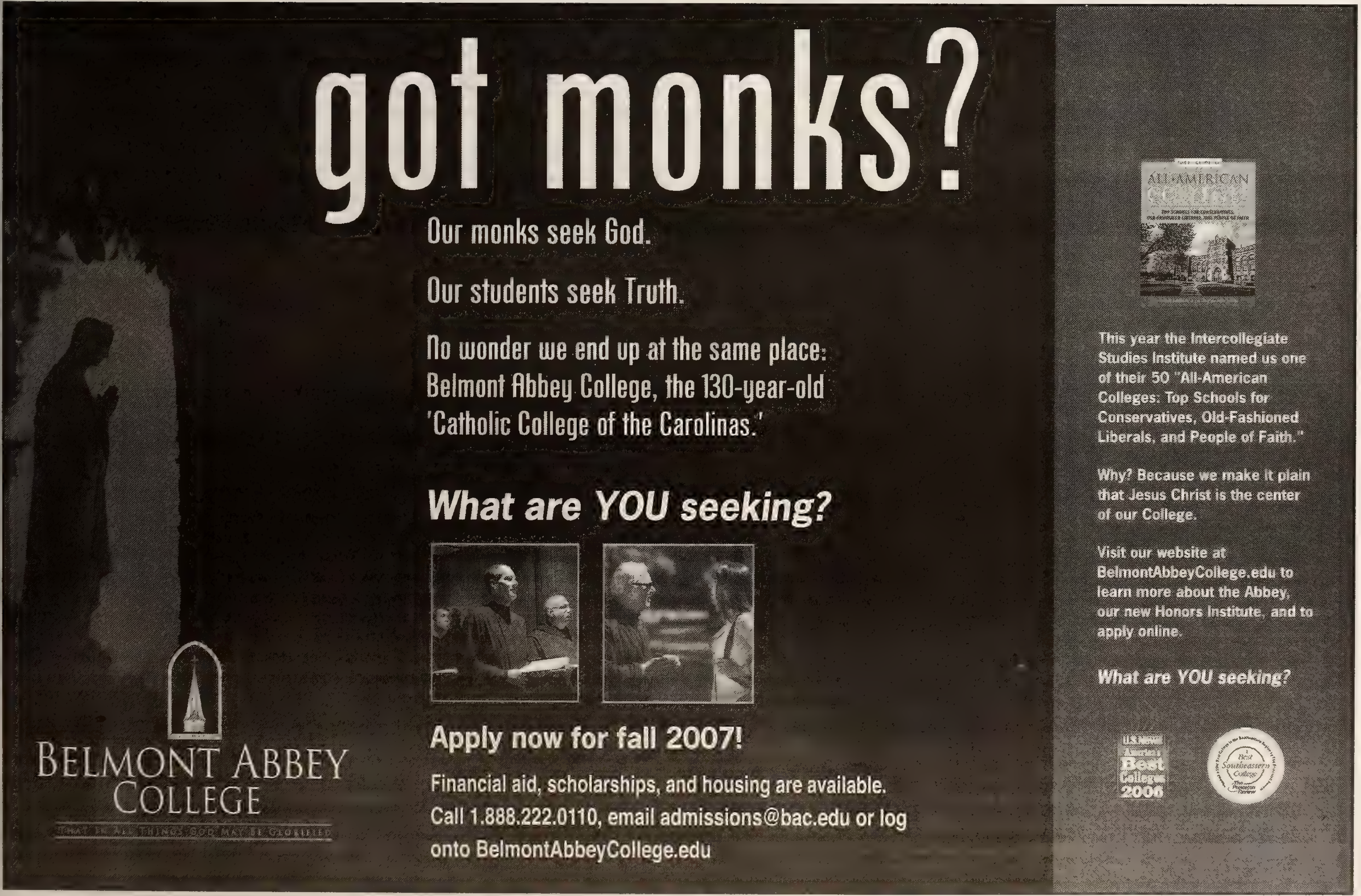
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place: Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old 'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

‘To Know Jesus Christ’

Eucharistic Lord is present, waiting for us in Eucharist

From the Bishop

BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

Plans are underway for our next diocesan Eucharistic Congress, to be held Sept. 21-22, 2007 at the Charlotte Convention Center. Please reserve the dates on your calendar and make plans to participate.

This will be our third Eucharistic Congress for the Diocese of Charlotte. At this annual event, the whole diocese comes together as one family to celebrate our faith and our love for Jesus.

The encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist

The theme for this year’s congress is taken from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians: “To Know Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 2:2).

After an apparently unsuccessful attempt to evangelize the Athenians through a philosophical presentation of Jesus (Acts 17), St. Paul resolved to present a different Jesus when he went to preach to the Corinthians. He decided to preach the Christ whom he knew personally: the Christ who suffered, was crucified, died, was buried, and whom he met as risen from the dead.

Thus St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (1 Cor 2:2). This is the real Jesus whom St. Paul knew through a personal encounter on the road to Damascus.

How does this encounter of St. Paul with the risen Lord relate to the Holy Eucharist? The living Christ whom St. Paul knew and proclaimed to the Corinthians is the same living Christ whom we meet in the Eucharist: the Christ who suffered, was crucified, died, was buried and who rose from the dead.

In the Eucharist, we encounter Jesus Christ who is really and substantially present in his body, blood, soul and divinity. In the Eucharist, the risen Lord brings us into sacramental communion with himself and draws us into the paschal mystery of his suffering, death and resurrection.

Thus we come to know him as St. Paul did in the fullness of his paschal mystery. Pope John Paul II wrote in his encyclical on the Eucharist:

“At every celebration of the Eucharist, we are spiritually brought back to the paschal Triduum: to the events of the evening of Holy Thursday, to the Last Supper and to what followed it.

“The institution of the Eucharist sacramentally anticipated the events which were about to take place, beginning with the agony in Gethsemane. Once again we see Jesus as he leaves the Upper Room, descends with his disciples to the Kidron Valley and goes to the Garden of Olives…. Christ in prayer was filled with anguish ‘and his sweat became like drops of blood falling down upon the ground.’

“The blood, which shortly before he had given to the Church as the drink of salvation in the sacrament of the Eucharist, began to be shed; its outpouring would then be completed on Golgotha to become the means of our redemption…. The agony in Gethsemane was the introduction to the agony of the Cross on Good Friday: the holy hour, the hour of the redemption of the world” (Ecclesia de Eucharistia 3, 4).

The events of the paschal mystery of Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection are made present to us in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is thus Jesus’ “gift of himself, of his person in his sacred humanity, as well as the gift of his saving work” (Eccl. de Euch. 11).

The desire to know Jesus

Our faith in Jesus allows us to know him and to recognize his real presence in the Eucharist. Our faith in Jesus also moves our hearts to want to be with him whom we have met.

Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, our eyes are opened and we recognize him because of the gift of faith. Our hearts are enkindled and we long for his presence.

Pope John Paul II wrote: “Whenever the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the faithful can in some way relive the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus: ‘their eyes were opened and they recognized him’ (Lk 24: 31)” (Eccl. de Euch. 6).

Jesus is really present and we can know him in the Eucharist. We recognize his presence, and our hearts desire to draw close to him.

Our reverence for the Blessed Sacrament is a sign that we do know that Jesus is really present in the Holy Eucharist and that we love him. Through our devotion to our Eucharistic Lord, may our union with Jesus deepen and intensify. May we bring this living knowledge of Jesus with us into all our parish activities, and into the celebration of our next Eucharistic Congress.

To know Jesus Christ we turn to the Eucharist, where Jesus is really present and waiting for us.

I look forward to seeing you at the congress, filled with love for our Eucharistic Lord.

Going green

Catholics are stewards, not masters of creation

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Our parish is going green.

Not just for St. Patrick’s Day. Not just for spring. We are going green for good.

This Lent we took on a new spiritual discipline. In addition to the usual disciplines, we are trying to become better stewards of God’s creation.

It is something that is long overdue — for the church and for our society.

This year our parish council set up a committee to look at all aspects of our parish life in relation to the environment. I had read about a parish in Michigan that set up a similar committee. They had even started producing wind power and using solar panels to heat water.

We are an average-size Catholic parish with about 1,100 families (around 3,300 people).We are not “Big Foot” in our environmental impact, but we are nonetheless significant.

Our activities generate a lot of trash. We fill a dumpster every week. We use hundreds of Styrofoam cups and plates every week. Our five buildings use thousands of dollars worth of electricity and heating fuel every month. Sometimes we overheat and air-condition.

We have run-off water from our parking lots, lawns and fields that pollute the local watershed. We could cut down on fertilizer. We have a lot of land in forest and wetlands (more than 60 acres). We could plant more trees and protect the ones we already have.

I do not think we are major polluters, but we are typical Americans. And being typical Americans means we use more of the earth’s resources than most people.

It is time for us to do something to counter this.

So we put together a committee of parishioners who have a concern for the environment and real expertise. The chairman, Dr. Bob Ulanowicz, is a well-known biologist.

We gave them a commission that includes some short-term and long-term tasks:

They are to look into ways to reduce our energy consumption and thereby our carbon “footprint” (including our vehicles).

They are to address recycling of paper and other waste, and explore ways to avoid generating nonbiodegradable waste.

They are looking for alternatives to chemical fertilizers and ways to preserve our wetlands and forest lands.

For the long term they will recommend changes to our heating and cooling plants. We might even put in solar panels to heat water and exhaust vents to cool buildings.

We will look at ways of educating the parish to be better stewards of the environment. One suggestion we already have is to sell canvas tote bags to parishioners so we don’t have to use so many plastic bags at the store.

Why should a Catholic church do this?

Our theology tells us about our relationship to nature. While Genesis says that we should “fill the earth and subdue it,” we do not have a license to ruin it.

Each of us is just “passing through” this earth. Our true home is in the next life. That makes us the “stewards” (temporary custodians) of the environment, not the “masters” (owners) of creation.

So we are going to try our best to go green. There are some folks who are disturbed by this, but not many. Most parishioners see the wisdom and the necessity of being better stewards.

One happy bonus of going green is that it will save some green. Just adjusting our thermostats and replacing incandescent light bulbs with cool fluorescent bulbs will save a few thousand dollars in the first year.

From now on our parish is wearing green.

‘Fanatic’ about good stewardship

Recent letters to the editor about global warming and related environmental issues suggest an alarming and embarrassing degree of ignorance, as well as an inexplicable blindness towards the Christian duties of loving stewardship for all of God’s creation.

The authors of these letters would be well served to educate themselves quickly. They could attend conferences such as “Faithful Stewards of God’s Creation,” sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville March 31.

There are many of us who are proud to be called “fanatics,” because we “fanatically” worship God our creator, the God who created all living things. And “God looked at everything he had made, and He found it very good” (Genesis 1:31). He gave us these unbelievable gifts. He gave us the duty to care for it all. It doesn’t get much simpler than that.

— Suzanne Konopka
Asheville

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald asks that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste. To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Swords drawn for the Good Book

Bible literacy is key to living the faith

My wife Debbie is a convert to the atholic faith. Over the years she has arned a great deal about the religion to which I was born and I have gained nowledge of the Baptist faith that urtured her early life.

One thing I admire about many of he Baptists I've met is their easy fluency with the Bible. Debbie tells stories of er Sunday school classes where she articipated in "sword drills" — students would hold a closed Bible between heir hands, waiting for the teacher to nnounce a citation that would start the oung students searching. The first to ead the passage would win.

Obviously to be good at sword drills, ou had to be familiar with the Bible.

I thought of sword drills recently when I came across an essay on Bible iteracy. Most of us have Bibles in our homes, but how many know what the Pentateuch is? (It is the first five books of he Old Testament.)

In addition to being the "textbook for salvation," the Bible is a great old work of literature that is a common reference point for the western world. The Bible is used to justify and/or condemn the death penalty, homosexuality, war and illegal mmigration, to name a few of the more caustic issues of our time.

Being Bible-literate is to know the Good Book well and understand how influential it is in our lives outside of church.

Without Bible literacy, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "I Have a Dream Speech" is simply poetic. But if you are Bible literate, you appreciate the authority of statements like, "I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low …."

The quote, derived from the 40th chapter of Isaiah, imbues the speech with an eternal power that touches the hearts of people 44 years after it was delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

The only way to become more Bible literate is, of course, to read the Bible on a regular basis. Will listening to the Bible readings at Mass provide you with enough to make you Bible literate? Perhaps, but you need to listen carefully, because there is going to be a quiz — really.

Do you think you are Bible literate?

Try answering these 10 questions.

1. How many books can be found in the Catholic Bible?
2. Two people walked on water in the Bible. Can you name them?
3. What is the Golden Rule?
4. What is the root of all evil?
5. How many people were on Noah's ark?
6. Who is the woman with whom David committed adultery?
7. Who is the female judge of Israel?
8. How many words are in the shortest verse of the Bible?
9. Who gave up his birthright for a bowl of stew?
10. Name the first person to see the resurrected Christ?

Answers:

1. 72 — 45 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament.
2. Jesus and Peter (Matthew 14).

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

3. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12).
4. The love of money (1 Timothy 6:10). You got this one wrong if you simply answered "money."
5. Eight. Noah and his wife; his three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth; and their wives (Genesis 7:13, 2 Peter 2:5).
6. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11).
7. Deborah (Judges 4:4).
8. Two — "Jesus wept" (John 11:35).
9. Esau (Genesis 25:33).
10. Mary Magdalene (John 20:16).

How did you do? Mark yourself a sword drillin' Bible scholar if you scored 8-10. You are a researcher if you got 5-7 correct.

Don't be tempted to do something drastic with that sword if you got fewer than five correct. Plan instead to spend a few minutes a day with the Good Book.

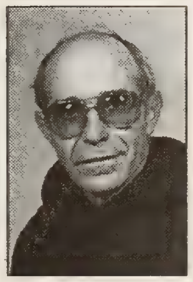
You will amaze your friends and yourself as you recognize the connection between a book thousands of years old and life in the year 2007.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org. A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org.

Temptation: A blessing or a curse?

Faith, courage can help see illusions through the false promises

Guest Column



CAPUCHIN
FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA
GUEST COLUMNIST

In Luke 4:1-13, the evangelist opens our minds to the understanding of the word temptation, which in the Greek language means "test." The truth is that we experience temptations from birth to death without interruption.

Temptations involve promises and illusions. When we are tempted, we are given the promise of something that looks good to us, or something disguised as good. The devil made all kinds of promises to Jesus, if Jesus would do certain things in return. The promises were all seemingly good things (food, power, glory), but Jesus rejected them because they were not really promises — they were illusions.

Temptations come in different shapes and forms. Sometimes they involve someone quoting the Bible to you; we learn in the Gospels that the devil used this technique, but without success.

There is no doubt Satan knew Scripture well, but Jesus counteracts with the same technique by quoting the Bible and dispelling Satan's illusions. We may not be as strong as Jesus was, and we may not know the Scriptures as Jesus did, but we are assured by God that our temptations are never stronger than we are. They do not control us, we control them.

Temptations, in fact, may be good for testing how strong or how weak we are. We know, for instance, that temptations made good people and the saints stronger.

And all temptations have something in common — they all begin with an "if."

When the devil tempted Jesus, he said, "If you are the son of God …." Children use it often: "If you think you are so fast, then …." Salespeople use the technique frequently: "If you need a comfortable sofa, then this is the one for you."

If we start to rationalize the "if," then we will probably lose. So here is a simple way of handling temptations: don't panic. The devil loves to make you fearful and insecure; he always promises happiness. He can make heaven out of hell. But again, his promises are illusions.

But we can't blame the devil for all our temptations; we create many of our own temptations. Many times we presume that we can jump in the water and not get wet.

An example: A woman called the police because some teenagers were skinny-dipping in the river next to her house, so the cops came and chased the kids away. She called the police the next day, saying the teens were skinny-dipping half a mile away. Again, the cops came and put a stop to it, warning to lock up the kids.

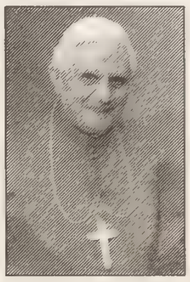
A few days later, the woman called the police again. "If I go on the roof and use my strong binoculars, I can still see the youngsters swimming in the river, miles away."

My friends, do we use microscopes to find faults, or a big heart to love? With faith, courage and conviction, we can overcome any test.

Capuchin Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Pope: Truth, not trend, must guide Christians in dialogue with others

The Pope Speaks



POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Truth, and not what is "merely fashionable," must guide Christians as they enter into dialogue with those who hold different philosophies or religious beliefs, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Creating men and women with the gift of reason, God ensured that they could recognize the truth about God, creation and life, he said March 21 during his weekly general audience.

The pope's audience talk focused on St. Justin, the philosopher and martyr decapitated in Rome in 165 for being a Christian.

Pope Benedict explained that Justin spent his life pondering truth, particularly through Greek philosophy. His search led him to prayer, the study of the Jewish prophets and ultimately to Christianity.

He opened a school in Rome where he "initiated his students in the new religion, which he considered the true philosophy, the place where he found the truth and, therefore, the art of living justly," said the pope.

The truth introduced to the Jews and partially explained in philosophy finds its completeness in Christ, he said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 21.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the fathers of the early church, we consider today St. Justin, philosopher and martyr.

St. Justin was born in Samaria, Palestine, around the year 100. During his youth he ardently sought the truth. After a meeting with an old man, who directed him to prayer and the study of the prophets, the saint converted to Christianity.

He eventually established a school in Rome where he taught the new religion; he was denounced as a Christian and decapitated in the year 165.

Of his written works, only his two apologies and his "Dialogue With Trypho" remain. These emphasize God's project of creation and salvation, which find fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who is the "logos," or word of God. Before the birth of Christ, the "logos" allowed men and women to come to know part of the truth about God and man.

The full truth, however, has been given to Christians with the incarnation of the Word of God. Our dialogue with philosophy and other religions, inspired by St. Justin, must remain firmly rooted in truth, while always avoiding that which is merely fashionable.

Daughter of Charity to accompany man to execution

CNS photo by Malea Hargett, Arkansas Catholic

Sister Doris Moore displays a drawing made for her by Vincent Gutierrez, an inmate on death row who is scheduled to be executed in Texas March 28.

By MALEA HARGETT
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Sister Doris Moore has experienced the personal side of the death penalty. While some people are against capital punishment for legal reasons, the Daughter of Charity is against the state killing inmates for personal and religious reasons.

Her friend, Vincent Gutierrez, is on death row in Texas and is scheduled to be executed March 28. Sister Moore plans to be there.

"I've been with him on the whole journey," said Sister Moore, who began corresponding with Gutierrez in 1998 when he had just arrived on death row at age 19.

After an initial letter to introduce herself, Sister Moore — then working at one of her order's wellness centers in San Antonio — committed to driving four hours to Livingston, Texas, to visit Gutierrez at least twice a year.

The distance has become even greater in the years since. Sister Moore now works at a food pantry in Little Rock, but she has remained a consistent presence in Gutierrez's life.

In addition to letters, she has mailed him art supplies to foster his talents, and he gave her a pen and ink drawing of praying hands that hangs in her bedroom.

She said his guilt or innocence is not something they discuss. According to t
Texas Department of Criminal Justic
Gutierrez was sentenced to death f
killing a 40-year-old Air Force capta
during a carjacking in 1997.

"To this day I don't know if he
guilty or not," she said. "I felt my ro
was to just accompany him."

Sister Moore has always been again
the death penalty because it discoun
redemption for the inmate.

"It's a sign to the person who
executed that there is no hope for yo
you cannot change," she said, adding th
she really believes he "has turned his li
around."

Sister Moore said she tries to hel
Gutierrez, who was raised Catholic, b
reading Scripture and praying with hi
during their two-hour "minister visits."

She told him she wanted to serve as h
minister during the execution, she said.

"It's going to be horrible, but I am o
this journey with him and I will be wit
him until the end. With God's help I ca
do it," she said.

On Feb. 28 Sister Moore made he
last visit to Gutierrez, who is now 28. Sh
read to him about the death of Jesus fron
the Gospel of St. Luke.

"I chose that one because it is the on
where he (Jesus) says, 'Father, into you
hands I commend my spirit,'" she said
and she tells Gutierrez, "He is our teache
and we have to learn from him. You wil
learn from Jesus how to die. I want you t
repeat that line as you are ready to die."

She will see Gutierrez one mor
time, for 30 minutes, March 27. It wil
be the first time the two will not be
separated by glass.

In her death-row ministry, Siste
Moore has relied on Daughters of Charity
who have formed "a wall of prayer" fo
Sister Moore and Gutierrez, and some
have written to Gutierrez and Texas Gov
Rick Perry.

"We have done everything we can
(to save his life). It's in God's hands,"
she said.

She is asking everyone she meets t
pray for the situation, but to especia
pray Psalm 27 ("The Lord is my li
and my salvation; whom do I fear
March 28.

Catholic Family EXPO - Charlotte
Belmont Abbey College
April 13 – 15, 2007
"Formation for Vocations"
"calling attention to the close relationship which exists between family, education and vocation.." – Pope John Paul II, Vocation Day Message – April 24, 1994

Family
- Understanding your Spouse's Temperament
- The Family is for Love
- The ABC's of Family Management
- Practical Tips for Building a Peaceful and Affectionate Household
- Standing Strong as a Parent: Discipline that Lasts a Lifetime
- Surviving and Thriving with Multiple Teens in the House

Vocations
- The Importance of Fathers
- Why Be Catholic?
- Come Follow Me – Priest Panel
- The Brides of Christ – Nun Panel
- Raise Happy Children...Raise Them Saints!
- How to have a Happy Marriage: God's Plan for Couples
- What's the Formula for Formation?

Education
- The Moral Importance of Storytelling
- Why Catholics Need to Know their Bible
- Logic, Good Arguments, and Fallacies
- Mastering Math with Card Games
- Beginning Homeschooling
- How to Conduct a Savvy College Search
- Building Writing Power

Pro-Life Topics: A Dozen Reasons the Pro-Life Movement is Winning, 101 Ways to be More Pro-life in your Parish
Inspiration: Quiet Waters - Live Production of the Glorious Mysteries
Special Video Presentation: Grassroots Films – *"Fishers of Men"*

Keynote Speakers
Dr. Ray Guarendi
Art & Laraine Bennett
Dr. William Thierfelder
Gail Buckley
Fr. Frank Pavone
Keith & Tami Kiser

Exhibitors: Colleges, Religious Communities, Books, Gifts, Religious Articles, and Learning Resources for Children and Adults

Learn More and Register Today: www.catholicfamilyexpo.org
Parent's Note: Child care, Children's and Teen Tracks not available at this conference. Infants and nursing babies always welcome.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.
THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don't know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don't have time to research even a fraction of them. .

Call to learn more about:

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITH BARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

FC282
C363c NC

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MARCH 30, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 24

Perspectives

Columnists explore meaning of Easter; teacher reveals unwithering 'bouquet'

| PAGES 14-15

Velcoming he stranger

uwyers, advocates ceive training to sist immigrants

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — migrants to the Southeast l soon have more legal istance, thanks to Catholic ncies and volunteers.

Forty attorneys, paralegals, vocates and accredited resentatives from across Dioceses of Charlotte and eigh and the Archdiocese of anta gathered in Winston-em for a two-day training ninar on family-based nigration.

The program, presented conjunction with Catholic ial Services (CSS) in the cese of Charlotte and the shington-based Catholic al Immigration Network LINIC), was held at the S Casa Guadalupe office in

See TRAINING, page 4

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Participants nail their Lenten pledges to a cross during the annual Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage to Belmont Abbey March 25.

Lenten sacrifice

Youths, young adults gather for prayer, reflection at Abbey

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BELMONT — Under a hot spring sun, amid sounds of prayer and the smell of incense, was the echoing of hammers.

Hundreds of youths, young adults and adults nailed purple pieces of paper containing pledges to a cross outside the Abbey Basilica in Belmont. The cross, covered in purple swatches, was then carried behind a eucharistic procession.

"The pledges represent what we're offering to Jesus during our Lenten pilgrimage," said Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia. "We take them with

See YOUTHS, page 9

Courtesy Photo

iop Peter J. Jugis speaks during Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in ngton March 18. The bishop later blessed the new parish hall. Also pictured is ate of St. Francis de Sales Father Al Gondek, pastor (far left).

Room to flex in Lexington

Bishop Jugis blesses expanded parish hall

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

LEXINGTON — The Catholic church in Lexington now has a little more room to grow.

Approximately 300 people attended the dedication of the new parish hall at Our Lady of the Rosary Church March 18.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed the newly expanded and renovated facility, and he celebrated a Mass during which 31 youths received the sacrament of confirmation. Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Al Gondek, pastor, concelebrated the Mass.

The parish demolished the building that was behind the old parish hall, allowing the structure to expand. The new parish hall is more than twice the size of the former hall and features eight classrooms, two conference rooms, two

See HALL, page 5

Is there a (Catholic) doctor in the house?

Local Catholic medical guild will serve doctors, patients

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Last month, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh granted permission for the establishment of the St. Gianna Beretta Guild, or local chapter,

See GUILD, page 6

KMPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
20836#
3 P-1
COLLECTION
SON LIBRARY CB 3930
C
APEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

A lasting legacy

Endowment will benefit parish in years to come

| PAGE 7

Youths in Action

Youths fast, raise awareness; students race, raise funds

| PAGE 8

Culture Watch

New version of Judas' story; using new media

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

DIVINE INSPIRATION

Jesus
I trust in yo
Divine Mercy
Joe Cannon (888) 47
www.DivineMercyBillboa

CNS photo by Nancy Erikson, Catholic Universe Bulletin

Joe Cannon, a parishioner at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Cleveland, leads a crusade to "bring Jesus Christ to the streets" by putting up billboards of the Divine Mercy image on roads and highways in many locales, like this one behind him looming over U.S. Route 20 in Painesville Township, Ohio.

Ohio man gives fellow travelers signs from God

CLEVELAND (CNS) — On the road of life, there's nothing more comforting than getting a sign from God.

Sometimes that sign is a feeling. Other times it's through Scripture. Sometimes it's a 30-foot-high billboard depicting Jesus.

Lately, getting a sign from God has become easier thanks to the efforts of 82-year-old Joe Cannon.

Cannon, a lifelong parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Cleveland, is the man behind the billboards around the Cleveland Diocese showing a large image of Christ as the Divine Mercy with the words "Jesus, I trust in you."

He also has put up hundreds of billboards in other states.

"It's a 'wow' thing," Cannon said. "It shakes you up. People don't expect to see it."

He puts his name and a toll-free number on the signs for people to call. And they do. He claims to have received nearly 1,000 calls from people across the country since he started putting up billboards five years ago.

One of the first calls he received was from a woman whose son had died two years before. She called to tell Cannon that she had been praying for a sign that her son was in heaven. Then she saw the billboard — right at the spot where her son died. Those are the calls that keep Cannon going.

"My philosophy has always been to bring Jesus out into the street," Cannon said.

Cannon was first inspired to spread the Divine Mercy message after hearing a priest talk about St. Faustina Kowalska at the Cleveland Marian Conference in 1992.

St. Kowalska was a Polish nun who in the 1930s received a vision of Christ as the Divine Mercy. In the vision, Christ told her that he would show mercy to those who prayed for it and who share that mercy to others. Catholics celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday a week after Easter.

Cannon began by passing out pamphlets about the Divine Mercy in his parish. A former Cleveland councilman, he eventually helped secure Cleveland's Public Square in 1996 to display a 32-foot banner depicting the Divine Mercy image.

Since then, the banner has been carried at parades and pro-life marches around the country. After seeing the positive response for the banner, Cannon decided to spread the Divine Mercy message via billboards.

He started with 40 in Cleveland. Today, he has 570 billboards in six states. His goal is to get them in every state.

"There's a hunger for Jesus Christ out there," Cannon said. "It just has to be tapped. I think this is one of the things that will save the world."

South Carolina House OKs bill mandating ultrasounds before abortions

COLUMBIA, S.C. (CNS) — Members of the South Carolina House of Representatives have approved legislation that would make their state the first in the nation to require women to see the ultrasound images of their child before an abortion.

The vote was 91-23 March 21 after the House rejected two proposed amendments that would have made exceptions in cases of rape or incest.

After a mandatory third reading March 22, the measure was sent to the Senate, where it was referred to the Committee on Medical Affairs.

South Carolina law already requires that ultrasounds be performed at abortion clinics in the state, in order to determine the gestational age of the child.

Doctors then must tell women the likely age, give them information about fetal development and alternatives to abortion, and wait at least an hour before performing the abortion, which must take place in the first trimester.

Under the proposed legislation, women will have to sign a form saying they have seen the ultrasound image.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life and chairman of Rachel's Vineyard, which ministers to women who have had abortions, praised the legislation in a statement.

"Every day we minister to women who first saw how well developed their unborn child was only after that child was killed," said Father Pavone.

"They spend the rest of their lives in deep regret over that uninformed choice," he said.

"This legislation will spare many women that kind of suffering, not to mention that it will save many lives," Father Pavone added.

According to Americans United for Life, six states — Arkansas, Oklahoma, Alabama, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin — already allow a woman to have and/or review an ultrasound before an abortion, but none mandates it.

Diocesan planner

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission and diocesan liaison for the U.S. bishops' Justice for Immigrants campaign, will speak on *Issues Involving Resident Immigrants in our Community* during Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., April 21 at 5:30 p.m. and April 22 at 9 a.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 289-2773.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All Polish-speaking Catholics are invited to attend a *Mass in Polish* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., April 1 at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Father Bernard Potepa, a Franciscan retreat master from Poland. Confession will be available from 1:30 pm. For more information please call Elizabeth Spytkowski at (704) 948-1678.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* with a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet April 15 at 3 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Peter Church's weekday lunchtime spirituality program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. The program for April 19 will be *"Experience the Presence of God through Group Reflection."* Bring your lunch, hear a short talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to recharge during the workweek. Sessions are free and everyone is invited. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The St. Matthew Columbiettes will be awarding a *$1,000 scholarship* in memory of Gene Marie Alfaro to a graduating high school senior who will pursue a career in the nursing or health care field. The application deadline is April 10 and the scholarship will be awarded in May. For more information, call Diana Congdon at (704) 814-0624.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunda* April 15 with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m. including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will no be offered. For more information, call Gail Abraham at (704) 786-0709.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholi women of Irish birth or descent, or who ar the wife of a member of the Ancient Order o Hibernians are invited to participate in *Th Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloste Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St Please join us for refreshments and to lear more about our group. Any questions can b directed to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace, 220 W. Market St., invites all parishioners an friends to participate in a *Divine Mercy Hol Hour and Benediction* April 15 at 3:30 p.m For more information, call the church office a (336) 274-6520.

GREENSBORO — *Faithful Stewards of God*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MARCH 30, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 24

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published b the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Churc St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except fo Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks durin June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishe of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per yea for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserve the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deeme appropriate. We do not recommend or guarante any product, service or benefit claimed b our advertisers. Second-class postage paid a Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER Send address corrections to The Catholi News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official says Holy Land religions can relaunch peace talks

ROME (CNS) — By promoting respect, sympathy and dialogue among their members, the Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities of the Holy Land can help relaunch the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, a top Vatican diplomat said.

Msgr. Piero Parolin, Vatican undersecretary for relations with states, spoke at a March 22-23 conference in Rome sponsored by the U.N. Committee for the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Quoting amply from Pope Benedict XVI's Christmas 2006 letter to Christians in the Holy Land, Msgr. Parolin highlighted religious attitudes that could make a "constructive contribution" to bringing peace to the region.

Religious leaders must help their members give up thoughts of revenge and avoid the temptation of cataloguing past wrongs to see who has suffered most, he said. Instead they must see that all are suffering the effects of violence and insecurity, listen to one another and promote patient dialogue.

"In the name of the Holy See, I wish to state my firm conviction that the different religious confessions present in the Holy Land can make a decisive contribution to the relaunching of the peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians, precisely by working to promote among their members the attitudes which I mentioned," he said.

Msgr. Parolin also expressed the Vatican's hope for the new Palestinian government, formed March 17 by representatives of the militant Hamas and moderate Fatah parties. The new government ended "several months of severe, armed and violent conflict."

The Rome conference also included Muslim clerics, rabbis and Catholic priests from the Holy Land who agreed that stopping violence on all sides was an absolute requirement before any real dialogue could take place.

Creation will take place April 21, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m., at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The conference will include presentations on church teaching on environmental justice, recent scientific findings, energy-saving ideas and how to become more effective advocates. Attendance is free. Call (704) 370-3228 by April 16 to register and reserve a lunch. Sponsored by Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace through a grant from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Environmental Justice Program. Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for a flyer and schedule.

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. ToT will meet Wednesdays, April 18-May 9, at 6:45 p.m. at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy. For more informatiom, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — Most new widows find grieving and other problems overwhelming. Over time, widows gain wisdom about their options. Dr. Ronda Chervin will present *"The Widows' Walk: Encouragement, Comfort and Wisdom from the Widow-Saints"* at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St., April 21, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 430-7634 or the church office at (828) 437-3108.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 15, 3-4 p.m. We will observe this special feast with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, communal prayer and song. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

MAGGIE VALLEY— A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing* is a confidential opportunity for anyone struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat is designed to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. It is also an opportunity to surface and release repressed feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief. This will help you to grieve the loss of your unborn child, to receive and accept God's forgiveness, and to forgive yourself. The next retreat is April 20-22 at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. For further information, call Shelley at (828) 230-4940, e-mail sglan1234@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Secular Franciscan Joanne Jacovec will speak on "Contemplation: From Darkness to Light" at the April 18 program.. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 3 — 11 a.m.
Chrism Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 5 – 7:30 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 6 – 3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Vietnamese Church, Charlotte

April 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Celebrating the Lord's Passion
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 7 — 8:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

April 8 — 11 a.m.
Easter Sunday Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Papal preacher says indifference is biggest sin against the poor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The biggest sin committed against the poor and the hungry is indifference, the preacher of the papal household told Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, leading the traditional Friday Lenten reflection at the Vatican March 23, said Christians are called to help remedy the injustice of poverty, not turn away hoping others will resolve the problem.

"The parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus is being repeated today among us on a global scale," he said, with wealthy nations representing the rich man living in splendor and the developing world representing Lazarus who longed to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table.

Just as the rich man's gate kept Lazarus at bay, "We tend to put double-paned windows up between us and the poor" that shield against and muffle the severity of the poor's plight, Father Cantalamessa said.

"We see the poor on the move, writhing, screaming on the other side of our television screens, in the newspaper ... but their cries reach us as from afar. They don't reach the heart," he said.

But, he said, "the biggest sin against the poor and hungry perhaps is indifference, to pretend not to see ... to ignore the immense multitude of people starving, begging, homeless, without health care and above all without hope for a better future."

The "scandalous abyss" between the haves and the have-nots is "the most pressing and colossal task" that humankind has yet to remedy, the Capuchin priest said.

The Gospels encourage people to react to other people's suffering with love, compassion and mercy, not indifference, he said. Also, the Gospels do not urge the poor to seek justice on their own, he added.

The preacher told the pope and Vatican officials that wealthier Christians must remember and concretely help their more unfortunate sisters and brothers.

"Among the millions of Christians who will go to Mass next Sunday there are some — and we are some of them — who have every gift of God at their disposal when they go back home and others who have nothing to feed their own children," he said.

From Guam to Australia

CNS PHOTO BY TONY C. DIAZ, THE PACIFIC VOICE

Youths of San Dionicio Church in the southern village of Umatac on the island of Guam carry the World Youth Day cross in early March. The Archdiocese of Agana in the Mariana Islands welcomed the cross and an icon of Mary March 8-11 with a pilgrimage that had youths carrying the cross from parish to parish, spanning a distance of about 24 miles. Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron of Agana, Guam, is pictured at left.

Thousands of Catholic youths and young adults welcomed the cross and the icon to Guam. Guam was the first stop in the Mariana Islands for the symbols of the world's largest youth event which have traveled tens of thousands of miles around the world.

The symbols will travel through 20 nations in Asia and Oceania and then through 28 Australian dioceses before they arrive at the World Youth Day opening Mass July 15, 2008, in Sydney.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?
Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenents of the Catholic faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event? If so, please contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Lawyers, advocates receive training to assist immigrants

TRAINING, *from page 1*

Winston-Salem March 21-22.

Casa Guadalupe assists the Hispanic community in the Piedmont-Triad region with immigration and legal assistance.

"Casa Guadalupe was chosen for this presentation because it has been accredited by the Board of Immigration Accreditation and it has one of the best programs for immigrants, especially those of Hispanic/Latino origin, in the nation," said Peggy Gleason, a senior attorney with CLINIC.

Gleason of CLINIC, which provides legal and support services to Catholic programs working in the United States with poor immigrants and refugees, and Caitlin Brazill, an attorney with Immigration Legal Services of Catholic Charities, presented the two-day seminar.

It included training for family-based immigration, preparation for legalization and pending legislation. The attorneys, paralegals and advocates who received the training will be able to better assist Casa Guadalupe in its mission to the Hispanic community, whose needs are in a constant state of growth.

During the last several years, North Carolina has seen a 200 percent increase in immigration, said Gleason.

"While there are not a lot of programs available, Casa Guadalupe has made a valuable impact on the Hispanic/Latino immigrants in the area," she said.

Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Attorney Caitlin Brazill of Catholic Charities USA gives a presentation on immigration law during a seminar on family-based immigration at Casa Guadalupe in Winston-Salem March 21-22.

In addition to immigration services, Casa Guadalupe offers a wide range of assistance, including adoption, counseling, pregnancy support and marriage preparation services.

"Casa Guadalupe has a good, strong program to handle the growing immigration problem," said Brazill.

"They certainly need more resources, which we are hoping to provide today, as well as practical support for the area leaders who are in need of it," she said.

"Because of the influx of immigration in the region, there is much concern about the scarcity of help available and the possibility of getting more proactive workers in the field to help in case of the passage of the Immigration Reform Act, which seems inevitable," said Gleason.

Among the bills recently introduced in Congress that deal with immigration in some form, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007, which seeks "to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for more effective border and employment enforcement, to prevent illegal immigration and to reform and rationalize avenues for legal immigration."

"Should that pass, we will need a vast number of volunteers to handle the situation. And it is always better to be prepared than to be caught off guard," said Gleason.

Richard Cruse, a pro bono attorney in Winston-Salem, said he found the training helpful and looks forward to offering his assistance to Casa Guadalupe.

"I don't know a whole lot about immigration, but everyone is obliged to give something back," said Cruse. "Fortunately, I am able to give a little something back by helping where I can."

Members of the Casa Guadalupe staff said the extra assistance will be most helpful.

"With the addition of attorneys and legal professionals, as well as law students to help me with claims, we will be able to process all the future applicants," said Nilda Cardenas de Lara, immigration specialist at Casa Guadalupe.

"This is a great opportunity for these new volunteers to help our Hispanic community to overcome the tremendous amount of abuse and injustice experienced in this area," said Ana M. Carpio Vasquez, an advocate who assists immigrant families in Charlotte.

"This seminar was a wonderful experience in that it brought to the forefront many issues and answered many questions about immigration reform," she said.

Adrianna Priden of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Raleigh, a nonprofit social service agency, attended the training to learn about how pending legislation may affect those served her agency.

"If the Immigration Reform Act does pass, a lot of my clients may not be eligible (for assistance)," she said. "But, according to this seminar, there is a lot more hope than either my clients or I had realized."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Casa Guadalupe, visit www.cssnc.org/casaguadalupe.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

On the green

Courtesy Photo

Missionary Servant of the Most Blessed Trinity Sister Eileen McLoughlin (second from right) is pictured during Catholic Social Services' fourth annual golf tournament at the Palisades Country Club golf course in Charlotte March 26. Sister McLoughlin joined 107 other players to raise funds to support the services of the CSS Charlotte office, including adoption, burial assistance, counseling and pregnancy support.

In her 20 years of ministry at CSS, Sister McLoughlin expanded the counseling program and touched the lives of many people. She left CSS in 2002 and, as an avid golfer, became the inspiration for the spring fundraiser on the green. She is now a pastoral associate for St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

Also pictured are (from left) Peter and Rose Bergen and Fran Baltmiskis.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

SENIORS'
SPRING FLING

Sponsored by CSS Elder Ministries

Two dates and locations to choose from!

Thurs., April 26th – St. Mark, Huntersville
10 am to 4 pm: Closing Mass with Bishop Jugis
Registration deadline: April 18th

Thurs., May 3rd – Catholic Conference Ctr., Hickory
9 am – 3:30 pm: Closing Mass with Fr. Edward Sheridan
Registration deadline: April 19th

Your day will be filled with live entertainment, fellowship, Mass, lunch with friends, chair massages, line dancing, crafts, bingo, door prizes and more!

Call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220 or
Sherill Beason (704) 370-3228.

Cost: $12 includes lunch.
Limited space available. Register NOW!

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Knights of Columbus receive distinguished award

Star Council Award recognizes outstanding achievements

LEXINGTON — Knights of Columbus Council 12481 of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington was recently honored with the organization's most prestigious recognition.

State Deputy Bob Grabasky presented the Star Council Award to Paul Thornton, Council 12481's deputy grand knight, who stood in for the late Grand Knight Dan Biron.

Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Al Gondek, pastor and council chaplain, celebrated Mass to commemorate the occasion. A formal sit-down dinner was also held in the parish hall, the first event held in the facility after its reconstruction.

The Star Council Award recognizes excellence in membership, insurance and volunteerism.

For the 2006 fraternal year, only 1,541 of more than 13,000 councils achieved Star Council status. Council 12481 is one of the smallest in North Carolina with only 47 members.

Those members focus on five main areas of activity: church, community, council, family and youth.

Council 12481 members participate at Mass as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, ushers, readers and choir members. They also prepare and serve meals at a Lexington homeless shelter, participate in Meals on Wheels and volunteer at the hospital, nursing homes and the Veterans Administration Hospital.

The council also sponsors a first Sunday breakfast each month and holds fish fries and other events during the year.

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE
THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED

CUTHBERT ALLEN LECTURE SERIES

MR. JOHN ALLEN

A lecture by Vatican expert John Allen entitled: "Understanding the Megatrends Affecting the Catholic Church" will be held on April 2, 2007, in the Haid Theatre on the Belmont Abbey College campus at 8:00pm. Admission is free.

To read some of Mr. Allen's articles, go to www.ncronline.org.

Reservations are required.
Contact Denise Boykin at (704) 825-6728
or DeniseBoykin@bac.edu

Belmont Abbey College is located 10 minutes from Charlotte: I-85 Exit 26

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND

November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the new parish hall at Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington March 18. Also pictured is Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Al Gondek, pastor (far right).

Bishop Jugis blesses new parish hall in Lexington

HALL, *from page 1*

offices, a kitchen, a storage room and two showers.

The $264,000 facility, which can accommodate 300 people, was completed in early January.

"The goal was to renovate and update the facility," said Father Gondek. "Now, the goal is to initiate programs to accommodate the changes in the parish and the community."

With a growing parish and Hispanic community, Our Lady of the Rosary Church now has more space for its faith formation program, Bible study and other activities, said Father Gondek. The new hall also serves as a meeting and retreat center for diocesan Hispanic ministry.

But, he said, "It's my hope and dream that it will be used by the public."

The new facility will provide more outreach to the community, said Father Gondek, who hopes to share it with other organizations in the community that may be lacking appropriate space for meetings and celebrations.

"The hall is modern, updated and practical for various area activities in addition to church functions," said Father Gondek.

Renting out the hall also will help the parish meet its capital campaign to pay off the reconstruction, said Father Gondek.

> "The hall is modern, updated and practical for various area activities in addition to church functions."
>
> — Oblate Father Al Gondek

Completing the hall was the final project on a list Father Gondek hoped to complete since his arrival in 1998. Throughout his tenure, the church has purchased a new rectory, has converted the old parish hall into an office and renovated the church.

There are a few jobs left to be done, such as purchasing furniture for the hall's offices and some landscaping, but the parish is very enthused about its new facility.

"They are elated and very excited about it," said Father Gondek.

Since its reopening, the parish hall has been used for meetings, fish fries, quilters' activities and more.

"Every weekend something new is going on," said Father Gondek.

The Oratory Religion Camp

- Two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 15-21 and July 22-28, 2007.
- Boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September can apply for consideration.
- Swimming, crafts and religious activities.
- The fee is $125.

For information and application: **www.oratorycamp.com**

Visit us online at www.rockhilloratory.com

The Oratory Religion Camp, P. O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.
Volunteer counselors (16 or older) can write for an application.

Local Catholic medical guild will serve doctors, patients

GUILD, *from page 1*

of the Catholic Medical Association (CMA) in North Carolina.

The CMA is a national professional association, founded as the Catholic Physicians Guild by Cardinal William O'Connell in Boston in 1912.

The original guild was established in order to educate Catholic physicians in church doctrine relating to the practice of medicine.

Today, the CMA provides professional and spiritual support to Catholic physicians and medical students in order to maintain their Catholic values in their medical practices.

"The biggest benefit of membership for physicians is the camaraderie and support," said Dr. David Ramsey, a member of the St. Gianna Beretta Guild and parishioner of St. Mary Church in Sylva.

On the local level, guild activities include networking and support opportunities, an annual White Mass of St. Luke for Catholic Physicians, seminars and civic and private volunteer programs. A White Mass is being planned for the fall of 2007, to be celebrated in the Diocese of Raleigh.

The CMA also gives doctors a forum to explore and discuss "edge-of-ethics" issues, Dr. Ramsey said.

"Often, Catholic doctors deal with issues that go against our faith — abortion, contraception, end-of-life issues," he said. "These are things that are unhealthy for people and for society."

Physicians can be members of the CMA in areas without guilds, or without belonging to the local guild. However, the guild provides cohesiveness for its members and a vote in issues brought before the CMA.

> "Catholic patients know their doctors who are CMA members will uphold Catholic doctrines."
>
> — Dr. David Ramsey

Patients also benefit from physicians' membership in the CMA, Ramsey said.

"Catholic patients know their doctors who are CMA members will uphold Catholic doctrines," he said. "Even non-Catholic patients can be assured their doctors will have Christian, charitable views towards their practice of medicine."

The CMA provides instruction about the Catholic position on health-related issues such as physician-assisted suicide, abortion and natural family planning.

The CMA also sponsors a Medical Missions Program, which recruits volunteers for service in health care projects overseas.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For current individual members and those newly interested in the St. Gianna Beretta Guild, please fax your contact information to Dr. James Nolan at (910) 485-2963. For more information on the Catholic Medical Association, visit its Web site at www.cathmed.org.

CNS PHOTO FROM SALT AND LIGHT TV

St. Gianna Beretta Molla is pictured with son Pierluigi and daughter Mariolina in an undated photo.

When she was pregnant with her fourth child, doctors discovered a large ovarian tumor that required surgery. Surgical procedures at the time called for removal of her entire uterus, which would have aborted her two-month old fetus.

St. Gianna, herself a pediatrician and general practitioner, insisted surgeons remove only what was necessary and allow her baby to live and reach term. St. Gianna died seven days after giving birth to her fourth child in 1962.

She had pleaded with her family and doctors before the birth: "If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate. Choose the child, I insist on it, save the baby."

St. Gianna was canonized by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican May 16, 2004.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

K of C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of April:

Rev. Msgr. Charles Gable 1977
Rev. Joseph J. Lash 1999
Rev. Samuel Orlando 2003

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

The St. Vincent de Paul Women's Guild will hold its Annual Card and Games Night on Wednesday, April 18th from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Monsignor Pharr Activity Center. All are welcome—men and women!

Annual Card / Game Night

Tickets are on sale for **only $7.**
Your ticket price includes entrance, food and beverages. **Tickets must be purchased in advance** and cannot be purchased at the door!

Raffle tickets will be sold that evening and door prizes will be awarded!

For more information contact Peggy Gibbons at 704/588-5870.

So come join us for a night of Cards, Bingo, Loteria, food and fun.
Send in your check to reserve your seat!

St. Vincent de Paul
Women's Guild

You may purchase tickets by mailing a check made payable to St. Vincent de Paul Women's Guild with the below ticket information to:
Peggy Gibbons at St. Vincent de Paul
6828 Old Reid
Charlotte, NC 28210

Name ____________________
Address____________________
Phone ____________No. Tickets____

‘We wanted to recognize Father Connolly for his lasting contribution to the diocesan priesthood.’

A lasting legacy

Endowment will benefit parish in years to come

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — During nearly 10 years as pastor of St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church in Boone, Father Frank Connolly became well-known for his work within his parish and in the local community.

To show their appreciation for his years of dedicated service to the parish, Father Joseph Mulligan, current pastor, and the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Church announced the establishment of the Rev. Francis Connolly Endowment Fund.

The announcement was made Jan. 21 when the parish gathered to celebrate Father Connolly's 80th birthday.

"We wanted to recognize Father Connolly for his lasting contribution to the diocesan priesthood, to St. Elizabeth Church and to the community of Boone," said Father Mulligan, who originally conceived the idea for an endowment in Father Connolly's name.

Father Connolly first celebrated Mass in Boone in 1960-61, when he would travel regularly from North Wilkesboro, where he served as parochial vicar. Although St. Elizabeth Church was established in November 1958, the parish had no resident pastoral staff until 1963.

In 1979, Father Connolly returned to St. Elizabeth Church as pastor. During his tenure, outreach programs for the poor and disabled were accelerated, as well as efforts to reach Catholics not attending church. Birth Choice and Peace and Justice groups were organized.

Father Connolly also worked with Boone's Hospitality House, a local homeless and crisis ministry.

When a fire destroyed the church building in 1984, he oversaw the construction of a new church.

During his years as a priest in North Carolina, Father Connolly served in North Wilkesboro, Laurinburg, Asheboro, Lenoir, Concord and Boone, among other cities.

Born in Plainfield, N.J., Father Connolly graduated from Rutgers University and Duke University. He worked in the plywood and furniture industries for two years before deciding to become a priest.

He began his studies in 1955 at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. In 1956, Father Connolly transferred to the North American College in Rome, where he was ordained Dec. 20, 1959.

FILE PHOTO

Father Frank Connolly is seen in an undated photograph. An endowment fund was recently established in Father Connolly's name by the parishioners of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone.

Father Connolly retired in July 2000.

The Rev. Frank Connolly Endowment Fund currently has $6,825 on hand. Disbursements from the endowment will be used for the educational and pastoral needs of the St. Elizabeth Church.

"More and more people are making the decision to establish a named endowment during their life or in their estate plan as a way to honor or remember a family member or other loved one," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office and director of the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

"We have worked with more than 800 parishioners who are remembering the church in their estate plans," he said

About one-half of the 152 endowments in the diocesan foundation are named in honor or memoriam of a specific person.

The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the diocese and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation that earns income over time. The original amount is not spent, but the income can be used in a manner stipulated in the donor's estate plan or in an endowment agreement, according to Kelley.

A committee of three-to-five members is set up for each endowment to determine how funds will be distributed.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The diocesan foundation was incorporated in 1994 to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, agencies and organizations. An endowment is a permanent fund in which the principal is never touched. The income may be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor organization or individual. Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund.

Over the past 12 years, more than $3.4 million has been made available for distribution by the foundation to parishes, schools and agencies.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

ATTENTION READERS! TAKE THIS SURVEY!

You may receive a telephone call from a representative of The Catholic News & Herald in April. We are conducting a reader survey and your answers will help us to better serve you.

St. Patrick Cathedral

The Very Rev. Paul Gary
Rector

Rev. Robert Conway
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero
Deacon

Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina
Deacon

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 3, 11 a.m.
Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Holy Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Good Friday, April 6, 3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Easter Vigil Mass, April 7, 8:30 p.m.
Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant

Easter Sunday Masses
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,
11 a.m., Bishop Peter Jugis, celebrant
12:30 p.m.

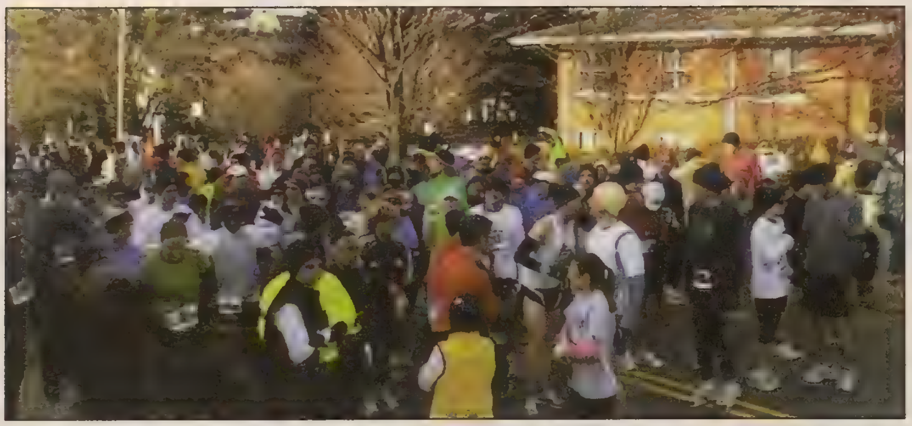
1621 Dilworth Road East
Charlotte, NC 28203 (704) 334-2283
Visit our Web site at www.stpatricks.org

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations Coming Soon!
We're ready to help with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we celebrate with you their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or one of our **scheduled parish visits:**
St. Mark School – Wed & Thur, Apr. 18 & 19: 7:30 am – 3 pm
St. Philip, Statesville – Sat. & Sun., April 21-22 after Masses
SPECIAL PARISH VISITS: If you'd like to arrange a parish visit, ask your pastor to call me, manager Allen Bond, and we'll make every effort to meet his schedule.
May God Bless you all as we approach Easter.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.



Courtesy Photo

More than 400 people prepare to take part in Asheville Catholic School's inaugural St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Run in downtown Asheville March 17.

Asheville Catholic holds first Shamrock Run

By CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Even a blustery wind failed to slow down the runners making their way across downtown Asheville.

More than 400 people took part in Asheville Catholic School's inaugural St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Run March 17.

"It was a way to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the school and the 175th anniversary of the order of the Sisters of Mercy, who first staffed the school," said Sheila O'Connor, president of Asheville Catholic's parent faculty association.

The race, said O'Connor, was also "to promote health and fitness and a way of getting families together to exercise."

The race consisted of 5K and 10K events, as well as a 1K "fun run," which many parents entered with their children.

Mercy Sister Maria Goretti Weldon started the race, and Father John Schneider, pastor of St. Eugene Church, led the way on his bicycle as Irish music played over loudspeakers.

More than 100 students from local schools and several home-schooled students from outside Asheville ran with Asheville Catholic students. Mercy Sister Anita Sherrin of Asheville walked in the 5K race.

The race's primary sponsors were the Sisters of Mercy and the Asheville Parks and Recreation Department. Forty-five parents and volunteers from St. Eugene Church provided refreshments.

Mascots for the Asheville Panthers, Sparky the Fire Dog from the Asheville Fire and Rescue and Teddy from the Asheville Tourists baseball team entertained the crowd, followed by a performance of the Gallagher School of Irish Dance.

Registration fees from the race raised approximately $4,000 for the school. Participants received commemorative long-sleeved t-shirts at registration.

Joel Collier of Asheville crossed the finish line first in the 10K. Fifteen-year-old John Harwell of Asheville took top honors in the 5K.

Crossing the finish line

Courtesy Photo

Runners finish the 12th annual 5K race and 1-mile "fun run" at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem March 24. The Wake Forest University Demon Deacon was on hand to cheer on the participants. A student assembly was held March 26, at which students received awards for their participation in the race.

Youths participate in 30 Hour Famine

CHARLOTTE — After 30 hours with no food, Pedro Cortes has a better understanding of what so many youths experience every day.

"It can make us thankful for what we have, and hopefully can impact us to commit ourselves to something meaningful," said Pedro, a junior at Audrey Kell High School in Charlotte.

Pedro was among a group of 26 youths and 16 adults to participate in World Vision's annual 30 Hour Famine held at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte Feb. 23-24.

The program helps young people learn about global hunger and poverty while they raise funds to fight hunger.

Through sponsor pledges, the group raised $4,390 for World Vision, a Christian relief agency that works in nearly 100 countries. The group also performed community service projects.

"Not only are starving children's stomachs being filled, but it can also be seen as a sacrifice to God, and wha better time for a sacrifice then Lent?' asked Pedro.

"The youths fully immerse themselves into the experience of fastin from food in solidarity with thos who go hungry every day," said Kath Diener, youth minister at St. Vincen de Paul Church. "Their witness helpe educate not only themselves but th public as to the plights of our brother and sisters around the world who ar less fortunate."

Pedro looks forward to participatin in next year's 30 Hour Famine.

"If there's one thing to take awa from this experience, it is that while w live comfortably, there are those livin in utter misery — and they are the one whom God smiles upon the most, said Pedro.

"Maybe not today, maybe no tomorrow, but in the kingdom of heaven the poorer are the richer," he said.

Courtesy Photo by Jeff Nar

Pictured are participants of the 30 Hour Famine held at St. Vincent de Paul Church Feb. 23-24.

Voices and Places
of The People of God

Voices and Places of The People of God
THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

The Diocese of Charlotte is commemorating its 35th Anniversary with the publication of a special volume of beautiful photographs, spiritual reflections and fascinating history.

You will enjoy more than 35 spiritual reflections from laity throughout the diocese as well as from clergy including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, and Archbishop John F. Donoghue.

Plus, the book is filled with numerous historical photos and interesting facts about the growth and development of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Cost of this beautiful book is $25.99 plus tax and $4.85 shipping and handling. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Order your copy at www.Diocesebook.com.
If you do not have Internet access, call 704-370-3333.

Youths, young adults gather for prayer, reflection

YOUTHS, *from page 1*

us on our journey with Christ."

Bishop Peter J. Jugis led the eucharistic procession around Belmont Abbey College as part of the diocese's third annual Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey for youths and young adults March 25.

The nearly 300 participants included youths from high schools and colleges across the diocese, as well as youth ministers, other adults, diocesan deacons, monks from Belmont Abbey and women religious.

The pilgrimage, a day of prayer and reflection, was part of the diocese's preparation for the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress, themed "To Know Jesus Christ," to be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

The pledges on the cross were made to help the pilgrimage participants prepare for Easter and to know Jesus.

"The students make a commitment during Lent — such as praying, fasting — and nail it to the cross," said Ruth Payne, campus minister at Belmont Abbey College.

Payne and Gloria Schweizer, Catholic campus minister at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, helped organize the annual pilgrimage, which included exposition of the Eucharist, evening prayer and Benediction.

New to the program this year were youth musicians and student speakers, who joined Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey and Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College, discussing different aspects of the Eucharist.

"Stories of eucharistic miracles are not the basis of our faith, but they do inspire me," said Thierfelder.

He spoke about the eighth-century eucharistic miracle in Lanciano, Italy, where a monk who doubted the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist saw the host change into flesh and the wine into blood during a consecration at Mass.

"If we really pray and focus on God, he does touch us and answer us," said Thierfelder.

The spiritual pilgrimage helped many to focus on God and experience the Eucharist together.

"This pilgrimage brings youths and young adults together to see the universality of the church and to meet each other around adoration of the Eucharist," said Father Arnsparger.

"It helps them get in touch with and recognize the traditions of our faith," said Mary Wright, director of diocesan Catholic campus ministry. "They get to share in this experience with other youths and young adults."

"It's important to come together as a community," said Thierfelder.

WANT MORE INFO?
More details about the upcoming diocesan Eucharistic Congress are available online at www.goeucharist.com.

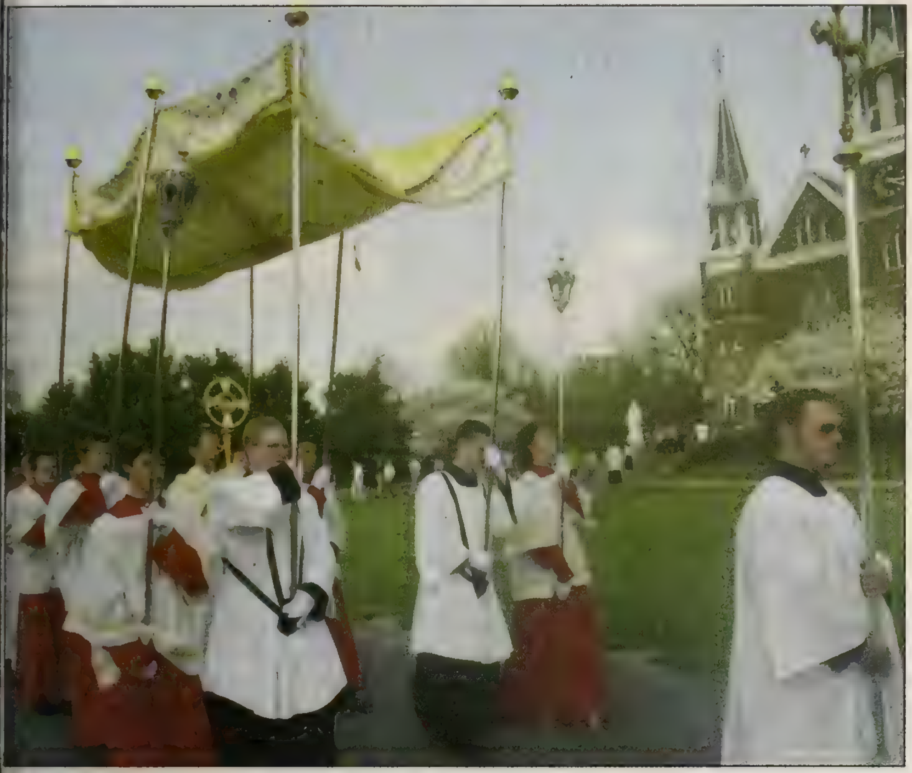


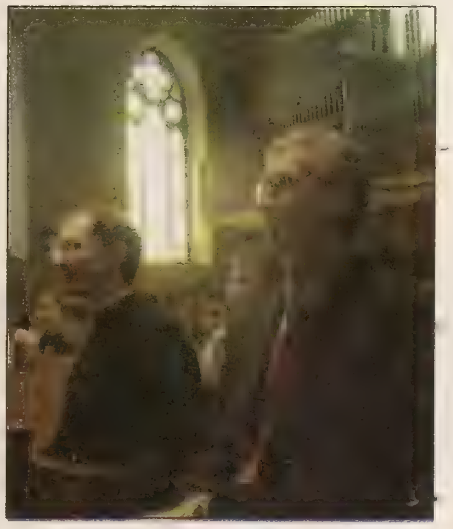
PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance in a eucharistic procession during the third annual diocesan Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey March 25.

> "If we really pray and focus on God, he does touch us and answer us."
>
> — Dr. William Thierfelder,
> Belmont Abbey College

PHOTOS BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Dr. William Thierfelder(below) listen to youths perform spiritual music (above) in the Abbey Basilica during the diocesan Lenten Spiritual Pilgrimage at Belmont Abbey March 25.



Over half full—call today!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Reserve today for best cabin choice and lowest rates! Call for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Curiosity prompts novelist to write new version of Judas' story

Although fiction, book gives 'primacy of place' to Gospel truth

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Curiosity about the New Testament figure of Judas and a feeling that his reputation as the worst sinner in history "isn't fair, isn't right" led British novelist Jeffrey Archer to attempt a new version of the story.

Archer, presenting "The Gospel According to Judas by Benjamin Iscariot" at a March 20 press conference in Rome, said he is a practicing Anglican who wanted his new book to be backed up by solid biblical scholarship.

So he convinced Father Francis Moloney, provincial of the Salesians in Australia and a former president of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, to collaborate.

Father Moloney, who served on the International Theological Commission for 18 years when it was under the presidency of the future Pope Benedict XVI, provided scholarly criticism of the text and wrote the bulk of the theological notes and clarifications found at the end of the book.

The text in the gilded pages of Archer's book is organized into chapters and verses, like a real Gospel, with the words he attributes to Jesus written in red.

Archer's main thesis is that Judas tried to prevent Jesus' arrest and execution by enlisting the help of a scribe to get Jesus out of Jerusalem and back to Galilee where the Romans supposedly would ignore him.

In the end, the scribe betrays Judas, which means Judas unwittingly betrays Jesus. Both Archer and Father Moloney doubt that Judas committed suicide, a story recounted only in the Gospel of St. Matthew.

The Benjamin Iscariot in Archer's title is Judas' fictitious son, who — years after the death of Jesus — finds his father living in an ascetic community near the Dead Sea. His father reluctantly gives his version of what happened to Jesus and the son writes it down.

Father Moloney told reporters in Rome that none of the things in Archer's account that differ from the accounts of the New Testament can be certain.

"Most of it may be improbable, but none of it — in my judgment — is impossible," he said.

Whatever really happened between Jesus and Judas, Father Moloney said, he believes Judas was a "tragic" figure, but not one who was forced to betray Jesus in order to fulfill God's plan for the salvation of humanity.

"We are all free to say, 'yes' and 'no,'" Father Moloney said, and that had to have been true for Judas as well.

Father Moloney said he agreed to collaborate with Archer because although he has written 40 books about the Bible they have "made little impact on the increasing skepticism surrounding the Christian church" while "deeply flawed and uninformed works like Dan Brown's 'The Da Vinci Code' and Richard Dawkins' 'The God Delusion' have become best-sellers."

"The message of 'The Gospel of Judas' never betrays the teaching of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels," Father Moloney said.

However, Father Moloney points out in the notes that in his description of Jesus as the biological son of Joseph and Mary Archer's interpretation differs from the official doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church.

Archer told reporters that he first brought the idea for the book to his publisher in 1992, but could not find the right scholar to help him.

The author said he was attracted to the topic because Judas was not the only disciple who failed Jesus.

All of the disciples ran away from Jesus in his hour of greatest need, and Peter denied Jesus three times, Archer said.

"All of them showed their human failings, but every one of them ended up as a saint. And Judas, who showed his failings, ends up as the most vilified person in history. It was the extreme black and white that annoyed me," he said.

Father Moloney said he hoped Archer's book would prompt people to read the New Testament and to understand that the Gospels were not written "to communicate the brute facts of history"; rather they assemble historic facts "to communicate a message about what God has done for humankind in and through Jesus Christ."

He said Archer's book, although fictitious, gives "primacy of place" to the truth found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, while telling "the traditional story through the eyes of Judas."

Father Moloney also told reporters that he knows Pope Benedict "has an interest in the enigma of Judas" and would not be surprised to learn that the pope has read Archer's book.

The book presentation was moderated by Jesuit Father Stephen Pisano, rector of Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute, which later hosted a scholarly discussion about Judas in the Bible.

Father Pisano told reporters that the institute "is not concerned with modern-day fiction" and absolutely did not endorse Archer's book, but Father Moloney's scholarship provided an opportunity to discuss "what we know and what we do not know about Judas from the way he is portrayed in the New Testament."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 8, 2007

April 8, Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 10:34a, 37-43
Psalm 118: 1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23
2) Colossians 3:1-4
3) Gospel: John 20:1-9

God should be with us so we can be with him

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My dad died Feb. 25 at the age of 91. He was ready to go home. His wife, my mom, had taken leave of him five-and-a-half years before, and he had experienced the most profound loneliness ever since.

But he had only grown gentler and kinder in the intervening years. Not that he had reached perfection, mind you. But he had grown to be the best image of the love of God that who he was allowed him to be.

And it was a pretty inspiring image at that.

A nurse who had attended him wept when my sister informed her that he had died. She told her that it was not a pleasure to attend to everyone in their last days, but that it had been a pleasure to attend to my dad.

Aging was good to my dad.

For the last six years of my mom life, she was dealing with congestive hea failure and the beginnings of either seni dementia or Alzheimer's. In that tim my dad was unfailingly kind and gentl growing into the role of caregiver in wa we, his children, would not have expecte

The good effects of his years in th Presbyterian Church teaching Sunda school, studying Scripture and servin in various ways seemed to show mo and more in his final years. Questio of theological significance, particularl as they related to seeing my mom onc again and his obligation to take care not harm his physical body surfaced again an again in thoughtful, pondering ways.

In the end, the passing of this lovin gentle old man was a happy occurren with my sister holding one of his han and me the other, each of us speakin words of love and encouraging him o into the next stage of his existence — th place to which he was going not in dou for either one of us.

For as Paul put it in his Letter t the Colossians, "When Christ our li appears, then you shall appear with hi in glory."

Questions:

What can you do now to help yo grow in love of God and others so th when your time arrives to become part the resurrected body of Christ, you wi be ready?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 1-7
Sunday (Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion), Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14--23:56; **Monday (Monday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 42:1-7 John 12:1-11; **Tuesday (Tuesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday (Wednesday of Holy Week)**, Isaiah 50:4-9 Matthew 26:14-25; **Thursday (Holy Thursday)**, Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Friday (Good Friday)**, Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1--19:42; **Saturday (Easter Vigil)**, Exodus 14:15-15:1, Exodus 15:1-6, 17-18, Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8-14
Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday)**, Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday)**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday)**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday)**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday)**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday)**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15-21
Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday), Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19, John 20:19-31; **Monday**, Acts 4:23-31, John 3:1-8; **Tuesday**, Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday**, Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday**, Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday**, Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday (St. Anselm)**, Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Communicating Catholicism

ope, Catholic media workers strategize on how to best use new media

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Taking antage of new media to spread the spel, the Catholic Church also has an igation to point out areas where the dia has a harmful effect, especially on ldren, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope called on media operators safeguard the common good, to nold the truth, to protect individual nan dignity and promote respect for needs of the family."

Meeting March 9 with members the Pontifical Council for Social mmunications, Pope Benedict spoke the benefits of greater access to ality entertainment, information educational opportunities through media.

But he also expressed concern about "increasing concentration" of the dia in the hands of a few multinational glomerates and said that "much of at is transmitted in various forms to homes of millions of families around the world is destructive."

Strategies for using new technology to communicate the Gospel message and for counteracting the negative impact of the media dominated the council's March 5-9 meeting at the Vatican.

U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, council president, told members that the church must fulfill its responsibility to share with all people "the message of their origin in God, their destiny with him in heaven and their redemption in Jesus Christ."

The problem, he said, is that the message of salvation "must compete with thousands of other messages — messages that perhaps appear immediately more appealing or more tempting."

Faith in cyberspace

U.S. Sister Judith Zoebelein, a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist who works in the Vatican's Internet office, said the church must expand its presence on the Internet.

But it must do so in a way that helps lead people from a "virtual" experience of faith and community to a personal encounter with the Lord and participation in a parish, she said.

The Vatican's Web site has helped people who were already part of a real community connect in a virtual community with the Vatican, accessing documents and even sending e-mail greetings to the pope, she said.

The next step must be using the Internet to reach those who are not part of any concrete community, she said.

In an attempt to ensure that an Internet search of things Catholic leads to finding a real experience of the church, Sister Zoebelein said, the Vatican's Internet office is running a trial e-learning site.

"Perhaps the biggest reason for choosing e-learning is that young adults today live and learn on the Internet more than any other particular place," she told the council.

The topic chosen for the first course was the meaning of suffering, using Pope John Paul II's 1984 apostolic letter along with "photos, music, images, questions and additional reflections," she said.

But unlike most Internet courses, the Vatican proposal includes regularly scheduled face-to-face meetings of participants.

"The anonymity of the Internet must at some point lead to the desire and opportunity for an actual human encounter," Sister Zoebelein said.

The hope, she said, is to use the "virtual" community created through the Internet "to nourish the actual community" and a desire to participate in parish life.

Required research

Irish Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin said diocesan newspapers and contact with religion reporters from secular newspapers continue to be important ways for the church to get its message out and "on the public record."

But he suggested the church invest in professionally organized focus groups to study how much of the church's message is being heard and by whom.

Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco told the council that "one size does not fit all" when communicating in the modern world; the church needs specific projects aimed at the young, the elderly, active Catholics, the alienated and those who are indifferent.

And, he said, the council should act as a clearinghouse for the best church communications practices.

Bishops from Africa, Asia and Latin America urged the council not to assume their people have the same kind of media access that people in Europe and North America have.

Radio is hugely important in Africa; the Internet is dominating the media scene in much of Asia; and Latin America still has a stable television audience.

Tony Spence, director and editor in chief of Catholic News Service, also encouraged the council to support research on what is being done and what is working.

He told the council that a recent survey demonstrated that adult Catholics in the United States have access to Catholic media and use it on a regular basis, although there is much room for improvement.

And while the Internet "gives new opportunities for a tried-and-true medium such as print to reach new audiences," it is not without its problems, particularly because "good scholarship and good journalism can be eclipsed by punditry and misinformation disguised as an authentic voice in the church."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office and Vatican television center, outlined several communications priorities, including efforts "to make the pope's thoughts and the position of the church known in the Muslim and Arab-speaking world."

He also suggested the Vatican form a small group of consultants to help it evaluate the mountain of requests it receives from media outlets wanting to interview Pope Benedict XVI.

"The interviews given so far by the Holy Father have been very effective," he said, and Vatican Radio, the television production center and the press office have ensured they were widely distributed in many languages.

Bridget, 8, from Kenya, and sponsor Mary L., U.S.A.

CFCA
Offering hope.
Restoring dignity.
Worldwide.

To learn more or sponsor

- visit our Web site at www.cfcausa.org
- call us toll-free at (800) 875-6564

A+ rating by the American Institute of Philanthropy www.charitywatch.org

Highest rating of **four-stars** from Charity Navigator www.charitynavigator.org

★★★★

26110

'What a blessing my sponsored child is'

Mary L., who lives in New Jersey, chose to sponsor a child through Christian Foundation for Children and Aging so she could help make the world a better place. In particular, she liked the opportunity CFCA offered to build a friendship with someone in a developing country. The letters and photographs she exchanged with Bridget in Kenya allowed her actually to see the difference her sponsorship was making in the 8-year-old's life: "All you have to do is look at her picture for yourself. This girl's soul radiates. What a blessing she is." Mary also had a chance to visit Bridget on one of CFCA's mission awareness trips. "CFCA is confident enough to show us the projects and that so much of the donations go to the children and aging," Mary said.

CFCA has served more than 475,000 children and elderly in developing countries over the past 25 years—empowering them to make more choices in their lives, live with dignity and reach their potential.

You can improve someone's life, too. Your sponsorship of $30 a month helps your sponsored friend with critical immediate needs such as nutrition, medical care and clothing. But it goes much further. It also develops self-reliance through education, skills and livelihood training for families, and community involvement.

Founded by Catholic lay people and grounded in Catholic social teaching, CFCA works with people of all faiths. Sponsor a child or aging friend today and help make the world a better place for all.

Sponsor a child through CFCA. It works.

100 years young

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Kathleen Fitzpatrick, who turns 100 years old March 31. The oldest member of Court 1199 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Charlotte, Fitzpatrick will be honored at a Mass and reception at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte on her birthday.

Celebrating the Mass will be Father Mark Lawlor, pastor, and concelebrating will be Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, and Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

The daughter of an Italian immigrant father and German-American mother, Fitzpatrick realized a lifelong dream at 93 by visiting the Vatican.

An active member of the Catholic Daughters since 1933, Fitzpatrick still attends meetings and participates as she is able.

Principal – Catholic Elementary School
Chantilly, Virginia

St. Veronica Catholic School, a K through 8th-grade school located in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, is currently seeking a principal starting in the 2007-2008 school year. St. Veronica is a medium-size parish with a growing school population. Candidates for principal must be willing to assume responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the school, as well as assist in developing long range goals.

For more information about this exciting opportunity and for instructions on how to apply, please visit the St. Veronica parish website at: http://www2.stveronica.net/principal.

DIRECTOR OF DIOCESAN HOUSING CORPORATION

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation is seeking a full-time director to provide vision and leadership to a developing housing ministry. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cdchousingcorp.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by May 4, 2007 to:

Gerard A. Carter, CDCHC
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

or email gacarter@charlottediocese.org.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
HOUSING CORPORATION

Catholic Daughters give prizes to education contest winners

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Court 412 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Asheville recently awarded prizes for the local first-place winners in the organization's National Education Contest.

Local courts sponsor the contest, which offers contestants a choice of categories: art, essay, poetry, poster, computer art, music and photography. Contestants also choose a theme: "The Beauty of God's Creation" or "Taking Time for Others."

The themes "encourage lively imagination and freedom of thought when student talent and application go hand in hand," according to the Catholic Daughters Web site. "The contest enables students of our communities, schools and CCD classes to compete and strive for awards while following certain fixed rules."

The four Asheville-area winners, who all chose "The Beauty of God's Creation" theme, each received $25 prizes for coming in first place in the respective age groups.

Gwen Hobson, chairwoman for t local contest, said the winning entri had been sent to the state chairpers for judging at that level. Winners at t state level will in turn compete on t national level this summer at the nation workshop.

First-grader Katrina Krulikas a ninth-grader Sarah Belanger, who a both parishioners of the Basilica of S Lawrence in Asheville, won first pla for art in their age divisions.

Ninth-grader Adam Meis, who al attends the basilica, took first place f poetry in his age division.

Tenth-grader Rebekah Torres, parishioner of St. Barnabas Church Arden, won for photography in her a division.

The Catholic Daughters of t Americas, formed in 1903, has abo 90,000 members in 1,400 courts in t United States, Puerto Rico, Mexic Dominican Republic, Guam and the U. Virgin Islands.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGR

Sarah Belanger (center) accepts a prize from Gwen Hobsob (left), contest chairwoman, and Marjo Maxwell, regent of Court 412 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Asheville, at the Basilica St. Lawrence in Asheville March 25.

Come Grow With Us
Financial Advisors

TRIUNE

Triune Capital Advisors, LLC is a faith-based, full service broker-dealer firm. Our commitment is to high ethical standards, professional and personal growth for you and your clients. If you are already licensed and are sincere about making a difference in people's lives, contact us.

Sarah Westbrook
704-714-2202
swestbrook@triunecapital.com

201 S. College St. — Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28244
Member NASD Member SIPC

Classifieds

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Honoring life

Courtesy Photo

embers of Knights of Columbus Council 7184's honor guard are pictured during Mass to show solidarity with the unborn celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at maculate Conception Church in Hendersonville March 15. Nearly 200 people tended the Mass, which gave special focus to the sanctity of all human life.

shop Jugis, whose homily centered on "our creation at the hands of God in his age," thanked all those mobilized, whether in prayer, in activism and/or as counsel for omen who have had abortions. He reminded them all how important their work is.

e Knights honor guard escorted Bishop Jugis at the start and end of Mass. Deputy rand Knight Don Franz, respect life committee chairman, facilitated the bishop's sit and organized a reception in his honor.

Donor drive

Courtesy Photo

Chris Curran (left) and Melanie Feeny Lewis (second from right) test two prospective donors during a bone marrow typing drive at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville March 10. Curran is the father of 9-year-old Joseph Curran, who is in need of a bone marrow transplant. Lewis helped organize the typing drive, during which 14 volunteers typed 103 people.

For more information on the National Marrow Donor Program, call (800) MARROW-2 (627-7692) or visit the National Marrow Donor Web site at www.marrow.org.

got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place: Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old 'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available. Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE

ALL-AMERICAN COLLEGES

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

U.S.News America's Best Colleges 2006

Best Southeastern College The Princeton Review

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Bringing flesh into social ministry

Overcoming fear will help bring Jesus to those in need

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

How far are many of us from the poor? It is a question I have been asking myself all week.

I write a stewardship newsletter for my church, so I ventured over to the parish school's sixth-grade classroom to interview a few students. I planned to include some of their Lenten resolutions in my next newsletter.

I got typical responses — giving up candy, cookies, TV. Someone had pledged to say a rosary daily.

And here's a thoughtful one: "I'm not going to go to a particular strip mall during Lent because my presence there causes problems with my parents."

Then I glimpsed the huge stack of boxes the students were delivering that afternoon to various social service agencies around town. I thought it was a good idea that the students who collected these items were actually going to see the charities and perhaps meet some of the recipients.

But the boy who was explaining it all to me told me more.

The students visited the Brother Francis Shelter, a large homeless shelter for adults, and as part of their visit, they scrubbed all the sleeping mats.

Wow. I think my mouth fell open and the first words that came out were, "Did you wear gloves?"

Yes, he replied, everyone wore latex gloves.

I was immediately ashamed of myself. What a question to ask of this boy who was learning about being present to the poor. And what a wonderful teacher they must have to encourage not just a "tour" of the Brother Francis Shelter, as often happens, but an activity that made them more aware of the lived experience of the poor.

Next I had a long conversation with our associate pastor, Father Ben Torreto, who is on loan to our archdiocese from our sister archdiocese in Cotobato, the Philippines. We are part of a global solidarity partnership, and we are fortunate to have Father Torreto, a soft-spoken man who heads up the social action ministry in Cotobato.

In the Philippines, the life of the church is based on the Latin American concept of "comunidades eclesias de base" — base communities. Parishes in the Philippines are huge, but are divided into these small faith-based communities that unite people not just in faith but in commitment to social action.

How differently he must see our large, wealthy parish, I noted.

But no, he replied, "I see great generosity here. Whenever there's a call for help, people respond overwhelmingly. Each week people bring food to be distributed to agencies that feed the poor. You are very generous."

But then he added something I will not forget.

Often, he said, he sees people donate things at the church, then the church brings these goods to the poor. It would be better if there were more direct interaction between people.

Jesus' ministry, he told me, was a ministry of the heart. Associating with the other "brings flesh into our ministry."

Why don't we interact with the poor?

He guessed "security." I guessed "time." But in my heart, I recalled that question I asked of the sixth-grader: "Did you wear gloves?"

Maybe in part it is fear — fear of the unknown, fear of what the lived experience of poverty might expose us to on many levels.

My consolation as I write these words is a beautiful holy card of St. Francis of Assisi on the desk in front of me. Francis had to overcome great fear to embrace the leper.

Did it change the leper's life?

We really don't know. But we know it changed Francis.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives. Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

A bouquet that never withers

'Little prayer warriors' learn value of prayer, serve as inspiration

Guest Column

CHRIS OSTROM
GUEST COLUMNIST

Sifting through mementos from my youth, I smiled at the glittery shamrocks and the lace hearts I had made for my parents through the years. Amidst these cookie-cutter crafts, I found one exceptionally meaningful gift: a bouquet.

It was quite different from those that are carefully displayed in vases until they wither. This was a "spiritual bouquet."

Mrs. Gallagher, my second grade teacher at St. Michael School, made a great impact on my life. I remember, even as a seven-year-old, being impressed by her gentle nature and holy life. Her devotion to God and to prayer inspired me, and she is the reason that I am a Catholic school teacher today.

She also gave me the gift of the spiritual bouquet.

What is a spiritual bouquet? It's a collection of prayers and offerings made for the recipient.

Over the years, I had forgotten about this wonderful gift, but I rediscovered it at an opportune time. I had been asked to lead my students to pray during the school year for two seminarians studying for the priesthood in our diocese.

I realized a spiritual bouquet would be a great gift for the seminarians, so I decided to share the idea with my students as Mrs. Gallagher had shared it with me.

I explained the project to them — we would offer prayers and sacrifices for the seminarians and keep track of our progress. Over time, we would tally the offerings and share them with the seminarians.

I told them prayer is the best gift they can give — it doesn't cost much, it doesn't require a lot of time, and prayers can be said anytime and anywhere.

At first my seventh graders were not too excited. I reminded them that the seminarians are our future priests and that these men could, possibly, be the priests who bless their marriages, baptize their babies or say a Mass of Christian burial for a loved one. It began to hit home.

So I put up a chart in the classroom with the students' names to keep track of their prayers and offerings, and we were off. By Christmas, they were experts at it. They offered up rosaries, Masses, hours of eucharistic adoration, "heart prayers" and even learned about making sacrifices for the good of someone else.

As a class, we had said more than 100 rosaries; 1,600 Hail Mary prayers; more than 500 Our Father prayers; nearly 200 Glory Be prayers; and nearly 200 personal prayers, and we had offered more than 100 Masses, more than 120 hours of eucharistic adoration and nearly 50 sacrifices for the seminarians.

Each student made a "flower" that listed his or her personal prayers and offerings and added it to the class bouquet, which was mailed to the seminarians.

As the school year continued, this simple project took on a life of its o Our list of intentions began to grow, every morning the students took g reverence in praying for each other for people they didn't know who asked for prayers: a 2-and-a-half-y old child overseas in a coma, a fri of one of our teachers, parents hea overseas to Iraq and many more.

COURTESY

I challenged them to pray a spiri bouquet for a dear friend of mine wh mother was having major surgery. F whole month, they said rosaries, off up Masses and said heart prayers.

On the evening of the surgery, I g call from my friend. She asked me to my students that their prayers had answered and that her mother didn't r the surgery as expected. When I sh this news, they cheered and clapped! was so excited, she exclaimed, " else can we cure?"

I explained that our prayers may always be answered the way we w like them to be, and that we have to that God's will shall be done and that recipient will have peace with God's

I have nicknamed them my " prayer warriors," and it is somethin which they are proud. They have not learned how to pray, but also that, prayer, we can overcome obstacles in lives that keep us from God.

During this Lenten season, we been getting many requests for pra and so my little prayer warriors conti to persevere in prayer. As they prepa reenact the Living Stations of the Cr they are learning that Jesus Christ him prayed to his heavenly Father when ti were hard, when he was abandoned his friends and while he was hangin the cross to save each one of us.

So during this Lenten season, le all learn from my little prayer war that we must continue to pray for other and become closer to God.

Chris Ostrom teaches relig social studies and history at Our La Grace School in Greensboro.

Easter, a season for life

Catholics can be renewed in life-affirming efforts

Guest Column

DEIRDRE A. McQUADE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Lent starts with a sobering reminder our mortality: "You are dust … and to ıst you shall return."

Yet the 40 days of Lent prepare for the 50-day season of Easter that elebrates the gift of abundant life. Much ore than a single day of sweets, bunnies ıd colored eggs, this season illuminates verything Christians do to build the ılture of life.

As Pope John Paul II put it poetically hile he was still a cardinal, "Each spring e earth and water say: is the necessity life not deeper than that of dying?" Easter Vigil 1966").

He's speaking not merely of the rthly renewal brought about by rain ıd melting snow, but also of spiritual newal in the baptismal waters of the aster Vigil. Its fire and water rituals oint to — and draw us more deeply into - the reality that life in Christ is more owerful than death.

While we know theologically that he victory is already won," it can be mpting to despair when it seems our o-life work is making little headway. frustration, we may drift away from ayer, either giving up or relying on our wn strength to defend innocent life.

But we know that pro-life efforts are ready making a noticeable difference national and local levels. American titudes have shifted in recent years way from unqualified support of so-called "reproductive rights," as protected under Roe v. Wade.

The pro-life movement is strong and spans several generations, with a new wave of young adults and teens committed to defending life in the public and private sphere.

The rate and number of abortions in the United States continue to decline, most notably among teens. Recent studies show that state laws regulating abortion, such as parental involvement laws and public funding restrictions, reduce abortion rates in the states that enact them.

Every day, pregnancy resource centers care for women to help them make life-affirming choices for themselves and their families. Countless precious lives have been saved as their parents have embraced their God-given dignity in empowering ways.

Through Project Rachel, the Catholic Church reaches out to women and men hurt by abortion. For them, the healing power of the risen Christ is nothing short of life-transforming.

Thanks to Internet and radio ad campaigns, as well as good homilies and support at the parish level, more and more broken women and men are embracing the message that spiritual and emotional healing is possible.

Finally, the false promises of the sexual revolution are painfully coming to light, and a new grassroots movement celebrating the true dignity of women is emerging in our country.

Pope John Paul's poem continues: "Water speaks more of endurance than of passing."

Every time we bless ourselves with holy water throughout the year, let us remind ourselves of the enduring power of baptism. Let us embrace the hope of the resurrection, and be renewed to serve the culture of life.

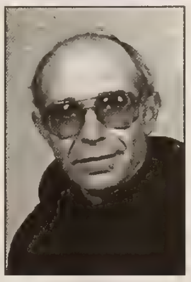
Deirdre McQuade is director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

CNS illustration by Lucas Turnbloom, The Southern Cross

The Easter challenge

Leap of faith, life of love are real aspects of season

Guest Column



CAPUCHIN
FATHER JOHN
C. AURILIA
GUEST COLUMNIST

To identify Easter with beautiful lies and colored eggs may not be the est way of capturing the wonder of aster. I'd rather look at Easter as a hallenge for greatness and a gigantic ap of faith.

While Easter is connected to appiness, it is not a one-day event ıt a lifetime event. Jesus' promise of appiness rests on you. If you want eaven on earth, you can have it.

You can also make hell out of ıe daily hardships, conflicts and sappointments.

The challenges of Easter include king a blind leap of faith into an verwhelming abyss of suffering and elieving in life when we experience eath, knowing that what appears to be efeat will in fact be victory.

The sunlight of God's love makes a inbow out of the rain.

To say that Jesus beautified disaster not completely wrong. To live a great fe, we need a great cause to which e can connect the meaning of our ruggles, a cause to live by or, if needed, die for.

At Easter we hear the familiar story of Christ's triumph, his death and Resurrection, and we feel part of the story. We connect the conviction of the historical event of the Resurrection with the faith in the risen Christ.

The famous tightrope walker, Blondin, on one occasion carried a man across a tightrope stretched perilously above an admiring crowd.

In the crowd was a boy, gazing in wonderment. Blondin noticed the lad and asked, "Do you believe that I could carry you across that tightrope?"

The boy replied, "I'm sure you could."

"Well then, jump up and I will do so," said Blondin.

The boy promptly reacted: "I said 'I believe', I did not say 'I would do it."

It is not enough to believe that Jesus has risen and is alive today, but we should take the next step: to translate our faith into action.

An empty tomb, so says the cynic, is a poor foundation on which to establish a world religion. It may be so, but our faith has gone beyond that event; it has left the empty tomb centuries ago.

The message of Easter is not written in the past tense. It is indeed written as we go by our daily activities and encounter Christ where we least expect him.

The Easter story is simple and powerful, and we should not forget that Jesus' victory came after Jesus' tragedy.

Lilies and eggs are indeed part of our Easter legend, but life and love are the real aspects of the Christian Easter.

Capuchin Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Pope says unity with pope guarantees faith is the one taught by Jesus

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The teaching of the bishops and unity with the pope guarantee that one's faith truly is the faith taught by Jesus to his apostles, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The true Gospel is that imparted by the bishops, who have received it in an uninterrupted chain from the apostles," the pope said March 28 at his weekly general audience.

The pope's audience talk focused on the ministry and writings of St. Irenaeus of Lyon, who died in the very first years of the third century.

"Irenaeus is most of all a man of faith and a pastor," the pope said. "As a writer he had a double aim: to defend true doctrine against the attacks of the heretics and to explain the truths of the faith with clarity."

St. Irenaeus taught that the creed contains the essential truths of Christian faith and the bishops — through apostolic succession — have been entrusted with the responsibility of guaranteeing that faith is interpreted and applied correctly throughout history.

-Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience March 28.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the church fathers, we turn now to St. Irenaeus of Lyon, a great theologian and bishop at the end of the second century.

In his writings, Irenaeus clearly sets forth the contents of the apostolic faith and appeals to the church's living tradition in order to defend that faith from false teachings. He thus emphasizes the "regula fidei": the "rule of faith" contained in the Apostles' Creed and in the Gospel proclaimed by the church's bishops.

The Gospel Irenaeus preached was the Gospel preached by his teacher, Polycarp, who in turn received it from the apostle John in an unbroken line of succession going back to Christ himself. Irenaeus also writes of the unique authority of the church of Rome as founded on the apostles.

This zealous pastor illustrates for us three important characteristics of the apostolic tradition: It is "public," because it is available to all through the teaching of the bishops; it is "one," because its content remains the same despite the variety of languages and cultures; and it is "pneumatic," because, through it, the Holy Spirit continues to enliven and renew the church even today.

Parish unites to help pay for 10-year-old's heart transplant

CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PIROZZI FAMILY

Xavia Pirozzi, a 10-year-old heart recipient, is pictured in her bed at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in an undated photo.

BY SUZANNE M. SINGLETON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BALTIMORE — While Xavia Pirozzi's new heart is priceless, her medical bills have topped $3.5 million, with her family's portion after insurance coverage estimated at $600,000.

The drugs she will take for the rest of her life cost $1,500 a month.

"I worry about her health first," said her father, Ralph Pirozzi. "That is my main concern. On a financial basis, I'll deal with that later."

That's where the Heart of St. Joseph's comes in. The committee of parents from St. Joseph Church and School in Baltimore is raising funds to pay the fifth-grader's medical costs, assisted by other schools and parishes.

And that's not the only help the family has gotten.

"The outpouring of prayer support from family, friends and patients was tremendous," Pirozzi said. "It was a needed shoulder to lean on."

Xavia, 10, underwent a heart transplant Jan. 6 at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she had spent 10 months after being diagnosed with restrictive cardiomyopathy, a rare degenerative disease that causes the heart to stiffen over time.

"You wanted to shake yourself and say, 'Is this really happening?'" said Xavia's mother, Nicolle Borys-Pirozzi, of the diagnosis.

During the 10 months of waiting fo an available heart, Xavia's mother an grandmother, Joanna Borys, alternate weeklong stays at the hospital. Borys Pirozzi, an associate administrator i anatomic pathology at the Universit of Maryland, said she never wanted he daughter to be alone in the hospital.

Ralph Pirozzi, a dentist, visited o weekends with Xavia's siblings. Excep for brief trips outside for a breath of fres air, Xavia did not leave the hospital.

Their faith has been challenged a times over the last year.

"At low points I'd say, 'God, where' the heart and why is it taking so long?" confessed Borys-Pirozzi. "There wer down days and up days and days you' want to run screaming from the building There was so much to handle."

Xavia's literal change of heart ha left the girl with a new perspective.

"The child has matured in so man ways," said her grandmother. "It was hard 10 months."

The 10-year-old is curious abou where her new heart came from, an what happened to the donor.

But unless the donor family wishes t be revealed, the Pirozzis won't find ou The family plans to write to them throug the United Network of Organ Sharing, t express their infinite gratitude, and hop to receive a response.

"It's very important to donate organ and share the gift of life with others, said Xavia.

During her troubles, Xavia said sh prayed for herself, as did so many others She knows the prayers helped, she said "because we were able to do this for 1 months straight!"

Joanna Borys, who has worked at th St. Joseph Church's parish office for 3 years, said many people reached out.

"The whole thing has been a paris community supporting a family in need, she said.

Students collected nearly $3,000 i their "Silver for Xavia "coin collectio and have been buying $1 rubber band bracelets bearing a heart an Xavia's name. The Heart of St. Joseph' committee organized a wine tastin and auction and is publicizing othe fundraising activities on its Web site a www.theheartofstjosephs.com.

Other schools and parish religiou education programs also are chipping i with bake sales, "Xavia" bracelets an cash donations.

Xavia and her family still fac challenges, however. A heart transplan doesn't last forever.

"We say that the 'half-life' of transplanted heart in a child (birth t 18 years) is about 13 years," said D Maryanne R.K. Chrisant, medical directo at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

That means that 13 years afte receiving a heart transplant, "half th children are still alive with their hea grafts and half have either died (fro various causes) or have required repea heart transplantation," she said.

Xavia's parents know they are buyin time, said Pirozzi. "I look at it as continual process, buying time until th next transplant is necessary, better anti rejection meds are created or artificia devices become more practical," he said.

Catholic Family EXPO - Charlotte
Belmont Abbey College
April 13 – 15, 2007
"Formation for Vocations"
"calling attention to the close relationship which exists between family, education and vocation.." – Pope John Paul II, Vocation Day Message – April 24, 1994

Family
Understanding your Spouse's Temperament
The Family is for Love
The ABC's of Family Management
Practical Tips for Building a Peaceful and Affectionate Household
Standing Strong as a Parent: Discipline that Lasts a Lifetime
Surviving and Thriving with Multiple Teens in the House

Vocations
The Importance of Fathers
Why Be Catholic?
Come Follow Me – Priest Panel
The Brides of Christ – Nun Panel
Raise Happy Children...Raise Them Saints!
How to have a Happy Marriage: God's Plan for Couples
What's the Formula for Formation?

Education
The Moral Importance of Storytelling
Why Catholics Need to Know their Bible
Logic, Good Arguments, and Fallacies
Mastering Math with Card Games
Beginning Homeschooling
How to Conduct a Savvy College Search
Building Writing Power

Pro-Life Topics: A Dozen Reasons the Pro-Life Movement is Winning, 101 Ways to be More Pro-life in your Parish
Inspiration: Quiet Waters - Live Production of the Glorious Mysteries
Special Video Presentation: Grassroots Films – *"Fishers of Men"*

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Ray Guarendi

Art & Laraine Bennett

Dr. William Thierfelder

Gail Buckley

Fr. Frank Pavone

Keith & Tami Kiser

Exhibitors: Colleges, Religious Communities, Books, Gifts, Religious Articles, and Learning Resources for Children and Adults

Learn More and Register Today: www.catholicfamilyexpo.org
Parent's Note: Child care, Children's and Teen Tracks not available at this conference. Infants and nursing babies always welcome.

[illegible]

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Hains reveals the 'Easter insult'; Magliano calls for the death of capital punishment

| PAGES 14-15

APRIL 6, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 25

Celebrating the spiritual bonds

Bishop, priests renew promises during annual chrism Mass

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Parish priests are the "fathers of our parishes," said Bishop Peter J. Jugis during the annual chrism Mass.

"The word 'father' speaks of the spiritual bond which parishioners have with their pastor," he said during his homily at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 3.

"Recognizing him as more than just another person in the parish, he is our father. No other person in the parish can fulfill his role," Bishop Jugis said.

The spiritual father becomes an integral part of the parishioners' relationship to Jesus, said the bishop.

"The title that beautifully sums up who we are as priests

See CHRISM, page 9

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Bishop Peter J. Jugis incenses the altar of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte during the chrism Mass April 3. Also pictured is Deacon Mark Diener, permanent deacon at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. During the Mass, the bishop and clergy renewed their vows as priests and Bishop Jugis blessed the chrism and other holy oils. The chrism is used in baptismal anointing, confirmation, priestly and episcopal ordinations, and during the dedication of churches. The other holy oils are used in the anointing of the sick and for catechumens.

Saintly cause

French nun says life has changed since she was healed, thanks to JPII

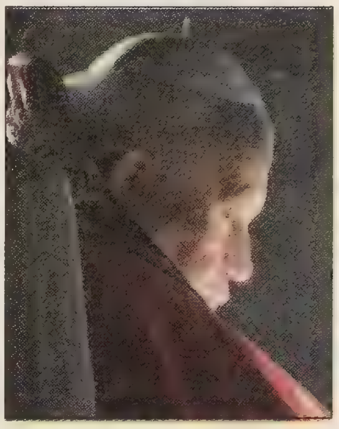
BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France — The French nun who believes she was healed of Parkinson's disease, thanks to Pope John Paul II, said her life had "totally changed" since that night two months after the pope's death.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, 46, is working again, now in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order, the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood.

See MIRACLE, page 6

Sainthood now?



CNS photo by Max Rossi, Reuters

Pope John Paul II looks at the faithful gathered at the Colosseum during a Good Friday service in Rome April 18, 2003.

A Mass marking the conclusion of the initial phase of the process for the canonization of Pope John Paul was held in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome April 2, 2007.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 7.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrates the annual jubilee Mass for women religious in the chapel at St. Gabriel Church March 31.

A 'eucharistic vocation'

Women religious celebrate ministry during annual jubilee Mass

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The call to leave all and follow Jesus is a eucharistic vocation, said Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"And for us, the eucharistic celebration is an essential part of our vocation," said the bishop during the jubilee Mass for women religious at St. Gabriel Church March 31.

The annual Mass and celebration honors the anniversaries of women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte. Forty-five sisters attended to honor their fellow diamond, golden and silver jubilarians.

"Today we honor you jubiliarians as examples of 60, 50 and 25 years of service to the Lord," said Bishop Jugis, "and we enter with you into

See JUBILEE, page 8

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001 #*

Sharing knowledge

Catechists explore trends, tactics in faith formation

| PAGE 5

Culture Watch

Books on early religious women; monastery on cable

| PAGES 10-11

Easter Season

People celebrate Easter season near and far

| PAGES 13, 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

AGING WITH GRACE

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Sister Monika Dullmann checks on Sister Anais Bernard, a patient at Saint-Louis Hospital, March 22 in Jerusalem. Sister Dullmann, a German Sister of St. Joseph of the Apparition, is director of the hospice that serves Jerusalem residents of all races, faiths and nationalities.

Nuns share difficulties, joys with patients at Jerusalem hospice

JERUSALEM (CNS) — When Sister Monika Dullmann first came as a volunteer to Saint-Louis Hospital as a young theologian, the most difficult task she faced was watching terminally ill patients suffer.

Sister Dullmann, now the hospital director, said 20 years of experience has taught her that she may never be able to relieve all pain, but she can help patients during their last and most difficult moments.

Sister Dullmann noted that Jesus spent his last night in the Garden of Gethsemane alone. What she can offer, she said, is her simple presence, so that those in her care will not be alone in their final hours of suffering.

"I realized that the last thing I can do for someone who is suffering is ... not to run away," said Sister Dullmann, originally from Germany and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition who run the hospital.

Located just outside the New Gate of Jerusalem's Old City, not far from the sites where Jesus spent his last days, Saint-Louis Hospital provides hospice and geriatric care for Jerusalem residents regardless of their race, religion or nationality.

Today the staff of 60, which includes doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, support staff and 25 volunteers, provides care for some 50 patients.

It is frustrating to be trained to heal and not be able to help someone, Sister Dullmann acknowledged. However, she said, there are things "which may not have as their aim to make the person healthy, but which have the aim to make the last time of his or her life as comfortable as possible."

Her patients' daily suffering and struggles have not given her an insight into why people must suffer, she added.

"I can give the question of 'why' up to God. I can live with the question, having no answer myself, because I know Jesus," she said.

"Jesus during all his life tried to help people who suffered. We should do the same. What I know for certain is that there is a certain grace when a person comes close to death," she said.

Sister Dullmann said sometimes there is joy when someone dies, such as when an elderly Armenian woman died at 76 after being in a coma for 19 years. She had no family left in Jerusalem.

Another terminally ill patient wanted to attend her niece's wedding before she died. The staff kept her alive with blood transfusions, which normally is not done in hospice care. Two volunteers accompanied her to the wedding.

Afterward, the transfusions were stopped, and the patient died 10 days later.

"We were so happy that she accomplished what she had wanted," said Sister Dullmann.

Archbishop calls U.S. policy on Haitian migrants 'totally immoral'

MIAMI (CNS) — Calling U.S. immigration policy toward Haitians "totally immoral," Archbishop John C. Favalora of Miami has urged "the powers that be" to grant temporary protected status to all Haitian migrants until the political and economic situation in their island nation stabilizes. He also pleaded for the immediate release from detention of 101 Haitians whose homemade sailboat washed up on Hallandale Beach March 28.

The migrants, some of them suffering from dehydration, are being held by the U.S. Border Patrol at several detention centers in south Florida. Refugee advocates and immigration attorneys fear they will be moved elsewhere, far from relatives and a network of attorneys who could help them with their asylum claims.

"The church stands ready to make sure that these people have a place to go and people to take care of them while they make their claim," Archbishop Favalora said March 30.

The archbishop has sent a letter to every member of south Florida's congressional delegation, asking for "temporary protected status" for the Haitians and pleading for the release of the new arrivals. He also joined Haitians at a rally March 31 in front of an immigration processing center in Miami.

"It is in our national security interest to keep these people here working so that they can send home money to stabilize the Haitian economy," said Randolph McGrorty of Catholic Legal Services. which has pledged to represent the Hallandale Beach group.

A 2006 study commissioned by the World Bank estimated Haitian remittances to relatives back home at about $1.17 billion a year.

By sending people back to Haiti, "you're cutting off the remittances that keep people in Haiti," said Steve Forrester of Haitian Women of Miami. Temporary protected status for Haitians "is a win-win situation from every angle. It protects, not endangers, our borders."

Diocesan planner

ALBEMARLE VICARIATE

MONROE — Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission and diocesan liaison for the USCCB Justice for Immigrants Campaign, will speak on *Issues Involving Resident Immigrants in our Community* during Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 725 Deese St., April 21 at 5:30 p.m. and April 22 at 9 a.m. A reception will be held after Mass April 21 and breakfast will be provided following Mass April 22. For more information, call the church office at (704) 289-2773.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *Speak the Truth in Love*, a free series of classes addressing the Catholic Church's teachings on life, love and marriage, meets at Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St. Classes will meet the third Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The topic for April 21 will be "Theology of the Body." For more information, call Nina at (828) 299-7618 or Helen at (828) 683-9001 or e-mail geodrc@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* with a traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet April 15 at 3 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be offered prior to the celebration. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 15 with a Holy Hour at 3 p.m. including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Reconciliation will not be offered. For more information, call Gail Abraham at (704) 786-0709.

CHARLOTTE — Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, will speak on *"Resurrection and Restoration"* in the activity center of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., April 16 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, e-mail Renee O'Brien at renee@catholicscripturestudy.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — Chris Stefanick will present *"The Real Thing: The Truth about Chastity"* April 19 at 7 p.m at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For further details, e-mail Donna Smith at dsmith18@bellsouth.net.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Peter Church's weekday lunchtime spirituality program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. The program for April 19 will be *"Experience the Presence of God through Group Reflection."* For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — Our Lady of Grace, 2205 W. Market St., invites all parishioners and friends to participate in a *Divine Mercy Holy Hour and Benediction* April 15 at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 274-6520.

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

APRIL 6, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 25

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Israel delays negotiating session on church's legal, financial status

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Israel postponed a major negotiating session with Vatican officials on questions regarding the church's legal and financial status in the Holy Land.

The Vatican expressed disappointment at yet another delay in the on-again, off-again talks, which began 15 years ago.

The meeting of the joint commission on church-state issues had been scheduled for March 29 at the Vatican and would have been the first plenary session of the commission since 2002. On March 26, Israel told the Vatican the meeting would have to be delayed because it coincided with important developments in the Middle East.

The Israeli officials cited the March 28-29 Arab League summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's trip through the region.

Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, Oded Ben-Hur, told Catholic News Service that the postponement was for technical reasons only, and that a new meeting would be arranged as soon as possible.

In a statement made public March 28, the Vatican said it understood the reasons for Israel's decision, but expressed its regret at the delay and said the meeting should be rescheduled quickly.

An informed Vatican source said that if Israel delays in agreeing to a new date for the meeting the Vatican would view it as a more serious setback.

One knowledgeable church source in Rome said the Israeli decision was especially discouraging, because it was part of a pattern of last-minute delays and cancellations over the years.

The plenary meeting was considered key to advancing the talks, which have stalled in working-group meetings in recent years, he said.

speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. ToT will meet Wednesdays, April 18-May 9, at 6:45 p.m. at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy. For more info, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — *Faithful Stewards of God's Creation* will take place April 21, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m:, in the Parish Life Center of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. The conference will include presentations on church teaching on environmental justice, recent scientific findings, energy-saving ideas and how to become more effective advocates. Attendance is free. Call (704) 370-3228 by April 16 to register and reserve a lunch. Visit www.cssnc.org/justicepeace for a flyer and schedule.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — Most new widows find grieving and other problems overwhelming. Over time, widows gain wisdom about their options. Dr. Ronda Chervin will present *"The Widows' Walk: Encouragement, Comfort and Wisdom from the Widow-Saints"* at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St., April 21, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 430-7634 or the church office at (828) 437-3108.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., will celebrate *Divine Mercy Sunday* April 15, 3-4 p.m. We will observe this special feast with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, communal prayer and song. For more information, call (828) 586-9496.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortion Healing* is a confidential opportunity for anyone struggling with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. The retreat is also an opportunity to release repressed feelings of anger, shame, guilt and grief. This will help you to grieve the loss of your unborn child, to receive and accept God's forgiveness, and to forgive yourself. The next retreat is April 20-22 at the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. For more information, call Shelley at (828) 230-4940, e-mail sglan1234@aol.com or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will celebrate the *Feast of the Divine Mercy* April 15. Eucharistic adoration will be offered 2-3:45 p.m., ending with Benediction. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung at 3 p.m. and Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will not be offered April 15. For more information, call Donna at (336) 940-2558.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Secular Franciscan Joanne Jacovec will speak on "Contemplation: From Darkness to Light" at the April 18 program.. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 11
N.C. State Catholic Legislators dinner
Raleigh

April 13 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Family Church, Clemmons

April 14 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

April 14 — 5:30 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Good Shepherd Church, King

April 15 — 9:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Benedict the Moor Church, Winston-Salem

April 16 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Cross Church, Kernersville

April 18 — 10:30 a.m.
Charlotte Catholic Women's Luncheon
Carmel Country Club, Charlotte

April 20 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Pius X Church, Greensboro

Papal preacher: Church must take sin seriously but stress God's mercy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church must take sin seriously, but it must do so like Jesus did, by emphasizing God's mercy and trust in the sinner's ability to change, said the preacher of the papal household.

In criticizing the Pharisees, "Jesus does not deny that sin and sinners exist," said Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa.

The papal preacher offered a Lenten reflection March 30 to Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials.

But Jesus "was more severe" toward those who "condemned the sinners than toward the sinners themselves," the preacher said.

From the evidence in the Bible, Father Cantalamessa said, "being merciful appears to be an essential aspect of being in 'the image and likeness of God.'"

Mercy is the form God's love takes in relation to sinners, he said.

"After we have experienced it, we must demonstrate it to our brothers and sisters, both on the level of the church community as well as on a personal level," the Capuchin said.

Jesus does not trivialize sin, "but finds a way not to alienate sinners, instead attracting them to himself. He does not see only what they are, but what they can become if divine mercy reaches the depths of their misery and desperation," he said.

Jesus "does not wait for them to come to him; often he is the one who goes out looking for them," the priest said.

"Jesus is firm and rigorous regarding principles, but he knows when a principle must give way to the superior principle, which is the mercy of God and the salvation of a person," he said.

"How these criteria drawn from the actions of Christ can be applied concretely to the new problems today's society poses will depend on patient research and, finally, on the discernment of the magisterium," which is the church's teaching authority, he said.

But every Christian must recognize that just as he or she has been forgiven by God, forgiveness must be extended to others, Father Cantalamessa said.

"One cannot live in harmony, in one's family or any other kind of community, without the practice of forgiveness and mercy," he said.

Sobering images

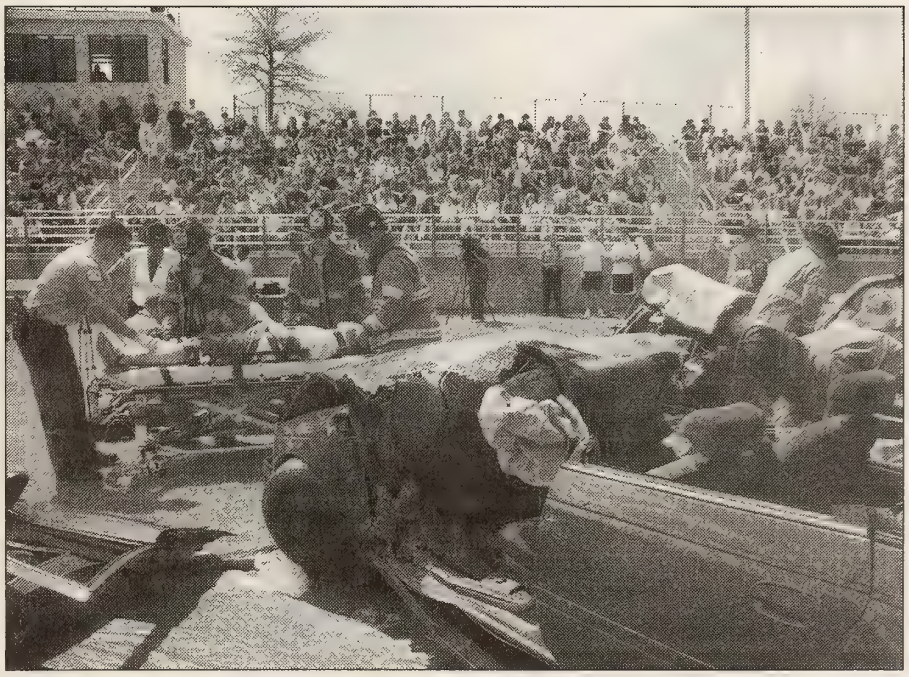


PHOTO BY DAVID HAINS

Charlotte Catholic High School students watch sobering images of wrecked automobiles and fellow students who were "killed" during a simulated traffic accident on the school football field April 1. Charlotte-area police, fire and rescue personnel worked the mock accident scene as if it were an actual accident, giving the event a realistic feel.

Charlotte Catholic students took part in the simulation, posing as intoxicated participants or injured victims in the two-car "accident," which resulted from a car driven by an intoxicated driver striking a vehicle carrying sober occupants.

The event was organized to remind students during prom season that drinking and driving can be a deadly mixture.

ATTENTION READERS

DUE TO THE EASTER HOLIDAY, THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD WILL NOT PUBLISH FRIDAY, APRIL 13. OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE FRIDAY, APRIL 20. WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY EASTER!

Baking benefits

Guild raises funds for food bank

CLEMMONS — The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild of Holy Family Church in Clemmons recently raised funds for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina.

The guild raised $1,000 through a bake sale held Feb. 10, and presented the funds to the food bank in Winston-Salem March 19.

"We had such a tremendous response to this need from the parish," said Ellen Tommasi, a guild member and an organizer of the bake sale.

"We have plans to make this an annual event, thanks to the generosity of the parishioners," she said.

Tommasi and guild member Donna Fina toured the food bank and presented the check March 19.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina is a major distributor of donated food in the region, serving 380 nonprofit partner agencies that help to feed the hungry and others in need across 18 counties.

"They have come along way and do a lot for the needy people in North Carolina," said Tommasi.

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild of Holy Family Church offers spiritual and social opportunities for women of the parish.

According to the parish Web site, the guild's mission is to unify the women's talents and "journey together to be a welcoming body and foster the compassion for others" as reflected in the life of its patroness, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) was born into an upper-class family in colonial New York. She converted to Catholicism in 1805 and founded the Sisters of Charity in the United States in 1809 in Emmitsburg, Md.

She was beatified in 1963 and canonized in 1975. Her feast day is Jan. 4.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the guild, visit www.holyfamilyclemmons.com/seton.html.

Courtesy Photo

Ellen Tommasi (center) and Donna Fina (second from right) of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild of Holy Family Church in Clemmons present a $1,000 check to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina March 19. Also pictured (from left) are food bank staff members Gretchen O'Shay, executive director Nan Griswold and Linda Ward.

2007
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress
TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

Mark your calendar now
for the third
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress –
Charlotte Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

Visit the Web site
www.GoEucharist.com
often for the latest updated
information about programs and
speakers, as well as opportunities
to volunteer.

Raffle rousing

Courtesy Photo

Mike Doyle (center), financial secretary for the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Greensboro, is pictured with the winners of the AOH's annual fundraising raffle, held in March. The raffle raises funds for local charities.

This year's winners were (pictured from left) Elizabeth Hedcock, who accepted funds on behalf of Room at the Inn of the Triad, a Catholic maternity home; Nona Pryor and Lia Ryan of Victory Junction Gang Camp, which provides camping experiences for children with chronic medical conditions or serious illnesses; Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, who accepted for the regional office of diocesan faith formation and the Triad Area Catholic Schools endowment foundation; and Pat Kirwan, who accepted funds for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic organization that assists the poor and needy.

The AOH distributed checks to other local and international charities, and will soon draw for the winner of a trip to Ireland.

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology

NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS
FOR FALL 2007
CLASSES IN
Charleston,
South
Carolina
Class Location: Columbia, SC
Application Deadline:
May 15, 2007

MASTER OF
THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Our Commitment
- Theological Education – Formation of Mind
- Spiritual Formation – Conversion of Heart
- Pastoral Orientation – Prudential Wisdom

Foundational Texts
- Sacred Scripture
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Writings of Pope John Paul II
- Documents of Vatican II
- 1983 Code of Canon Law
- Catholic Liturgical Documents
- Classics of Catholic Spirituality

Format
- One Weekend a Month
- August – May
- Three-Year Cycle

For an Application or More Information
Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu

AVE MARIA
UNIVERSITY

Sharing knowledge

Catechists explore trends, tactics in faith formation

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — "Catechesis in our diocese is a beautiful mosaic," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Hawker opened the parish catechetical leader in-service program at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 22.

The program's presenter, Tom Zanzig, spoke on "Adult Faith Formation: Trends, Tensions and Tactics." The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Faith Formation and Silver Burdette Ginn Religion, a publisher of religious training materials, sponsored the program.

Zanzig, a freelance writer, trainer, retreat director and speaker on adult faith formation and spirituality, is co-editor of "Adult Faith Formation Strategies."

He spoke on three considerations in adult faith formation: problematic presumptions, timely but tough transitions, and practical principles and programmatic possibilities.

"We tend to think of adults as a homogeneous group," Zanzig said. "My experience is that the older we get the more unique we become."

Like a mosaic, he said: From a distance, it looks to be all one piece, but up close it's clear that the single picture is made of many individual tiles. In like manner, the church is one whole, but is composed of individuals, all of whom have different needs. That includes education; 20-year-old adults may need something very different from 40- or 60-year-old adults.

However, he said, even education isn't enough to keep people coming back to church or developing their faith.

A "problematic presumption" in catechesis is that "belonging is based on shared knowledge," Zanzig said.

Rather, he said, what binds you to the community are the meaningful encounters that leave people enriched.

Parish life and faith

The basis for any catechesis is the life of the total parish, Zanzig said.

"The way the parish lives its life and celebrates together says what the curriculum really is," he said. "A wonderful program about Eucharist won't hold much water if the ongoing liturgy is poor."

One of Zanzig's "timely but tough transitions" is going "from 'knowledge about' to 'relationship with,' from academic enterprise to genuine experience."

"The mistake we make is thinking that we can create community out of nothing," Zanzig said. "Community is what comes out of worship, shared experience. Trying to make people part of a group can be artificial. People are better bonded by service to people outside the community."

Part of catechesis is finding the tools that help people to live their faith more deeply and "calling them to be responsible for their own spiritual growth."

"The whole point of the church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ," he said. "Whatever we do to get ready for that service is healthy and whole."

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Speaker Tom Zanzig speaks with Sister of Providence Betty Paul, northern region coordinator for diocesan faith formation, during a parish catechetical leader in-service session at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 22.

One problem, said Michael Leake of St. James the greater Church in Concord, is that "we think every group must be led by a 'credentialed' person," with special training or a title.

Thus, another "problematic presumption" is that catechists "possess all wisdom and our mission is to 'give it to parishioners,'" and that "the parish must do it all."

Everything done in the parish should be directed toward spiritual formation and prayer. For example, said Zanzig, beginning the finance council meeting with prayer can help keep the focus on how the money is used to proclaim that Gospel.

In fact, Zanzig said, "What if every parish meeting began with one minute of silence, holding the committee or parish in prayer?"

Practical principles

Among Zanzig's "practical principles and programmatic possibilities":

— Adults must experience a deeper awareness of and connection to God and community;

— Tone and environment must suggest and help form a community of disciples, each uniquely called and gifted, on a shared journey of faith;

— Think "spiritual direction," not education," with leaders as experienced guides and mentors, not "experts."

"Spiritual direction" is not the traditional idea of one person meeting individually with a trained spiritual director, said Zanzig. Rather, it's gathering in small groups.

Group members are those who, Zanzig said, "can walk with you in an intentional way."

It's like what people do after they finish Cursillo, regularly gathering with others "cursillistas" for fellowship and prayer, said Bob Demmond of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville.

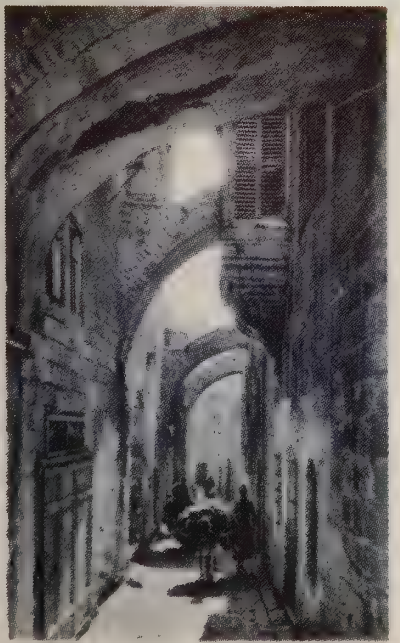
Those who gather in such groups are people who deeply trust each other. Zanzig meets with two others every few weeks.

They review what's been going on in their lives, talk about prayer and any insights they've had. There follows a brief period of sitting in silence.

"The point of these sessions is to be companions, to teach (by example)," Zanzig said. "They have to own it themselves, it's not something that's programmed for them."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO



THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Come join the fun and enjoy food from around the world!

11th Annual
St. Michael's International Dinner
Saturday Night – April 28, 2007

6-7 pm: Cocktail Hour
7-11 pm: Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction, and Raffle
Entertainment: International Dancers, Bagpiper, & DJ

Tickets: $25 per person
Tickets can be obtained by contacting the
Church Office at 704-867-6212

Nun says life has changed since she was healed thanks to JPII

MIRACLE, *from page 1*

She met reporters March 30 in Aix-en-Provence during a press conference with Archbishop Claude Feidt of Aix, the archdiocese where the cure took place.

"I was sick and now I am cured," she told reporters. "I am cured, but it is up to the church to say whether it was a miracle or not."

However, she said, she knows she is well and that she must continue her work "to serve life and to serve the family."

Diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2001, she said that watching Pope John Paul deteriorate from the effects of Parkinson's disease, "I saw myself in the years to come."

Pope John Paul died April 2, 2005, and as Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre's condition began to worsen, all the members of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in France and in Senegal began praying to Pope John Paul to intervene with God to heal her.

By June 2, the religious has said, she was struggling to write, to walk and to function normally.

She said she went to bed that night and woke up very early the next morning feeling completely different.

"I was sure I was healed," she said.

In a March 29 statement, Archbishop Feidt said that after hearing about the alleged healing of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre he decided to conduct "a thorough investigation" to determine whether it might be the miracle needed for Pope John Paul's beatification.

In general, the church must confirm two miracles through the intercession of the sainthood candidate before canonization.

The archbishop said the investigation took a year to complete.

The postulator of Pope John Paul's sainthood cause, Msgr. Slawomir Oder, said the investigation included testimony from theologians and canon lawyers, physicians, a psychiatrist and a handwriting expert, since the legibility of a patient's handwriting is used as an indicator of the progress of Parkinson's disease.

Archbishop Feidt and Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre attended the April 2 ceremony in Rome, marking the end of the diocesan phase of Pope John Paul's cause, and the memorial Mass Pope Benedict XVI celebrated to mark the second anniversary of his predecessor's death.

While in Rome, Archbishop Feidt delivered all the documentation regarding the nun's case to the Congregation for Saints' Causes, which will conduct its own investigation into the alleged healing.

CNS PHOTO BY SERGE PAGANO, REUTERS

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre poses before a news conference in Aix-en-Provence, France, March 30. The French nun believes she was healed from Parkinson's disease through the intercession of Pope John Paul II, who also suffered from the disease. The healing could be the miracle needed for the late pope's beatification.

The Oratory Religion Camp

- Two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 15-21 and July 22-28, 2007.
- Boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September can apply for consideration.
- Swimming, crafts and religious activities.
- The fee is $125.

For information and application: www.oratorycamp.com

Visit us online at
www.rockhilloratory.com

The Oratory Religion Camp, P. O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.
Volunteer counselors (16 or older) can write for an application.

"GOD'S MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE"
A SPIRITUAL RETREAT
WITH REV. MR. CURTISS P. TODD

MAY 18-20, 2007
LIVING WATERS
CATHOLIC REFLECTION CENTER
MAGGIE VALLEY, NC

Come to the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina to praise and worship God's creative and diverse beauty. This retreat is meant to be an experience in spirituality and personal reflection. It will provide an opportunity for participants to encounter nature while experiencing the pleasures of silence, peaceful reflection and prayer.

Our world today offers us few opportunities to "steal away" for prayer, reflection and rest. We must develop our spirituality and attune it to our times, as each of us has an individual spiritual path.

Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in beautiful Maggie Valley will be the setting. Participants will enjoy private room accommodations, five (5) meals, sessions for spiritual understanding and reflection as well as time to "steal away" and have a true experience in God's creation. For more information on the Center go to the website - http://www.catholicretreat.org.

The Retreat begins Friday, May 18th. Please arrive at 5 pm. The retreat concludes after lunch on Sunday, May 20th. Our Spiritual Leader will be Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd.

Cost: $100 per person -- Advance registration and payment required. Space is limited.

REGISTRATION – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Name: ____________________
Address: ____________________
Phone: ____________________
In case of emergency contact: ____________________
Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________
Phone: ____________________
E-Mail Address: ____________________
Form of Payment: ___Personal Check ___Money Order ___Certified Check
Date of Registration: ____________________

(SORRY, NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED)

Complete the registration form, attach your payment and return by Friday, May 4th to:

African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

Celebrating a ‘servant of God’

Pope Benedict: John Paul’s ministry, agony showed his love of Christ

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II’s intense pastoral ministry, “but even more, the Calvary of agony and the serene death of our beloved pope let all people of our age know that Jesus Christ really was his everything,” Pope Benedict XVI said.

Pope Benedict marked the second anniversary of Pope John Paul’s death by celebrating a memorial Mass the evening of April 2 in St. Peter’s Square.

The pope said his predecessor truly fit the biblical description of a “servant of God,” which is the way the church officially refers to him while “his process of beatification quickly progresses.”

Pope Benedict, who had set aside the five-year waiting period usually required before a sainthood cause begins, told tens of thousands of people in St. Peter’s Square that the initial, diocesan phase of Pope John Paul’s cause had concluded earlier in the day.

While the church has not solemnly proclaimed Pope John Paul a saint in heaven, Pope Benedict said he is certain that “our beloved John Paul II” continues to accompany the church with his prayers.

At the same time, he offered prayers that Pope John Paul, “our father, brother and friend,” would enjoy eternal rest and peace in the company of God.

The pope praised his predecessor’s ability to share with the world his faith, hope and charity, even as Parkinson’s disease gradually made it impossible for him to walk and, ultimately, to talk.

“Especially with the slow, but relentless progression of his illness, which little by little stripped him of everything, he made himself an offering to Christ, a living proclamation of his passion, in a hope filled with faith in the resurrection,” Pope Benedict said.

“Like his divine master, he lived his agony in prayer,” the pope said. “He died praying. Truly, he fell asleep in the Lord.”

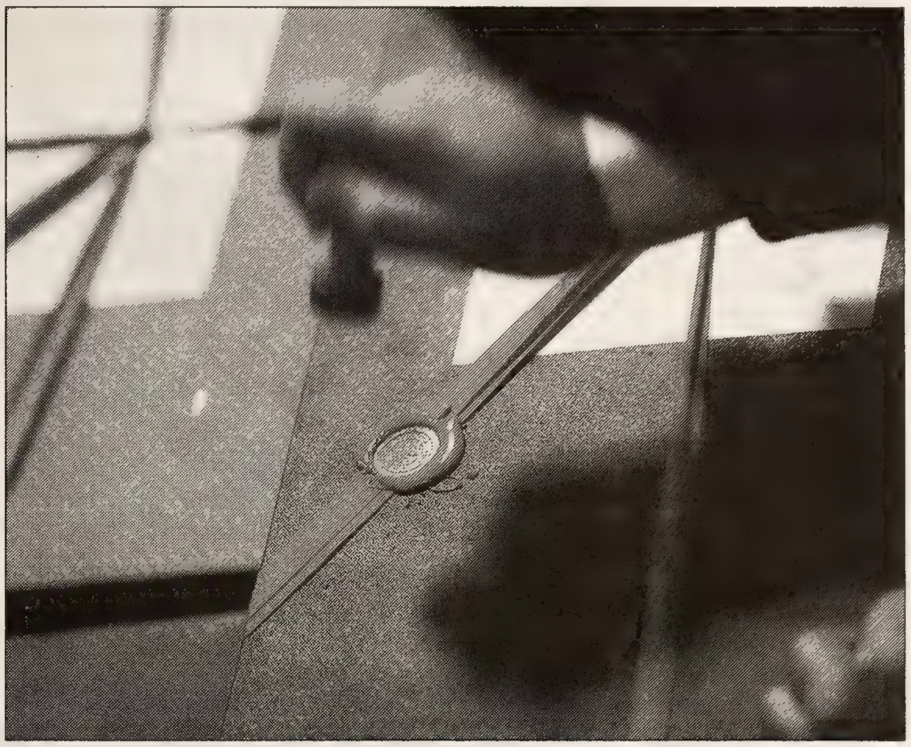
Sitting near the front of the crowd was Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, the 46-year-old French nun who believes she was healed of Parkinson’s disease through Pope John Paul’s intervention.

Guy Murphy of the Chicago-based Totally Yours Pilgrimages was at the Mass with 45 pilgrims from the United States.

“We are big John Paul II fans,” he said.

Murphy said he was not concerned that the church was taking its time officially proclaiming the late pope a saint — “sometimes it takes hundreds of years” — but he has no doubt that “John Paul is one of the greatest saints ever.”

‘Extraordinary witness’



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

A worker seals boxes of documents after a Mass marking the conclusion of the initial phase of the process for the canonization of Pope John Paul II at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome April 2.

Earlier in the day, during a ceremony marked by prayers, song and formal oaths in Latin, officials of the Diocese of Rome concluded the initial phase of Pope John Paul’s sainthood cause.

The process had included interviews with more than 120 people who knew Pope John Paul and a study of his ministry, the way he handled suffering and how he faced his death, said Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome.

“In the certainty of being loved by God and in the joy of responding to that love,” the late pope “found the meaning, unity and aim of his life,” Cardinal Ruini said during the prayer service in the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

The documents from the investigation were placed in five chests, latched, tied with a red ribbon, then sealed with red wax. They will be delivered to the Congregation for Saints’ Causes for further study.

“The pope suffered in his flesh and he suffered in his spirit, finding himself increasingly obliged to reduce his commitments,” Cardinal Ruini said.

Pope John Paul’s occasional “signs of impatience” were not the result of pain, but of his frustration at not being able to continue the ministry to which he felt called, the cardinal added.

Cardinal Ruini described Pope John Paul as a man of continuous, intense prayer, “concrete and radical poverty” and great freedom, which allowed him to stand up to Poland’s communist government.

His love for God was lived as love for human beings, leading the pope to be an insistent voice for peace and for the defense of human life from conception to natural death, the cardinal said.

Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, a member of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood, was at the prayer service, as were Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Pope John Paul’s personal secretary for almost 40 years, and Polish President Lech Kaczynski.

Celebrating a televised Mass early in the morning at Pope John Paul’s tomb in St. Peter’s Basilica, Cardinal Dziwisz called the late pope an “extraordinary witness” of Christ.

“John Paul II was a member of the friends of Jesus, that is, the group of saints. Membership in this group was what gave meaning and direction to his life, to all he did and said,” Cardinal Dziwisz said.

“The people of God clearly recognize his sanctity,” he said.

Cardinal Dziwisz and others have pointed out that Pope Benedict could beatify or even canonize Pope John Paul immediately, without waiting for the Congregation for Saints’ Causes to conclude its work.

Examining the cause

Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, congregation prefect, said that unless or until he hears otherwise from the pope, the congregation will continue the process according to established church law: first, studying the documentation gathered by the Diocese of Rome and assisting with the drafting of a “positio,” or position paper, outlining how Pope John Paul heroically lived the Christian virtues.

The 15 cardinals and 15 bishops who are members of the congregation will study the “positio” and forward their opinion to the pope, he told the newspaper La Repubblica.

At the same time, he said, “an ad hoc commission of experts with scientists and physicians of every religious orientation, even nonbelievers,” will be convoked to study the records and testimony collected in the case of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre.

“It will be up to them to establish whether or not it is a healing that is scientifically inexplicable,” the cardinal said.

“Only in the light of this scientific pronouncement will a later commission of cardinals declare whether it is a miracle that can be attributed to the intercession” of Pope John Paul, he said.

A declaration of heroic virtues and recognition of a miracle usually are needed before beatification. In the usual process, canonization requires another miracle attributed to the candidate’s intervention after the beatification.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

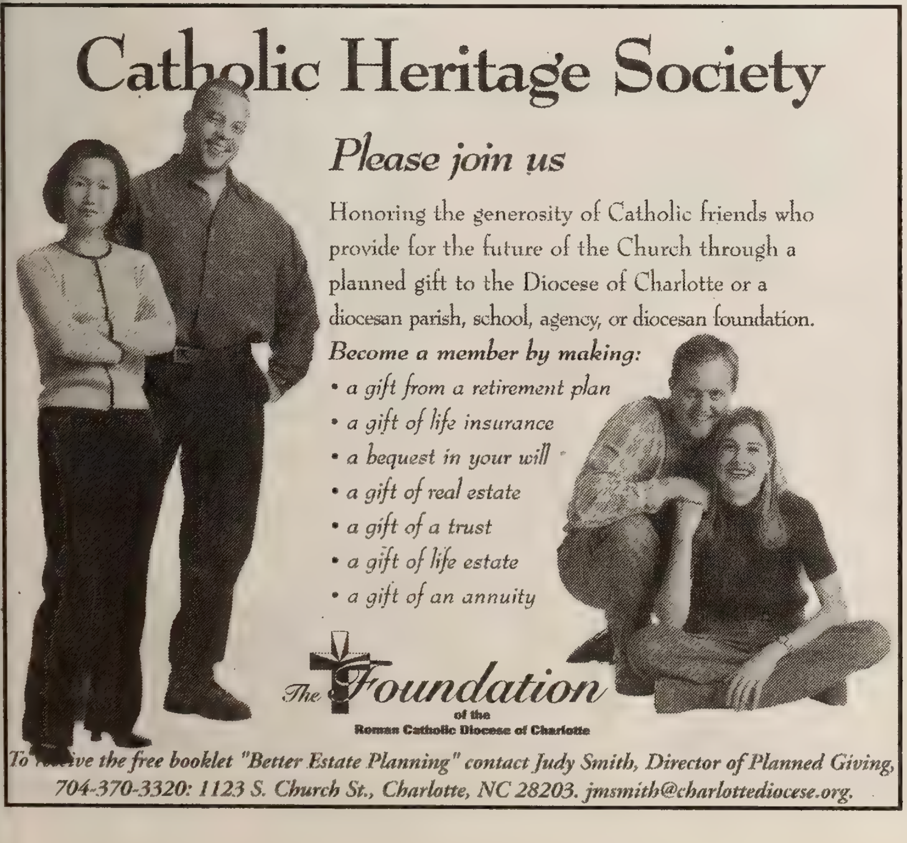
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring
Absolute
Integrity

Asheville’s Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com



Catholic Heritage Society

Please join us

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:

- *a gift from a retirement plan*
- *a gift of life insurance*
- *a bequest in your will*
- *a gift of real estate*
- *a gift of a trust*
- *a gift of life estate*
- *a gift of an annuity*

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Women religious celebrate during jubilee Mass

JUBILEE, *from page 1*

your prayerful thanksgiving to Jesus for your call."

Celebrating 60 years were Franciscan Sister Joan Ann Gilsdorf, Maryknoll Sister Theresa Mangieri, and Mercy Sisters Bernarda Hoff and Elizabeth Robertson.

Celebrating 50 years were Mercy Sister Pauline Mary Clifford, Maryknoll Sister Peggy Lipsio and Sister of St. Joseph Judith Monahan.

Celebrating 25 years was Sister of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul Philo, who was unable to attend the Mass.

"We take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This is a celebration of that and of having lived under those vows," said Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious in the diocese.

Pulling from Pope Benedict XVI's recent exhortation on the Eucharist, Bishop Jugis said "the church's faith is essentially a eucharistic faith … meaning our faith in Jesus is expressed here and he is really present here in this celebration."

"In the Eucharist, we encounter the real presence of Christ and he draws us into union with himself in Communion," said the bishop.

As such, the eucharistic celebration expresses "our vocational call to be one with Jesus and leave behind worldly ambitions," said Bishop Jugis.

"We come to this celebration with faith, but here that faith is nourished and strengthened," he said. "And we leave with that faith even stronger, reinforced."

Likewise, said Bishop Jugis, "our vocation to the church's mission is strengthened. We are reinforced in our vocations when we are nourished in Christ. We are stronger in our mission to the church and humanity."

Bishop Jugis said many of the saints let the Eucharist interpret their lives. St. Ignatius of Antioch, he said, described his martyrdom in terms of the Eucharist with: "I am God's wheat, and I shall be ground by their teeth to become Christ's pure bread."

"Maybe we can let the Eucharist interpret our lives, and especially our vocations," said Bishop Jugis. "May this Eucharist today express our thanksgiving to God and interpret our lives and our vocations, our union with Jesus."

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presents a plaque to Mercy Sister Elizabeth Robertson during the annual jubilee celebration for women religious at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte March 31.

A ministry of service, joy

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — For the sisters celebrating anniversaries as women religious, the jubilee Mass at St. Gabriel Church March 31 was a joyful way to reflect and share their ministries with their fellow sisters.

"This is a very happy day for all of us," said Maryknoll Sister Peggy Lipsio. "I'm grateful for all the years I've had in this life — they've been happy years."

Her fellow Maryknoll sister, Theresa Mangieri, agreed.

"I've had a very joyful life and I like to spread that joy," said Sister Mangieri.

"I've gotten a lot of love from my family and my Maryknoll sisters, and I feel it's my vocation to share that," she said.

During her 60 years as a woman religious, Sister Mangieri has served in the Philippines and, most recently, in Zimbabwe.

"I've had the opportunity to meet so many people all over the world, and I've realized we're all so similar and beautiful," she said.

Helping others has been a highlight of Sister of St. Joseph Judith Monahan's 50 years in ministry, including "reaching out to people and sharing their joys and sorrows," she said.

Mercy Sister Bernada Hoff, a registered nurse, worked in every department during her 30 years at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville and 20 years at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte.

"My biggest joy is being grateful for the gift of my vocation and being able to serve the Lord," said Sister Hoff.

The sisters said they encourage young women to consider a religious life.

"If they feel like they have a calling, they should look into it," said Mercy Sister Elizabeth Robertson, who served as a teacher for 40 of her 60 years of ministry.

A woman considering a vocation "should be someone who is dedicated to serving God and people," said Sister Mangieri. "And the joy one gets from that is tremendous."

"It's a wonderful life," said Sister Hoff.

> "I've had the opportunity to meet so many people from all over the world."
>
> — Maryknoll Sister Theresa Mangieri

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte, go online to www.charlottediocese.org/womenreligious.html.

Only 9 spaces left —call today!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Reserve today for best cabin choice and lowest rates! Call for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

Departs October 31, 2007

Classic European Tour

Start in Paris – End in Rome. Ask to travel on the same bus with other Catholics.

15 Days from $1838*

Includes Paris (3 nights); Geneva, Switzerland (2 nights); wine tasting in Beaune; Red Cross Museum; Sisteron, France; French Riviera; Nice, France (2 nights); Pisa (leaning tower); Montecatini-Terme, Italy (3 nights); Florence; Siena; Tuscany; Rome (2 nights); Vatican tour; Sistine Chapel & more! *Price includes escort, hotels, 17 meals, motor-coach sight-seeing, and taxes; per person / double occupancy. Add $1000 for round trip airfare from Charlotte.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

Sacred oils blessed during chrism Mass

CHRISM, *from page 1*

in Christ is 'Father,'" said Bishop Jugis. "We are father to the parish family; father of the poor, father of the brokenhearted, father of the sorrowing, father to the blind, father to captives, father to prisoners, father bestowing on the family the oil of gladness and the glorious mantle of salvation."

The chrism Mass is one of the Catholic Church's most solemn Masses, celebrated in every Catholic diocese on Holy Thursday. If celebration of the Mass is not possible on Holy Thursday, it may be celebrated earlier in the week, as it is in the Diocese of Charlotte.

During the Mass, the bishop blessed the oils to be used in administering the sacraments of baptism, confirmations and anointing of the sick throughout the diocese in the upcoming year. Also during this Mass, about 90 priests recommitted themselves to their priestly ministry.

Bishop Jugis, along with concelebrants Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin; Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor; Father John Putnam, judicial vicar; Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral; and other clergy of the diocese, gathered with about 125 priests, permanent deacons and seminarians for the diocese to celebrate the liturgy with the people of faith whom they serve.

During his homily, the bishop extended a special welcome to those priests who are celebrating anniversaries of priesthood ordination this year, including Bishop Curlin, who will celebrate his golden jubilee.

The recommitment ceremony, which followed the Liturgy of the Word, included the priests' renewal of their dedication as ministers of Christ, striving to be more like Christ and being faithful to their sacred ministry.

Following the liturgy of the Eucharist, Bishop Jugis blessed the three oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices.

Vials of the oils are dispensed to every parish and mission church in the diocese. With the sacred oils — and having recommitted themselves to the mission they share with their bishop — the priests returned to their parishes, rededicated in spiritual union with the diocesan faithful.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Bishop Peter J. Jugis pours fragrant balsam into a vessel of olive oil during the annual chrism Mass celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte April 3. Once blended and blessed, the chrism — signifying abundant grace and spiritual strength — is used during the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and holy orders.

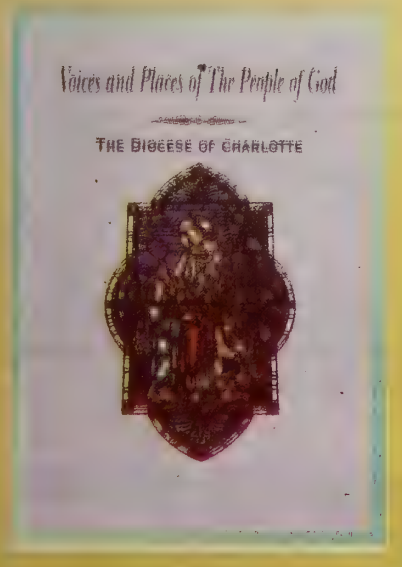
DID YOU KNOW?

The sacramental use of oil is rooted in the Old Testament practice of anointing kings. The Hebrew word Mashiach ("Messiah") means "anointed one." Its New Testament Greek equivalent is Christos ("Christ"). As Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, so are Christians anointed with the same spirit through the use of holy oils.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Vessels of olive oil sit inside the vestibule of St. Patrick Cathedral prior to the annual chrism Mass April 3.

Voices and Places *of* The People of God



The Diocese of Charlotte is commemorating its 35th Anniversary with the publication of a special volume of beautiful photographs, spiritual reflections and fascinating history.

You will enjoy more than 35 spiritual reflections from laity throughout the diocese as well as from clergy including Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, and Archbishop John F. Donoghue.

Plus, the book is filled with numerous historical photos and interesting facts about the growth and development of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Cost of this beautiful book is $25.99 plus tax and $4.85 shipping and handling. Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Order your copy at www.Diocesebook.com.
If you do not have Internet access, call 704-370-3333.

OUTER BANKS, NC — VACATION RENTAL

Priv. Home, Northern Bchs. 4BRS.3BA, Slps 10. Walk to Priv. Bch.

Quiet Location. Bike Paths, Tennis, Golf, Gas BBQ. No Smokers/Pets.

$700-$1075/WK. Early Bird, Sen. Citz, Military, Fire/Police/EMS Disc.

(845) 628-5057 Evenings.

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Making your will?

Request a free Wills Kit from Catholic Relief Services.

It will help you practice good stewardship and create a lasting legacy to help the poor overseas.

1-800-235-2772 ext.7318

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Books provide glimpses into lives of early American religious women

BOSTON (CNS) — Katherine Buron was a Catholic convert and popular writer who specialized in biographies of women founders of religious orders.

"The Eighth American Saint" is an updated and edited reprint of her 1959 book, "A Life of Substance," about Mother Theodore Guerin (1798-1856), the missionary and foundress who was canonized in October 2006.

Burton's selection of well-told vignettes and excerpts from letters and archival material show Mother Theodore as a devout religious, an exceptional and deeply loved superior, and a courageous and skilled administrator.

In spite of lifelong ill health she willingly embarked on the long journey to Vincennes, Ind., in 1840. The cross she embraced there included dangerous travel conditions, isolation, debt, harsh poverty and hostility to Catholics.

Her most serious challenge was negotiating years of conflict with the bishop of Vincennes who attempted to subvert her rule as superior and refused the sisters the lease to their property or approval of their rule.

It is testimony to St. Mother Theodore's charity that her journal records little about these difficulties.

This is an edifying narrative of faith, hope and charity that assumes an audience familiar with the spirituality of sacrifice that led this remarkable woman to give selflessly in obedience to her vocation.

Ursuline Sister Irene Mahoney's "Lady Blackrobes" is a compelling and thoughtful history of the Ursuline missions in Montana which began in 1884.

Drawing on letters, diaries and community annals, Sister Mahoney records the difficult conditions that prevailed in the eight mission schools established or staffed by the Ursulines, working closely with the Jesuits.

Extreme physical conditions were only one part of their hardship. They suffered under the impatient and sometimes reckless decisions of their charismatic foundress, Mother Amadeus Dunne, and endured serious power struggles within the community and tension with the international Ursuline union.

The most interesting aspect of this book is Sister Mahoney's exploration of the motivation for the missions: "The goal of mission schools had, from the beginning, been clear and direct: to evangelize the native people through the education of the children."

While the missionaries were aware of, and could be angry about, the mistreatment of the Indians by the government and the white settlers' greed for land, they "had an unswerving belief that they possessed the one and essential truth," Sister Mahoney writes. "To save poor ignorant souls from the fiery pit of hell was a powerful motive."

Today's theology of mission is radically different but the reader will still be moved by the witness of "lives of almost unendurable hardship, unswervingly faithful to the only vision available to them."

"Voices from an Early American Convent" is a short collection that offers a glimpse into the cloistered lives and zealous ministries of Ursuline nuns who came to Louisiana in 1727.

Emily Clark, a historian who teaches at Tulane University in New Orleans, offers a brief but lucid introduction to the French colonization of North America and 18th-century religious life.

"Hired to run a hospital," the Ursulines "dreamed of converting Indians," but soon after arrival their "missionary fervor" was instead directed to the large slave population in the French colony.

One section reprints six obituaries, notices that "testify to their attentiveness to the diversity of gifts among their sisters. In them we meet women characterized by abject humility, dangerous enthusiasm, iron resolve and sweet submissiveness."

Another entry is an account of a 1734 eucharistic procession that took place when the Ursulines moved into their new convent; an event, Clark explains, "that left the city's inhabitants with a powerful set of images to serve as reminders of their enduring presence and spiritual authority."

This fine book performs the same function for contemporary readers.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations Coming Soon!

We're ready to help with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we celebrate with you their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or one of our **scheduled parish visits:**
St. Mark School – Wed & Thur, Apr. 18 & 19: 7:30 am – 3 pm
St. Philip, Statesville – Sat. & Sun., April 21-22 after Masses

SPECIAL PARISH VISITS: If you'd like to arrange a parish visit, ask your pastor to call me, manager Allen Bond, and we'll make every effort to meet his schedule.
May God Bless you all as we approach Easter.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 15, 2007

April 15, Second Sunday of Easter; Divine Mercy Sunday

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
2) Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
3) Gospel: John 20:19-31

'Touching the wounds' a way to believe the resurrection

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I first returned to my hometown of New Orleans several months after it had been hit by Hurricane Katrina, I wanted to see the destruction. On the other hand, I didn't want to be a devastation tourist, gawking at the loss and suffering.

My best friend Christine, like my mother, no longer lived in the part of the city that was hardest hit; the neighborhood where we'd grown up was totaled.

"You've got to go over there and see what it's like," Christine told me when I arrived in town.

"How do people feel about that?" I asked her. "Are they offended by people driving by just to look?"

"No," she said flatly. "They want people to come — they want them to see what happened and what they're living with. They need people to know, so they can get help."

Through the eyes of a Christian, this is touching the wounds.

Is it voyeuristic fascination with another's suffering? No.

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus invites us to touch the wounds of the victim as he invites Thomas to place his fingers in Jesus' own wounded hands and side.

Why?

Because feeling the wounds is the first, necessary step to compassion, and compassion leads to belief in resurrection.

No one gets through this life without wounds of his or her own. But it's the nature and mercy of resurrection that allows us to put the suffering behind us.

Still, hurt and horror continue in the world. So until the Last Day, resurrection must take place again and again.

I can relate to Thomas' humbling moment — having to touch to believe. It has never been heroic.

But, incredulously, it has seemed a privilege, walking through the final stages of cancer with my father and of AIDS with my friend; holding a dying baby in a Haitian orphanage; weeping with a teenager as she recounted an experience of abuse.

We touch the wounded and we touch Jesus himself. As his disciples, we are invited: called to continually feel the wounds of others and thereupon believe the Resurrection.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 8 - 14
Sunday (The Resurrection of the Lord), Acts 10:34, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9; **Monday (Easter Monday),** Acts 2:14, 22-33, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday (Easter Tuesday),** Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday (Easter Wednesday),** Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday (Easter Thursday),** Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday (Easter Friday),** Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday (Easter Saturday),** Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15 - 21
Sunday (Second Sunday of Easter;47 Divine Mercy Sunday), Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19, John 20:19-31; **Monday,** Acts 4:23-31, John 3:1-8; **Tuesday,** Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday,** Acts 5:17-26, John 3:16-21; **Thursday,** Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday,** Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday (St. Anselm),** Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21.

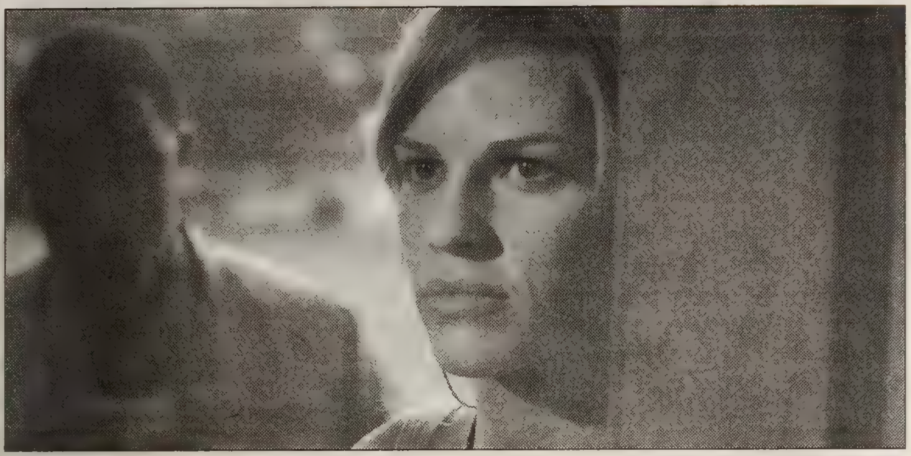
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22 - 28
Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter), Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19; **Monday (St. George, St. Adalbert),** Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday (St. Fidelis),** Acts 7:51--8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday (St. Mark),** 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Thursday,** Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday,** Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort),** Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Hardly worth 'Reaping'



CNS PHOTO BY WARNER BROS.

Idris Elba (left) and Hilary Swank star in "The Reaping," a horror fest more silly than scary. Swank plays a nonbelieving university professor called upon to investigate strange happenings mirroring biblical plagues in the Louisiana swamplands. A first-rate locust attack and some creepy river sequences notwithstanding, the film has a disjointed plot and choppy camerawork, while the putative religious elements, including discussions about faith, are hardly inspirational. Some intense horror effects, killings, blood, images of sick and dead people, a nongraphic sexual encounter, mild innuendo and facts-of-life discussion, a few rough and crude expletives and brief profanity, and many deceased cows and frogs. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

SENIORS' SPRING FLING
Sponsored by CSS Elder Ministries
Two dates and locations to choose from!
Thurs., April 26th - St. Mark, Huntersville
10 am to 4 pm: Closing Mass with Bishop Jugis
Registration deadline: April 18th
Thurs., May 3rd - Catholic Conference Ctr., Hickory
9 am - 3:30 pm: Closing Mass with Fr. Edward Sheridan
Registration deadline: April 19th
Your day will be filled with live entertainment, fellowship, Mass, lunch with friends, chair massages, line dancing, crafts, bingo, door prizes and more!
Call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220 or Sherill Beason (704) 370-3228.
CSS Catholic Social Services Diocese of Charlotte
Cost: $12 includes lunch.
Limited space available. Register NOW!

Please join the
Piedmont Triad Office of Catholic Social Services
for the fourth annual
PARTNERS IN HOPE
fund raising event to benefit our programs
Tuesday — May 8, 2007
6 pm to 9 pm
Millennium Center
101 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina
CSS Catholic Social Services Diocese of Charlotte
Tickets: $75 per person / $550 table for eight
Reservations: Call Tammy at 336-714-3228
Please reserve space by Wednesday, April 25.

Trappistine monastery to be focus of new cable reality show

Cameras follow women's immersion into contemplative life

BY SISTER CAROL HOVERMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey, near Dubuque, is known for the lives of prayer the Trappistine Sisters lead there and for the delicious caramels they make.

Now an even wider audience will get a glimpse into their lives.

A four-part television series, "The Monastery," filmed in Dubuque a year ago, will be shown on the TLC cable channel. It is to debut on Easter, April 8, and continue for three more Sundays.

Five women who answered a casting call were chosen to spend 40 days and nights in a women's monastery somewhere in the United States.

That "somewhere" turned out to be Our Lady of the Mississippi. The entire 40 days were filmed. The finished product is a companion to "The Monastery" series filmed at the men's Monastery of Christ in the Desert in Abiquiu, N.M., shown last fall on TLC.

After a similar series on monasteries was televised in England, letters of invitation were sent to all U.S. men's and women's monasteries by the Tiger/Tigress Production Co. looking for willing candidates for a series in this country.

"The productions in England were very successful," said Mother Gail Fitzpatrick, former abbess of the Dubuque Trappistine Community. "There was a huge turnaround in interest in the church and religious life."

Then one day, the Dubuque abbey received a phone call.

"I think we were approached because our community has many younger members, and a production like this needs that energy," said Mother Gail.

That was the beginning of a three-month process of intensive prayer, dialogue and visiting with the producer, Sara Woodford, before the community came to a consensus and agreed to be filmed.

Mother Gail also had been encouraged to participate by colleagues in other countries.

"Seeing the wonderful video from England and hearing of the positive image of religious life it portrayed gave us a sense of trust" in Tiger/Tigress, she said.

The agreement to have cameras rolling for 40 days in a contemplative religious community, while integrating five new women who had no experience of monastic life, was a huge decision.

"In prayer, we came to the decision," Mother Gail said. "It is our belief that people who watch the program will have some sense of what our life is about and how contact with God is a way of living in hope. That was our main reason for doing it."

Extensive preparations were made for the arrival of the women and the television crew. Each woman would have a mentor, but the Trappistine mentors were not assigned until the women arrived so personalities could be blended.

CNS PHOTO BY SISTER KATHLEEN O'NEILL

Mother Gail Fitzpatrick says goodbye to Katie Alton, one of the participants in a four-part television series, "The Monastery," in 2006.

"Monastic life was a huge shock for the women," said Mother Gail. "It was so different from their lifestyle and it took a tremendous amount of time and effort for them to adjust."

Plans made before the women arrived were revised almost daily. Some found the adjustment extremely difficult and came close to leaving.

"I really give the women credit for deciding to stay," Mother Gail said. "They said they came to be part of this experience and eventually decided to stick with it. In the end, they were happy they stayed."

For the first week, the women did not get up at 3 a.m. with the sisters. But from 5:30 a.m. on, they lived the life of the sisters: prayer, meals, manual labor, classes and, of course, some recreation.

One of the hardest adjustments was keeping silence. Only one woman was Catholic; two were Christian and the other two were nonbelievers.

"We didn't have a common language, and that proved to be a great challenge," said Mother Gail. "We were trying to express our values and beliefs in Jesus Christ, in God. We tried to speak of grace, heaven, redemption, etc., in a language they could understand."

Classes on monastic life and basic Christian teaching were helpful, at least to a degree. In addition to the five participants, the six-member TV crew — all women — was on-site.

"They worked hard — were on the cameras 12 hours a day," said Mother Gail.

Today, the crew and participants remain in touch with the sisters.

"This is one way we could share some of our own joy in God and allow people to see it in action rather than just talking about it," Mother Gail said. "Living totally in God is really worth the sacrifice and generates so much joy and hope in our lives."

WANT TO WATCH?
The four-part series, "The Monastery," debuts on the TLC cable channel at 2 p.m. EDT on Easter, April 8, and continues for three more Sundays at the same time.

Lady Villains win second consecutive state championship

Courtesy Photo

Pictured are the Lady Villains, the varsity girls' basketball team from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, who became the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Division 1-A state champions for the second year in a row.

After a near-perfect season, the team played the 1-A girls' state championship game at N.C. State University in Raleigh March 10.

"We are very excited for what we've just accomplished. We realize as a group how hard it is to be a state champion, much less win the championship for two consecutive years. I'm extremely proud," said Coach Brian Robinson.

Pictured are (from left) Ana DeFrancesco, Kat Lyons, Margaret Minton, Sarah Foroudi, Gina Simmons, Erinn Thompson, Maggie Ronan, Emily Sickelbaugh, Brittany Cox and Megan Rembielak.

"We have very good 'feeder' school basketball programs that teach the girls when they're in sixth, seventh and eighth grade how to press, how to run, how to compete," said Robinson. "When they come to Bishop, they have an idea of how to play basketball at a very competitive level."

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. Paul Education Center, a vibrant Pre K-Grade 8 parish school of 225 students in historic New Bern, N. C., is seeking a dedicated, dynamic and creative visionary for Principal to carry on the strong tradition of academic excellence and Catholic faith formation for our diverse student body. An exceptional elementary/middle school, steeped in Catholic tradition, SPEC has just completed re-accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The school enjoys outstanding support from the Pastor, parents and staff within this growing parish community of 1,780 families.

The successful candidate will:
a) be a highly qualified, committed, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church
b) exhibit strong leadership, integrity, sound judgment, excellent communication and organization skills
c) possess a master's degree in Educational Administration/Leadership with a minimum of 3-5 years' experience in Catholic schools, preferably as a school Principal
d) possess or be eligible to be licensed as an administrator by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Salary will be commensurate with education, experience and qualifications. Contract year begins July 2007. Deadline for receipt of applications is April 27, 2007. For further information and qualifications visit our website at: www.stpaulccnewbern.org.

To apply, please forward cover letter, resume and credentials by e-mail to specsearch@yahoo.com or by mail to: Principal Search Committee, St. Paul Catholic Church,3005 Country Club Road,New Bern, North Carolina 28562.

Shamrock champions

Courtesy Photo

Pictured are the Mustangs varsity boys' basketball team, along with coaches Kevin Phelan and Joe Brannan, from Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem, which completed an undefeated 2006-07 season and became the school's first boys' Shamrock Tournament champions. The team defeated five teams during the 45th St. Patrick's Shamrock Tournament held in Charlotte Feb. 16-18. Eighty boys' and girls' basketball teams from middle schools in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia competed.

Our Lady of Mercy School's girls' basketball team and cheer team also participated in the weekend tournament, which included exhibitions, Mass and a dance for the middle school teams.

TRIUNE

Come Grow With Us
Financial Advisors

Triune Capital Advisors, LLC is a faith-based, full service broker-dealer firm. Our commitment is to high ethical standards, professional and personal growth for you and your clients. If you are already licensed and are sincere about making a difference in people's lives, contact us.

Sarah Westbrook
704-714-2202
swestbrook@triunecapital.com

201 S. College St. — Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28244
Member NASD Member SIPC

DIRECTOR OF DIOCESAN HOUSING CORPORATION

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation is seeking a full-time director to provide vision and leadership to a developing housing ministry. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cdchousingcorp.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by May 4, 2007 to:

Gerard A. Carter, CDCHC
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

or email gacarter@charlottediocese.org.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
HOUSING CORPORATION

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

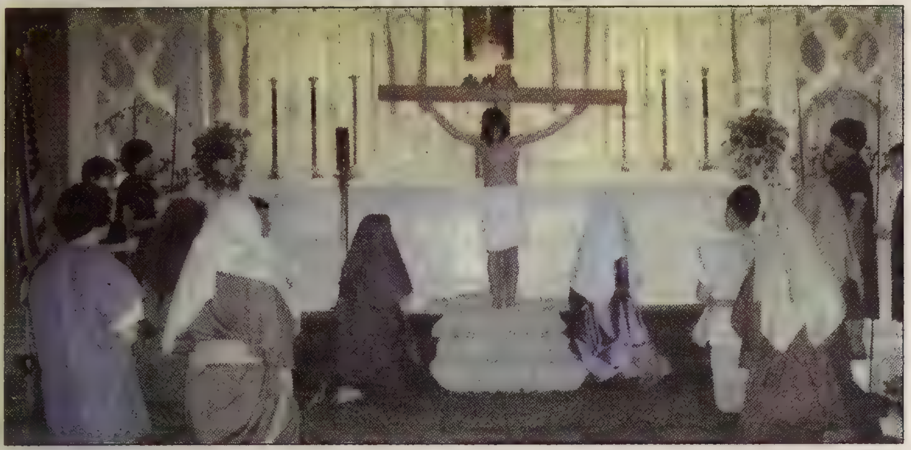
CNAs & AIDES: In-home aide company hiring NC-licensed CNAs and experienced caregivers for work in the greater Charlotte area. Must be trustworthy and passionate about helping seniors. Day, evening, overnight and live-in shifts available. Call Partners In Care, 8am-5pm, for interview. 704-554-9904.

FOR RENT

HOUSE: 3 BR / 2½ B. University area with 2-car garage on private lot and quiet street. 5825 Nicholas Ave., Charlotte, NC 28269. $1100/month. 704-968-8579.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Living Stations



Courtesy Photo

Jesus, portrayed by student Gilbert Kolosieke of Our Lady of Grace School, is "crucified" during a living Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro March 30.

The two seventh-grade religion classes, under the direction of teacher Chris Ostrom, perform the 14 Stations, or Way, of the Cross each year for the school.

The devotional practice of recalling Christ's passion began in the early Christian church with visits to sites in Jerusalem associated with his suffering. Stations of the Cross are common in Western churches and schools and are prayed most often during the Lenten season.

"I was moved by the solemnity and prayerfulness of our students as Jesus is condemned and begins to carry the cross up the aisle of the church," said Principal Gary Gelo.

"At moments like this, one recognizes that our school has the opportunity to provide faith-filled memories for children that will last a lifetime. This is what makes us unique and special," said Gelo. "Each day our children teach us by their example to be faith-filled followers of our Savior."

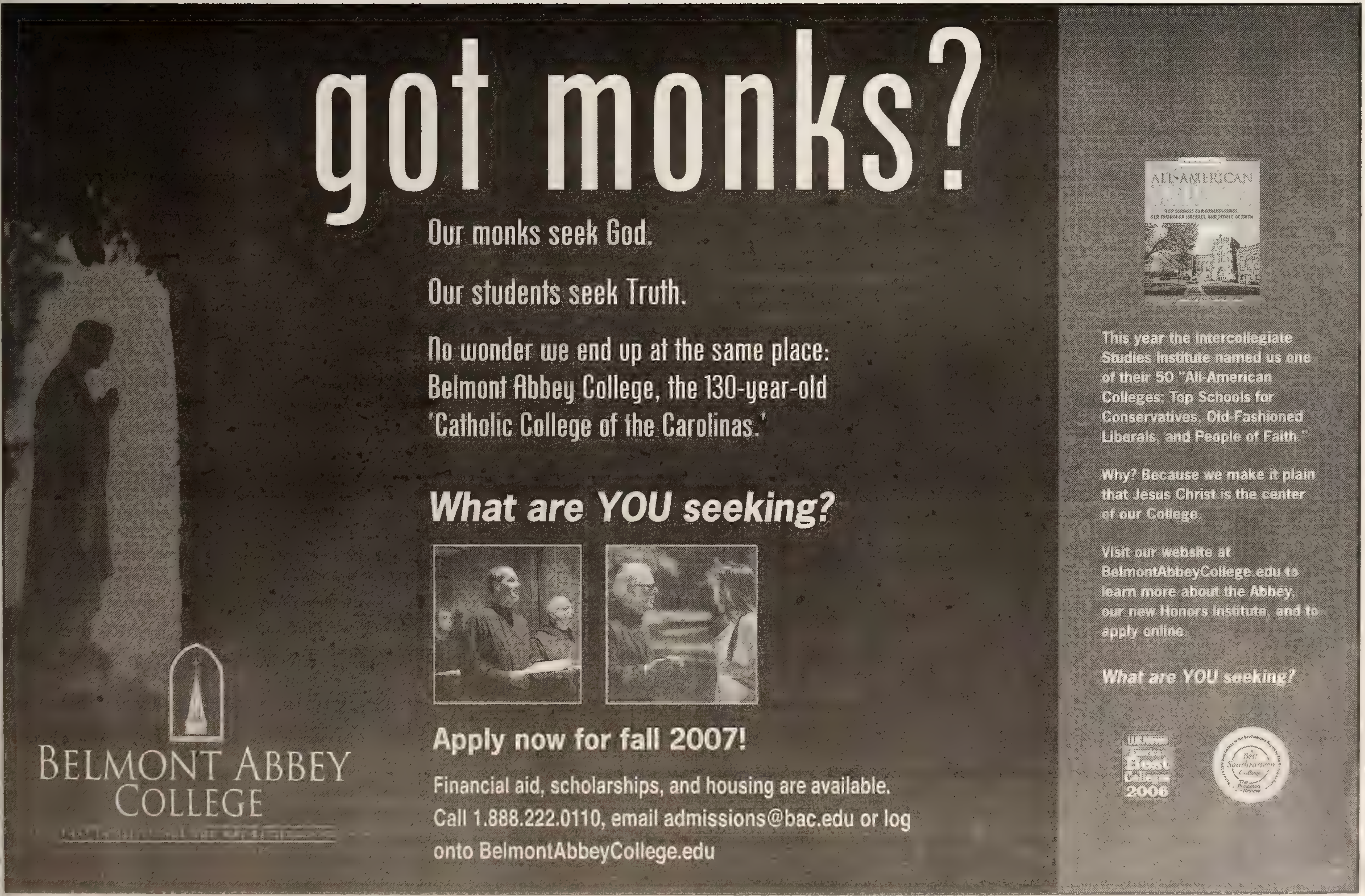
Easter baskets

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Jeannie Beall, director for the diocesan Catholic Social Services (CSS) adoption program, talks with a CSS client as Mike Maynard waits to load a basket of food and paper products into the car at the Pastoral Center in Charlotte April 2.

Maynard is a member of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, whose parishioners provide about 100 such baskets for Catholic Social Services (CSS) clients each year for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

CSS offers programs and outreach services to people of all faiths. CSS services include domestic and international adoptions, pregnancy support, counseling, Hispanic services, immigration services, grief services, youth services, elder ministry, family life, refugee resettlement, justice and peace education and advocacy, and economic development.



got monks?

Our monks seek God.

Our students seek Truth.

No wonder we end up at the same place:
Belmont Abbey College, the 130-year-old
'Catholic College of the Carolinas.'

What are YOU seeking?

Apply now for fall 2007!

Financial aid, scholarships, and housing are available.
Call 1.888.222.0110, email admissions@bac.edu or log
onto BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu

BELMONT ABBEY
COLLEGE

This year the Intercollegiate Studies Institute named us one of their 50 "All-American Colleges: Top Schools for Conservatives, Old-Fashioned Liberals, and People of Faith."

Why? Because we make it plain that Jesus Christ is the center of our College.

Visit our website at BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu to learn more about the Abbey, our new Honors Institute, and to apply online.

What are YOU seeking?

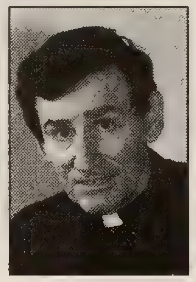
Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Celebrating Easter

Facing death helps affirm goodness in life

The Human Side



FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"The pastor should visit the cemetery as often as he is able. This is wholesome for him personally, for his preaching, for his spiritual care and also for his theology."

To enjoy the wholesomeness of Easter, may I suggest that you take this advice from the noted theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer? Visit a cemetery during the Easter season, even if you aren't a theologian.

Cemeteries remind us of death and are places most of us want to avoid as long as possible. So why do this?

When I was a child, it was a family custom to drive to the cemetery around Easter and visit the graves of our relatives. The lessons this taught were fruitful for dealing with life and understanding the joy of Easter.

First, it taught us that even though deceased relatives weren't with us, they aren't forgotten. We learned to pray for those who had touched our lives and endowed us with their beautiful spirit.

That spirit may have been the laughter of an uncle we find ourselves imitating, the kindness of a grandmother we rely upon as an example or the wisdom of a grandfather we try to live by.

Instead of feeling that they were gone forever, they were seen as a living part of us.

As a priest, I give retreats in places that often have a cemetery nearby. On one retreat I was experiencing some depression.

The Benedictine monastery there had a cemetery. As I walked through it and viewed the names on the gravestones, I suddenly experienced a peaceful, reassuring calmness.

Later I realized that I was facing death; doing so had a way of "airing out" my fears.

Now when I meet a person who is down, I advise him or her to take a walk through a cemetery. Many people who have done this have told me later that it was the perfect remedy; it restored their peace of mind.

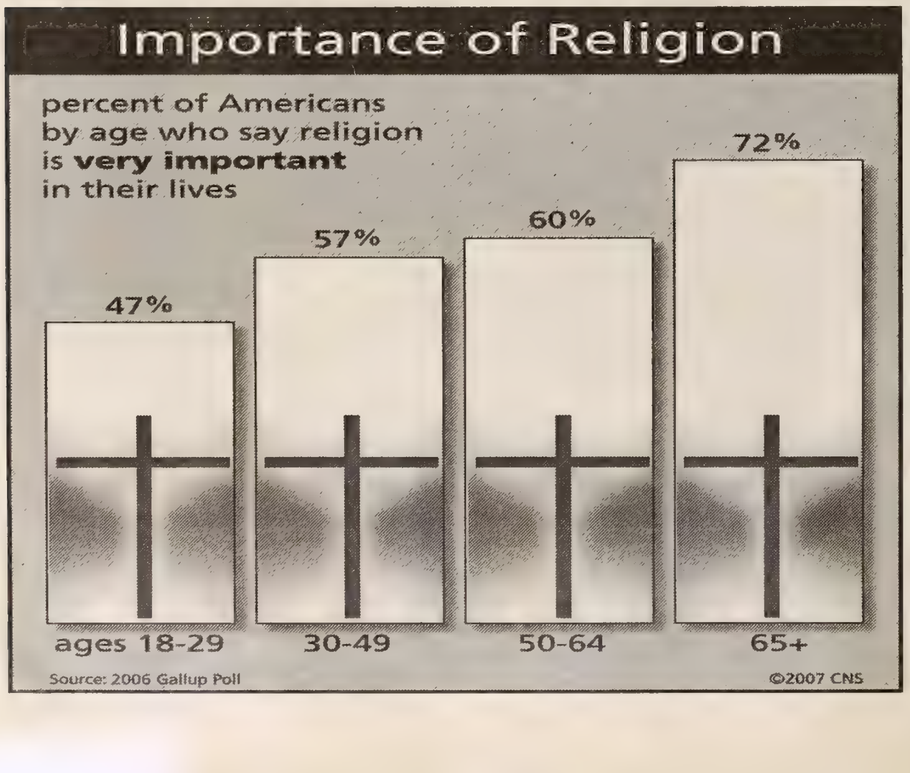
Facing death helped them to see life in its entirety and to realize that problems aren't that bad when we realize the life that we hold so sacred isn't the most sacred life we possess.

A wonderful practice while visiting our beloved dead is to meditate on what it must be like to be on the other side now. We pray, "May they rest in peace."

What is that peace like? Is it just resting quietly, free of all anxiety, or is it more? Is the absolute peace for which we pray found when finally we are with Christ in heaven?

The greatest joy on this earth is to be in love with a significant other. Beyond this life, what will it be like to be with the most significant other of all, God?

Easter is a time to reflect on our final resurrection with Christ. What better way to do this than to start with death, the doorway to eternal life and happiness?



The Easter insult

Christian athletes, sports fans put the game before the faith

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Calling all jocks! I am looking for an athlete whose grace, power and determination are complemented by a fear of the Lord. Is there another Eric Liddell out there?

Liddell (the name rhymes with "fiddle") is the Scottish track star who was immortalized in the 1981 film "Chariots of Fire." As an Olympian in the 1924 games in Paris, he refused to run in the 100-meter race because it took place on a Sunday.

In one memorable scene in the film, he tells the future king of England about his decision not to compete on the Sabbath, expressing surprise that the prince, who would one day be the head of the Church of England, did not have more respect for the sanctity of the Lord's Day.

Today, of course, Sunday is the biggest sports day of the week. Champions are crowned, races won and games decided. For most of us, watching sports is a leisure activity, acceptable for a Sunday that is set aside for worship and rest.

But a line should be drawn. There are a few days each year when celebrations of athleticism just aren't appropriate (and this pertains to those who watch the games and the athletes who play). Those days are the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

These three days are unique in the calendar, commemorating the most profound act in human history since God said, "Let there be light" (Gn. 1:3).

The suffering, death and resurrection of the savior of the world are the defining moments of Christianity. They don't call this Holy Week for nothing, and the days of the Triduum should be observed with a special intensity that excludes most other activities.

Compared to what Christians commemorate this week, sport is trivial.

So what will be talked about and splashed on the screens and pages of the media this weekend? Here within the diocese, a Davis Cup tennis tournament will take place in Winston-Salem. In Charlotte, its basketball time as the Bobcats host the Indiana Pacers on Good Friday.

In Georgia, The Masters Golf Tournament tees it up on Holy Thursday and concludes on Easter.

The tournament, by the way, has the added gall of naming a trio of holes on the manicured course "Amen Corner."

Baseball stadiums across the country will be aglow.

This sports excess also has a trickle-down effect and thousands of families will leave town for sports tournaments involving pre-teens, exchanging the sunrise service on Sunday morning for the Rise 'n' Shine breakfast special at IHOP.

NASCAR is an exception to business-as-usual over the Easter weekend. A spokesman for the stock car racing circuit says it has an off-limits policy when it comes to Easter. Apparently the good ol' boys of racin' know a thing or two about the Good Book of Life.

The media, most notably television, has a hand in all of this. It promotes events and dictates start times. I wonder why sports journalists never seem to write about the conflict that must arise when Christian athletes blow off the most important services of the year to hit, throw or catch a ball.

Will a Christian golfer skip his sport's most prestigious event to make a point about his faith? Will a tennis player exchange a racquet for a kneeling bench? In sports parlance, the odds are against it.

The media has a tough time with Easter. The Crucifixion is bloody. The promise of redemption in the Resurrection is perhaps too complicated for the folks who bring us People magazine and "The Simple Life" with Paris Hilton.

Unlike the very joyous and commercialized celebration of Christmas, with its gizmo gift-giving, there isn't a good marketing opportunity in Easter. Sorry, Easter Bunny. And so the media treats this like any other weekend.

But the media needs the athletes. So, I'm looking for a jock who wants to be remembered for putting faith before his driver, someone who really understands the tennis expression "it's your serve."

David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy. The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The death of capital punishment

Why do we kill people who kill people to show that killing people is wrong?

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Nearly 2,000 years ago on the first Good Friday, in response to public pressure, the Roman Empire executed our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On that day Jesus suffered the pain of the world's sins — including the sin of capital punishment.

The barbaric execution of Jesus should have inspired an end to any Christian support for the death penalty. And actually it did, at least for the Catholic Church's first 300 years.

During that era, the earliest disciples of Christ committed themselves to absolute nonviolence — no abortion, no war, no capital punishment.

Unfortunately, when Christianity became legalized, many began to relax the prohibition against violence — including capital punishment. It even came to the point that during the Middle Ages some people convicted of teaching heresy were condemned to death by certain church officials.

And still to this day, countless Catholics believe in the use of the death penalty, even though Pope John Paul II clearly called for its abolition.

In his prophetic encyclical, "The Gospel of Life," he taught that capital punishment should only be used when it is impossible to defend society in any other way. And he added this key sentence:

"Today, however, as a result of steady improvement in the organization of the penal system, such cases are very rare if not practically nonexistent."

Interestingly, before Benedict XVI was elected pope, as head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he said, Pope John Paul's "reservations about the death penalty are even stronger than those already present in the catechism and are a real development."

The future pope added that the next edition of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" would need to be revised to reflect Pope John Paul's more powerful teaching against capital punishment. And, indeed, the second edition echoes Pope John Paul's firm call for society to move beyond the death penalty.

The church's efforts to end capital punishment are rooted in the God-given dignity of every human being — even murderers.

Furthermore, our faith calls us to promote the common good of all. But the good of society is not served when our laws teach that violence is wrong sometimes — but not other times.

This inconsistency makes no sense and is a tremendous obstacle to building a world based on Christ-like love.

I remember a Catholic News Service photo of a Marianist brother demonstrating in front of the U.S. Supreme Court building. On his shirt was the message: Why do we kill people who kill people, to show that killing people is wrong?

Study after study confirms that capital punishment is not a deterrent to murder. For instance, according to Amnesty International, the murder rate in Canada has dropped by 40 percent since the death penalty was abolished in that country.

And then there is always the chance that an innocent person will be put to death. Since 1972 more than 120 people in U.S. prisons have been exonerated from death row.

More than 88 countries — including every nation in Europe — have completely abolished the death penalty. However, countries that our government has condemned, such as Iran, Syria, North Korea and Sudan, continue — like the United States — to execute human beings.

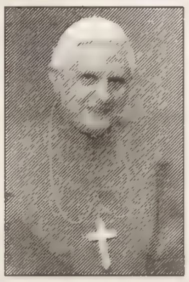
Jesus' life did not end with his execution on Calvary. Resurrection had the final word.

In the spirit of the risen Christ, let us rise from all that dehumanizes us — including capital punishment.

Pope: Week's liturgies a sign of Jesus' victory over darkness, death

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter are a reminder that Christ has won "the supreme battle between light and darkness, between life and death," Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his April 4 general audience, Pope Benedict explained the meaning of the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter.

They are not simply "a remembrance of a past reality," he said. "Even today Christ vanquishes sin and death with his love. Evil, in all its forms, does not have the last word. The final triumph is that of Christ, of truth and of love."

Pope Benedict urged Catholics to participate in the liturgies aware of their own darkness, faults and responsibilities so that they also can experience the power of Christ's victory on Easter.

At the Easter Vigil, he said, "the veil of sadness that enveloped the church because of the death and burial of the Lord is ripped apart by the victory cry: 'Christ is risen. He has defeated death forever.'"

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we approach the end of Lent and the commemoration of Christ's passion, death and resurrection, the church's liturgy invites us to contemplate the mystery of the cross, to acknowledge our sinfulness and, in faith, to unite ourselves with Jesus in his saving Passover from death to life.

Holy Thursday, with its celebration of the chrism Mass and the Mass of the Lord's Supper, evokes gratitude for Christ's institution of the sacraments of the Eucharist and holy orders, and for his new commandment of love.

Good Friday is centered on the Gospel of the Lord's passion and the adoration of his holy cross, the source of our salvation.

The somber silence of Holy Saturday is a prelude to the joy of the Easter Vigil, with its proclamation of Christ's victory over sin and death, the gift of his grace in the sacrament of baptism and the renewal of our baptismal promises.

These liturgical celebrations are not mere commemorations of past events; they introduce us to the ever-present reality of God's saving power.

Today, too, Christ's love triumphs over evil, sin and death. Truly, as St. Paul says, "If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him" (Rom 6:8).

Good Easter to all of you!

Pilgrims on the road 2007

Travel light — some absolutes, attitudes must be discarded

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

A few years ago, my husband Jim and I traveled to Florence, Italy, where our daughter Elizabeth was spending her junior year of college.

We flew into Milan where we were to take a train to Florence. But, alas, at the airport the incident all passengers dread happened to us: missing bags.

To my immense but silent relief, it was my husband's luggage absent and not mine. What would I do without my own stuff?

After it became obvious our luggage was lost, we went to the airline's office where they assured us the missing bags would appear on another flight and could be delivered to our hotel, so off we went to catch the train.

We kept in contact with the airline and received continued reassurances. But a day, then two, went by, and we would return to our little hotel in the heart of Florence and struggle with Italian to ask the lady behind the desk about our bags to no avail.

Finally, my husband decided he better give in and find some new clothes. Gonzaga University, Elizabeth's school, uses former hotels as their dorms in the old, historic part of Florence.

Her hotel was just blocks from the Duomo, Florence's famous church, and she took us walking down what she said was reputed to be "the most expensive street in Europe." Every designer you can imagine — Gucci, Prada, Versace — had shops on the street.

That of course was not the street where we decided to go clothes shopping. Instead we walked to the area around the railroad station where more modest retail stores served the general public. Fortunately for us, the dollar was strong against the euro, and the clothes were inexpensive.

But let's just say they were not exactly the kind of clothes you would find guys wearing in your hometown. They were very "Euro" — the jeans were tight and form-fitting and the shirts hugged the body. My daughter and I giggled as Jim modeled his new wardrobe.

But he needed clothes, so we left with a pair of jeans, a sweatshirt, some socks, new underwear and a couple of shirts. We teased that what he needed to round out his look was a gold chain.

When we arrived back at our hotel with our purchases — you guessed it. Jim's luggage was in the lobby, and the Euro-look wardrobe was donated to the poor box at the dorms.

Whenever I remember this, I recall how glad I was that my luggage was with me. And I remember an Ursuline sister, Carolyn Marie, who once gave me a plaque with this advice: "If you want to be a pilgrim on the road of life, you have to travel light."

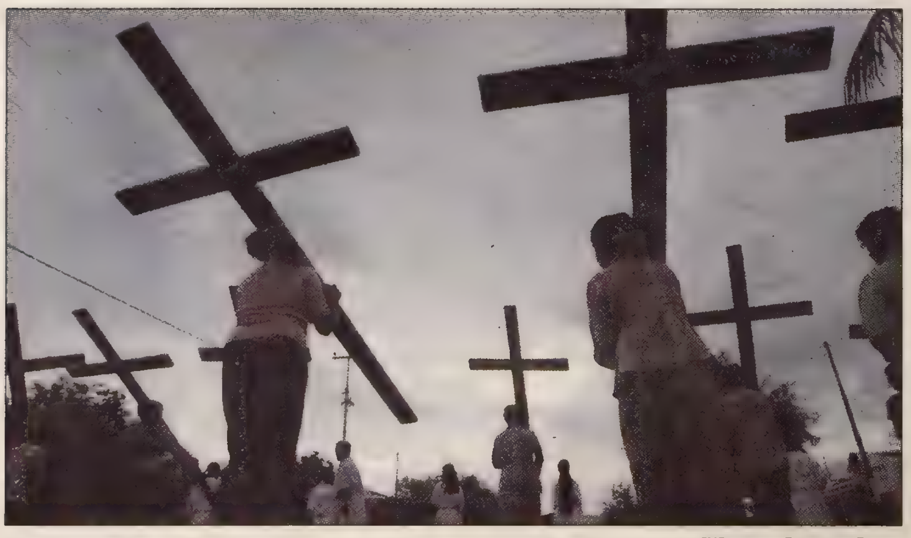
Sometimes when I pack my bags or clean out the junk in my house, I ask myself how I'm doing on Carolyn's admonition to be a pilgrim. How unencumbered is my travel through this world? What was in my Florence bag that I couldn't live without?

And more importantly, what attitudes or absolutes am I unwilling to examine and discard for the sake of the pilgrimage?

When I was still young, my friend Carolyn died in a car accident on her way to help establish a new Catholic religious community. She was Spirit-filled, and also filled with the excitement and experimentation of the post-Vatican II 1970s.

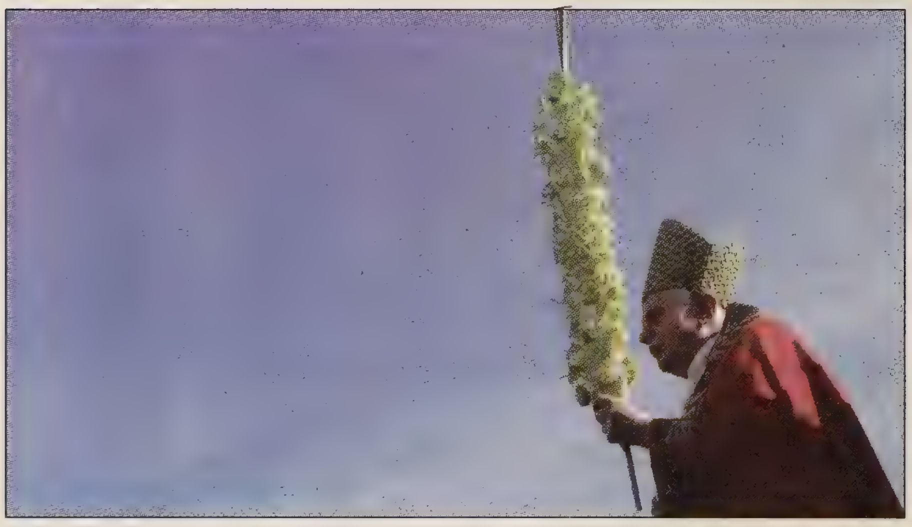
I still miss her and the youth and enthusiasm we both shared then. Sometimes I pray to Carolyn to help me be a better pilgrim and travel just a little more lightly.

Palm Sunday celebrations held around the world

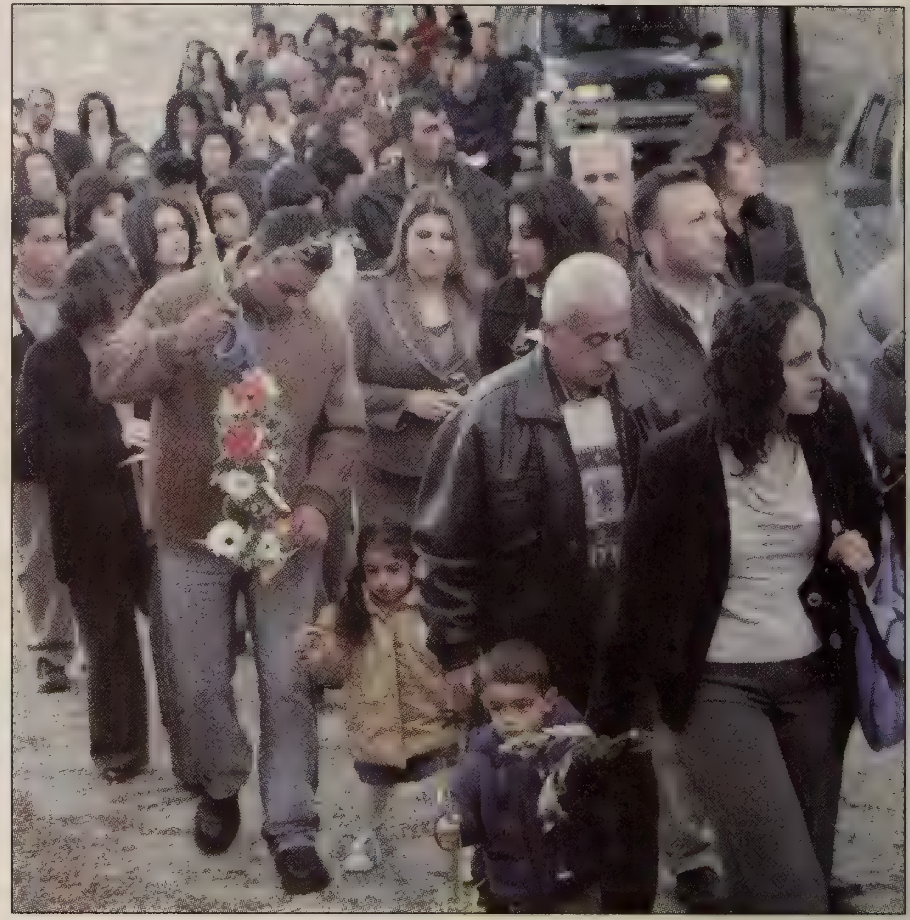


CNS PHOTO BY BEAWIHARTA, REUTERS

Above: East Timorese women carry wooden crosses as they walk during a Palm Sunday Mass in Dili, East Timor, April 1. Below: Pope Benedict XVI holds a palm frond as he celebrates Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 1.



CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS



CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Palestinian Catholics carry palm and olive branches during the Palm Sunday procession at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish in Aboud, West Bank, April 1.

"I like to listen to my Mommy's voice!"
Month 8
20 in.
19 in.
18 in.
"I'm eighteen inches!"
17 in.
16 in.
15 in.
14 in.
13 in.
12 in.
11 in.
10 in.
9 in.
8 in.
7 in.
6 in.
5 in.
4 in.
3 in.
2 in.
1 in.
CSS

In the last two months the baby continues to gain weight. She is developing a layer of fat that will keep her warm after she is born. In the 9th month she will shift to a head-down position, preparing for birth. Her lungs are now fully developed and capable of making the transition to breathing air. After birth she will continue the human growth process for approximately the next 80 years.

Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Retirement isn't what it used to be. PLAN accordingly.

Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church

100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202

(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397

http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

© 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

APRIL 20, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 26

In the News
Ecuadorean center helps break cycle of poverty
| PAGE 16

Tragedy on Va. Tech campus

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Paul VanSant, 24, a junior, and Erin Byrum, 23, a graduate student, sign a book in front of a makeshift campus memorial at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., April 16. A gunman, later identified as a Virginia Tech student, shot dozens of people at the university earlier that day. Student Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 people in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.

Shooting of Virginia Tech students 'tremendously sad,' bishop says

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The April 16 shooting spree at Virginia Tech that left at least 33 people dead is "tremendously sad," said Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond.

In a phone interview just hours after the shootings,

See SHOOTINGS, page 8

MORE COVERAGE
on the Va. Tech tragedy

PAGE 9 – Colleges pray for Va. Tech; pope saddened

PAGES 14-15 – Father Byron, David Hains reflect on tragedy

Limited child protection audits find most dioceses in compliance

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Twenty-seven of 29 Catholic dioceses and eparchies, including the Diocese of Charlotte, audited in 2006 complied with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse, says a report released April 11.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, activities related to the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" continued to take place in 2006 even though the Diocese of Charlotte was not required to participate in an annual audit.

The Diocese of Charlotte will take part in an audit of its compliance to the charter

See CHARTER, page 5

CNS PHOTO BY ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses two people who are wearing traditional Bavarian clothing during a Mass marking his 80th birthday in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 15. Pope Benedict thanked the church for surrounding him with affection "like a true family" and for supporting him with prayers.

Turning 80, pope thanks church for surrounding him with affection

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — At a Mass marking his 80th birthday, Pope Benedict XVI thanked the church for surrounding him with affection "like a true family" and for supporting him with prayers.

"Over and over, I recognize with joy how great is the number of people who sustain me with their prayers, who with their faith and love help me carry out my ministry, and who are indulgent with my weakness," he said April 15.

The Mass opened two days of celebrations commemorating the pope's April 16 birthday and the second anniversary of his election April 19. The festivities featured a Vatican

See POPE, page 6

Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act upheld

Abortion opponents laud Supreme Court

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court upheld the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act in a 5-4 decision April 18. The ruling was lauded by abortion opponents, including President

See ABORTION, page 7

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Knights councils collect $75K for disadvantaged
| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Books on 'spiritual entrepreneurs'; DVD features Catholic ball players
| PAGES 10-11

Easter Season
Parishes reenact Good Friday, serve homeless
| PAGES 12-13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

INSPIRED ARTISTS

CNS PHOTO BY ANNA WEAVER, HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

With her Eye Response Interface Computer Aid not working, paralyzed Hawaiian artist Peggy Chun communicates by pointing her eyes to letters and numbers on a "spell board" held by Shelly Mecum, a teacher at Holy Trinity School in Honolulu, while fellow volunteer Christine Amos writes down each letter Mecum calls out. Chun, who suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease, has the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders act as her hands weekly, watercoloring mosaic pieces according to the artist's instructions.

Paralyzed artist helps students create mosaic of Blessed Damien

HONOLULU (CNS) — A classroom at Holy Trinity School in Honolulu is crowded with students sitting around tables and painting small, thick paper squares with watercolors.

The students, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, talk about school activities, what they'll do after the half-day of school gets out, and who has painted more squares so far.

But they also talk about the new friend they're painting those squares for — local artist Peggy Chun, who suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease — and what all those little pieces will eventually become — a mosaic of Blessed Damien de Veuster.

The experience has made the students philosophical and reflective. Eighth-grader Joshua Aiu is amazed by Chun's unwavering determination despite the fact that the disease has progressed to the point where she is completely paralyzed except for her eyes.

"The Bible says that the church is the body of the Christ and that in it we work together," Joshua said. "And so when one part can't go on, or has a hard time, it's dependent on the rest of the body to help."

Every week since the start of the school year, Joshua and other Holy Trinity students have been acting as Peggy's hands, watercoloring mosaic pieces according to the artist's instructions.

In working with the students, Chun, a former Catholic-school drama and literature teacher known for her whimsical paintings and vibrant island artwork, and now her valiant battle with ALS, is passing along not only artistic skills but her spirit to a new generation.

Chun communicates with an Eye Response Interface Computer Aid that matches her eye movement with lasers. She looks at letters on the screen to spell out words, which the computer then "speaks."

Chun has a large crew of dedicated volunteers playfully called "Peg's Legs."

Lying in her hospital-style bed, Chun "spoke" about how the collaboration with Holy Trinity School started.

She said she first thought of doing an artwork of Blessed Damien in 2002. But her disease soon became too advanced to undertake such a project.

Chun and Mecum realized that by using a mosaic technique and students as the painters, the long-desired Damien project could be accomplished. Each week Chun, who has the completed image in her mind, gives Mecum a new color "formula" the students will use that week. Chun provides the paintbrushes, paper and paints.

"I find that the fact that this painting is being created by a community is remarkable," Chun said. She also loves working with the students. "Their enthusiasm spills onto the little, tiny squares," she said. She sees each square as "a miniature abstract painting using (the students') newfound knowledge about color and its complements."

However, for Chun, the most important thing about the project isn't the mosaic itself but the experience the students take from it, and imparting the same creative spirit she received from her own teachers.

"I keep thinking how knowing that they had a part in creating this painting, how this will stay with (the students) forever," she said. "Just think how much fun these children are having learning without realizing where this will take them."

Bishop weighs in on debate over care of dying Texas boy

AUSTIN, Texas — Citing difficult decisions in his own family and the example of Pope John Paul II, Bishop Gregory Aymond of Austin said Catholic teaching would permit the withdrawal of extraordinary medical treatment for Emilio Gonzales, a dying 17-month-old boy at Children's Hospital of Austin.

Catarina Gonzales has been fighting for continued medical treatment of her son at the hospital, which is part of the Seton Family of Hospitals, a 31-facility Catholic health system in central Texas. The boy's physicians and other hospital officials have recommended that the child be removed from a respirator and given only "comfort care."

Emilio, who has been blind and deaf since birth and was admitted to the hospital Dec. 27 with a collapsed lung, has been diagnosed with Leigh's disease, a rare disorder that is causing his central nervous system to break down. The disease is considered incurable.

In an April 15 statement, Bishop Aymond offered a brief overview of church teaching on extraordinary, or disproportionate, medical care and ordinary, or proportionate, medical care.

"Generally, if a medical procedure carries little hope of benefit and is excessively burdensome, Catholics — and Catholic institutions — are not morally obligated to pursue that procedure," Bishop Aymond said. "Even Pope John Paul II was adamant that he would not accept extraordinary medical care as his health declined."

"Catholic moral teaching on ethically required medical care states that we realize that all reasonable means must be used to preserve human life and to promote the profound dignity that belongs to it," the bishop added. "At the same time, we recognize that sometimes we should not use modern technology if it inflicts greater suffering on our loved one, and holds them back from being able to go home to God."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — *"Climate Change: Our Faith Response"* will explore global warming from a Catholic perspective. This teleconference will link four Appalachian states and will convene five resource people discussing science, health problems, theology and practical concerns about climate change. The conference will take place April 28, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. in Robinson Hall, Room 125 at UNC-Asheville. There is no charge but registration is required. For additional information or to register, call Mary Herr at (828) 497-9498 or e-mail maryherr@dnet.net.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Father John Vianney Hoover will present *"The History of the Catholic Church in North Carolina"* at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Ln., May 5, 9:30-3 p.m. For reservations and more information, call Brother Bill Harkin at (828) 926-3833.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — All South Charlotte Cursillistas and their families are invited to join us for *Ultreya* in the family room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., April 22, 12-2 p.m. Butch Mayer, lay director, will give an inspirational talk on "Evangelizing our Environments." Please bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. For more information, contact Heather Martin at (704) 544-7011. Baby-sitting is available with early reservations — call Vicki Torres at (704) 543-7677, ext 1011.

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East., will have a *Holy Hour, Rosary and Benediction* for an end to abortion and all the culture of death following the Vigil Mass April 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — Dominican Sister Jane Dominic Laurel will speak on *"Growing in Holiness through Being a Faithful Spouse and Parent"* at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., May 4 at 7:30 p.m. There is no fee but RSVP to renee@catholicscripturestudy.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat,* 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for May 4 will be "The Sacred Vocation of Motherhood." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

CHARLOTTE — Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., will present "*Stem Cells and Cloning: Understanding the Scientific Issues and the Moral Objections"* May 12, 8:45-10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Father Pacholczyk holds undergraduate degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology and chemistry and a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University. Parking in The Green and admission are free; seating is limited. To pre-register, e-mail stemcell@juno.com or call (803) 517-2600 or (704) 332-2901. For more details, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — A *Support Group for Caregivers of a Family Member with Memory Loss* meets the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

APRIL 20, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 26

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

After saints, most-quoted author in pope's new book is a U.S. rabbi

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After the Gospel writers and the apostle Paul, the author most quoted in Pope Benedict XVI's new book is Rabbi Jacob Neusner, a U.S. professor of religion and theology.

In his book, "Jesus of Nazareth," released April 16 in Italian, German and Polish, Pope Benedict joined the literary dialogue that Rabbi Neusner invented for himself in his 1993 book, "A Rabbi Talks With Jesus."

The pope said that Rabbi Neusner's "profound respect for the Christian faith and his faithfulness to Judaism led him to seek a dialogue with Jesus."

Imagining himself amid the crowd gathered on a Galilean hillside when Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, Rabbi Neusner "listens, confronts and speaks with Jesus himself," the pope wrote.

"In the end, he decides not to follow Jesus," the pope wrote. "He remains faithful to that which he calls the 'eternal Israel.'"

Pope Benedict said Rabbi Neusner makes painfully clear the differences between Christianity and Judaism, but "in a climate of great love: The rabbi accepts the otherness of the message of Jesus and takes his leave with a detachment that knows no hatred."

The pope praised Rabbi Neusner for taking the Gospel of Jesus seriously and, in fact, more seriously than many modern Christian scholars do.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna, presenting the pope's book at an April 13 Vatican conference, said reading Rabbi Neusner's book was "one of the reasons" Pope Benedict decided to write his.

"What Pope Benedict says about the book (by Rabbi Neusner) is so essential for understanding his own book about Jesus," the cardinal said.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before of shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. ToT will meet Wednesdays through May 9, at 6:45 p.m. at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy. For more informatiom, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet May 3, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes meet at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or e-mail stalscss@charter.net.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — The Spirit of Assisi hosts a *Wednesday Lunch & Speaker Series* each Wednesday, 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Gerald Berry will speak on "What is Pax Christi?" at the April 25 program. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered at 12 p.m. in the chapel. For more information and to RSVP, call Sister Kathy Ganiel at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com. Walk-ins are welcome.

KING —Good Shepherd Mission, 105 Good Shepherd Dr. at Kirby Road, will celebrate its *25th Anniversary* June 10 during the 12 p.m. Mass. All former parishioners are invited to attend the Mass and reception. Please e-mail historical pictures and stories to Lance Kull at lancekull@hotmail.com by May 5. For more information, call (336) 972-5934.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 21 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

April 21 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Benedict Church, Greensboro

April 22 — 9 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
[illegible] Church, Reidsville

April 23 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

April 24 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Committee Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

April 24 — 6 p.m.
Friends of Seminarians Dinner
Grandover Resort, Greensboro

April 26 — 3:10 p.m.
Spring Fling for Seniors Closing Mass
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

April 27 — 3 p.m.
Catholic Daughters State Convention
Charlotte Marriott Executive Hotel, Charlotte

World must do more to support Iraqi refugees, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The international community must do more to welcome and support the thousands of refugees daily fleeing the "horrific violence" in Iraq, a Vatican official said.

"The world is witnessing an unprecedented degree of hate and destructiveness in Iraq," which not only destroys the "social tissue and the unity of Iraq," but is exerting "a widening deadly impact" on the whole Middle East, said Archbishop Silvano Tomasi.

The Vatican's representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva spoke there April 17 at an international conference addressing the humanitarian needs of Iraq's refugees and internally displaced people.

The archbishop said history has shown that the international community can be effective in creating "durable solutions" to the massive displacement of peoples.

Now nations must help Iraq's refugees and internally displaced people by providing "a coordinated, effective and generous response," he said.

"This is not the time to look at technical definitions of a refugee," he said. More countries need to open their doors to greater numbers of displaced Iraqis "so that pressure within the region may be alleviated on a short-term basis."

Some 2 million Iraqis are displaced within their country, while nearly 2 million more people have fled the country since the U.S.-led war started in 2003. Between 40,000 and 50,000 Iraqis are leaving their homes each month, according to U.N. statistics.

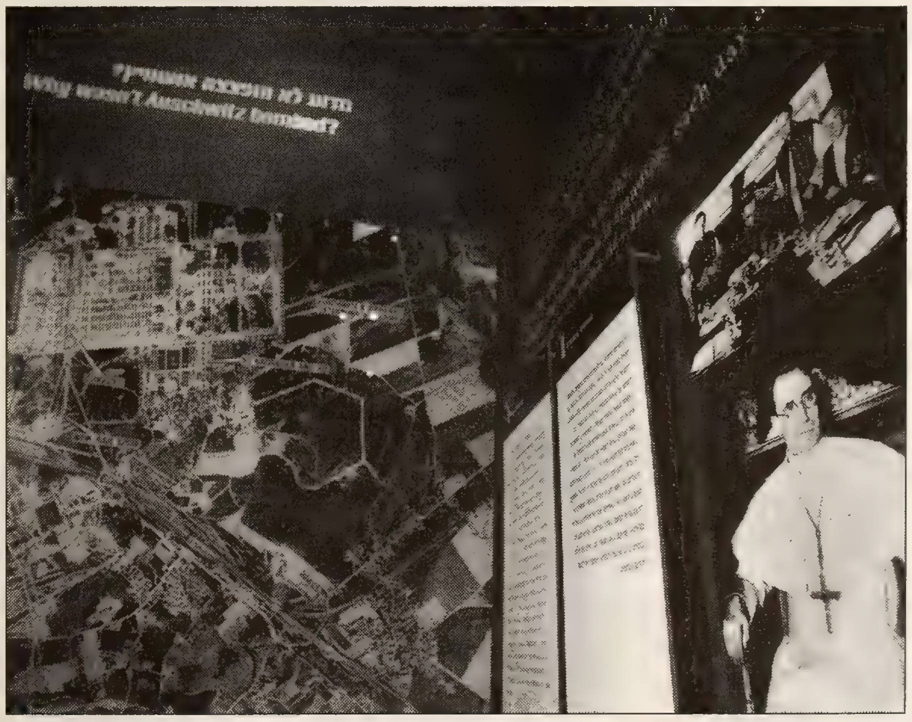
At present, Jordan and Syria have absorbed much of the wave of Iraqi refugees, resulting in increasing pressure and strain on their own economies and social structures.

The International Catholic Migration Commission also participated in the April 17-18 conference, sponsored by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. This migration commission works with migrants, refugees and other uprooted people in 30 countries around the world.

The Catholic commission echoed the Vatican's calls for nations to increase support of humanitarian aid to those displaced by the conflict and to guarantee refugees protection from being involuntarily sent back to their home countries if their lives or freedoms would be at risk.

The commission also called on the United States and Europe to welcome more Iraqi refugees for resettlement in their countries and asked that all Iraqis be guaranteed the right to "genuine access" to asylum processes.

Controversial memorial



CNS PHOTO BY YONATHAN WEITZMAN, REUTERS

An image depicting Pope Pius XII is seen displayed at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem April 15. Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Vatican ambassador to Israel, had asked the museum to change the photo caption, which he said was offensive to him and to Catholics worldwide.

The photograph of Pope Pius and its caption have been on display in the renovated memorial since it reopened in March 2005. The caption states that Pope Pius refused to sign a 1942 Allied condemnation of the massacre of the Jews.

If new information — perhaps from the release of Vatican Archives information to Yad Vashem researchers — provides a different picture, Yad Vashem certainly would reflect that in the caption, Avner Shalev, chairman of the memorial, said in an April 15 statement.

During Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem April 16, Israel commemorated the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

Knights sell Tootsie Rolls to benefit disadvantaged

Courtesy Photo

The Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council 939 in Greensboro collected $33,924 during its annual "Tootsie Roll Drive" in 2006.

Each year, Knights of Columbus councils around the country hold Tootsie Roll Drives, selling the candy outside churches and local businesses. Funds collected from the drive benefit programs for the mentally handicapped.

Organizations receiving these funds included Gateway Education Center, ARC Housing Development, ARC of Greensboro, Eastern Guilford Middle School, Exceptional Friends Art Studio, Grimsley High School Special Education, Guilford County Pre-K Special Education, Guilford Middle School Special Education, Horse Friends, Lifespan, Lindley Health Services, McIver Education Center, Pilot Elementary School, RHA Health Services, RHA Howell Center, Sanctuary House, Southeast Middle School, Special Olympics and Washington School Special Education.

Pictured with representatives of the recipient organizations are Tom Thompson, co-chairman; Bill O'Neil, reporter for WXII television in Winston-Salem; Pat Rooney, co-chairman for street donations; Jim Martin, deputy grand knight; and Bill Eastwood, general chairman for street and corporate accounts.

Please join the
Piedmont Triad Office of
Catholic Social Services
for the fourth annual
PARTNERS IN HOPE
fund raising event to benefit our programs

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Tuesday — May 8, 2007
6 pm to 9 pm

Millennium Center
101 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Tickets: $75 per person / $550 table for eight

Reservations: Call Tammy at 336-714-3228
Please reserve space by Wednesday, April 25.

Knights distribute funds

Courtesy Photo

Siobann Travers and Cassie Walenciak, teachers at Old Town Global Academy in Winston-Salem, receive a check presented by Dave Shepherd, treasurer of Knights of Columbus Council 8509.

During the Knights of Columbus Annual Awards Dinner at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville March 29, $40,576 was distributed among 24 organizations in the Winston-Salem area. About 90 members from four area councils attended the dinner, including Council 9499 in Clemmons, Council 8509 in Kernersville, and Councils 2829 and 10504 in Winston-Salem.

The funds were distributed to Carter Vocational High School; Community Classroom Living Skills Program; Marvin Ward Elementary School; Old Town Global Academy; Senior Services, Inc.; South Fork Elementary School; and Union Cross Elementary School.

On behalf of Union Cross Elementary School, Eileen Nutter received a special award for outstanding participation in assisting the Knights during the annual Tootsie Roll fundraising campaign.

You are Invited
To the 2007
"Life is Sweet"
Pro-Life Conference
& Dessert Social

Hosted by Charlotte area Right to Life
Saturday, May 5th 1:00 – 4:00pm
St. Gabriel Catholic Church Parish Center
Featuring Debi Vinnedge
Founder of *Children of God for Life*

Plus, Break-out Sessions on:
- *Embryonic Stem Cells*
- *Post Abortion Issues*
- *Sidewalk Prayer & Counseling*

www.CharlotteLife.org

© www.camilleallen.com

Charlotte diocese found in compliance with charter

Overall audit results encouraging, review board chair says

CHARTER, *from page 1*

during 2007.

However, four dioceses that were not found in compliance in 2005 refused to participate in the 2006 audit.

"The overall results of the 2006 audit are encouraging," said Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, chairwoman of the bishops' all-lay National Review Board. But she described the refusal of four dioceses to participate as "discouraging news."

Two — the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., and the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, Mass. — had refused to participate in the 2005 audits as well and were supposed to undergo full audits. The Diocese of Baker, Ore., and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark (N.J.) for Syriacs refused partial audits that would have focused on those areas where they did not meet compliance standards in 2005.

William A. Gavin, president of the Massachusetts-based Gavin Group, which conducted the audits, reported that among the dioceses that were audited in 2006 only the Cincinnati Archdiocese and the Diocese of Burlington, Vt., were found to be not yet fully compliant with the abuse response and child protection standards set by the bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The remaining problem in both dioceses was the need to complete the safe environment training of all volunteers who work with children, he said.

He told Catholic News Service that both dioceses have been "very conscientious" about working toward full compliance and he expects they will reach that goal this year.

The report on the 2006 audits, prepared by the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, was released by Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, after the National Review Board reviewed it and recommended its publication.

Noting the high level of compliance on all articles of the charter, Bishop Skylstad said, "Vigilance to ensure the safety of children is now a way of life."

"In the last five years we have made enormous progress, yet we must continue to proceed steadfastly," he said.

2006 was a transition year for the audits. To adjust better to the rhythms of parish and diocesan life that are built around the school year and summer vacation time, future audits will go from July 1 to June 30 instead of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. All dioceses are to receive a full 2007 audit, which will look at compliance from July 2006 to June 2007.

At the review board's suggestion, with the approval of the USCCB, for the transition year of 2006, audits were required only for those who failed full compliance with one or more charter requirements in the 2005 audit, and those audits focused only on the 2005 elements of noncompliance.

Teresa M. Kettelkamp, executive director of the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection, said the audits show that "the church has done a lot" to protect children from sex abuse and respond to it when it occurs.

"But … this does not mean the job is done," she said. "Victims continue to come forward and a welcoming hand needs to reach out to them. Children still need our protection and safe environments must be maintained for them."

During the past fiscal year, the Diocese of Charlotte provided $11,880 in financial assistance to or on behalf of victims, all of which was used for counseling services. As in the past, none of these funds came from the Diocesan Support Appeal or from parish savings.

"The diocese's responsibility to safeguard the young and the vulnerable is further fulfilled through screening of employees and volunteers," said David Hains, diocesan director of communications. In the past fiscal year, more than 4,500 background checks were processed.

The review board of the diocese investigates allegations of church worker sexual misconduct, Hains said.

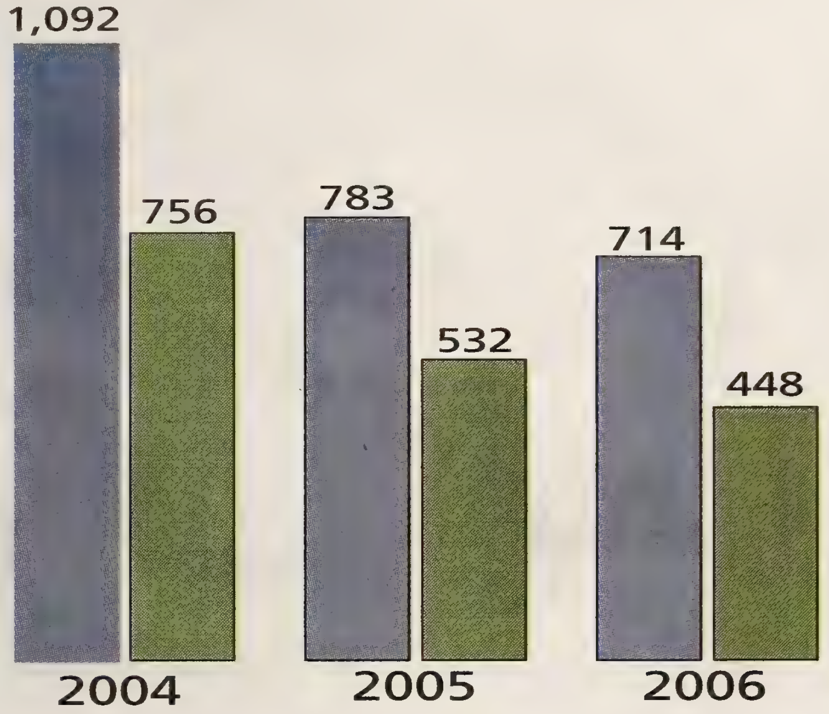
In the last fiscal year, the review board investigated five allegations of misconduct. Of those allegations two involved members of the clergy. In the first case the member of clergy is deceased. The other member, while no longer serving in the Diocese of Charlotte, was removed from priestly ministry.

"These activities represent a significant commitment by the diocese to provide a safe environment for our children and young people," said Hains. The cost of the various programs totaled $70,937 during the fiscal year.

Staff Writer Karen A. Evans and Director of Communications David Hains contributed to this story.

Abuse Allegations

The number of abuse **allegations** and **offenders** has been on the decline since 2004.



Source: Canter for Applied Research in the Apostolate ©2007 CNS

Only 8 spaces left — call today!

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

Reserve today for best cabin choice and lowest rates! Call for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Pope celebrates 80th birthday with Mass, thanks

POPE, *from page 1*

concert, dozens of written testimonials and a giant birthday cake in the shape of the Vatican.

Some 50,000 people, including German pilgrims wearing traditional dress, jammed into St. Peter's Square for the liturgy. The altar area was surrounded by thousands of flowers — yellow and white, the colors of the Vatican.

Cardinals and bishops processed with the pontiff through the square to a canopied altar area on the steps of the basilica. Seated near the front were German civil authorities from the pope's native Bavaria and ecumenical representatives from Orthodox churches.

Greeting the pope in the name of the College of Cardinals, Cardinal Angelo Sodano said his 80th birthday marked a moment of "spiritual joy" for the entire church.

He thanked the pope for guiding the church with love during the first two years of his pontificate.

In his sermon, the pope appeared a little reticent about being the focus of the Mass, saying the liturgy should not be the place "to speak about oneself." But he added that one's personal life can also offer lessons about God's mercy.

The pope said he always felt he was given a special gift by being born on Holy Saturday, at "the beginning of Easter." In a sense, he said, he was born into his personal family and the larger family of the church on the same day.

He said his family helped lead him to God, and he expressed his gratitude to his own father, mother, sister and brother. The only surviving member of his immediate family, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, sat near the papal altar.

The pope described his priestly ordination in 1951 as a turning point in his life. As he approached the ordination Mass, he said, "the awareness of the poverty of my existence in the face of this new task weighed upon me."

But during the ordination, he said, he came to realize that he would not be alone when he heard the invocation of the saints and the words of Christ in the Gospel: "I no longer call you slaves ... I will call you friends.

"I was able to have a profound experience: The Lord was not only the Lord, but also a friend. He placed his hand in mine and will not leave me," he said.

As his responsibilities have grown in life, the friendship of Christ has given him the strength to face them, he said. There is a lesson here for everyone, he added.

"The mercy of God accompanies us day by day. We only need to have a vigilant heart in order to perceive it," he said.

"We're too inclined to notice only the daily toil that's been imposed on us, as sons of Adam. But if we open our hearts, we can see continually how good God is with us," he said.

At the end of the Mass, the pope said he was moved by the vast crowd that had gathered in the square.

"From the depth of my heart, I renew my most sincere thanks and extend it to the entire church, which, like a true family, especially in these days, surrounds me with affection," he said.

The Vatican set up a temporary e-mail address where people can send birthday greetings to the pope: http://isidoro.vatican.va/auguri/auguri.php?lingua=en.

Meanwhile, gifts poured into the Vatican. The pope's private secretary, Msgr. Georg Ganswein, said they included letters, books, flowers, compact discs and even a giant teddy bear, which the pope donated to the Bambino Gesu children's hospital in Rome.

Msgr. Ganswein said the pope had said he did not want to accept personal gifts from the faithful. Those who want to give something can make an offering that the pope will use for special church or humanitarian causes, the papal secretary said.

One gift the pope did accept was a cope, or liturgical cloak, given him by his brother. The pope also received 80 bottles of beer from a brewery near Freising, Germany.

The pope joined cardinals for a private birthday lunch at the Vatican April 16, where he was given a check for 100,000 euros (about $135,000) collected by the Roman Curia's cardinals, designated for the support of Catholic communities in the Holy Land.

The Vatican newspaper published eight pages of articles commenting on the pope and his ministry, under the main headline: "Hearts Overflowing With Joy."

"Joy is the key word for the teaching ministry of this universal pastor," an editorial said.

At that evening's concert in the Vatican's audience hall, the pope listened to the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra perform pieces by Mozart and two other composers.

In a brief talk, the pope said he was convinced that music is "the universal language of beauty," capable of uniting people and reminding them of transcendent realities.

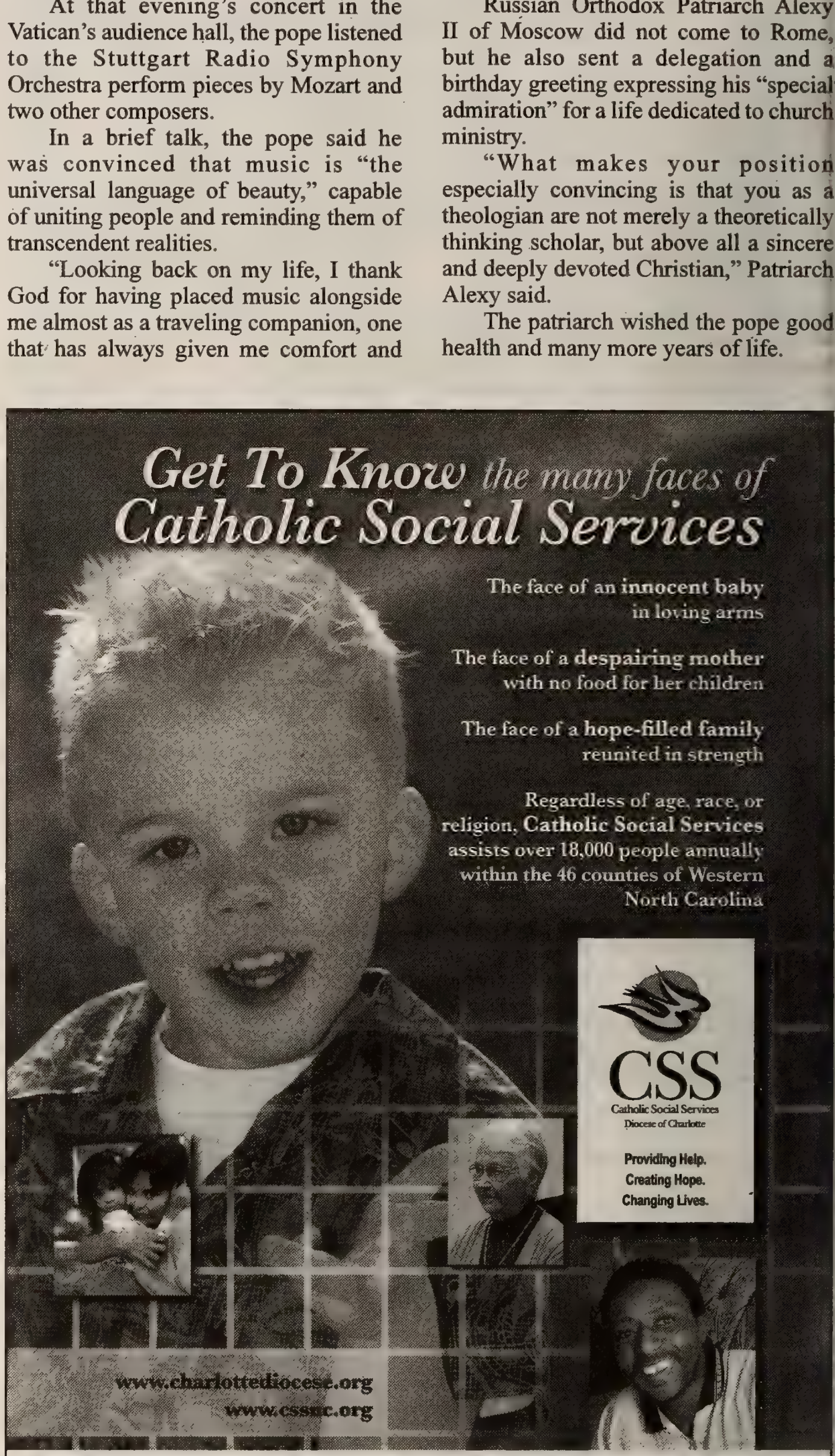
"Looking back on my life, I thank God for having placed music alongside me almost as a traveling companion, one that has always given me comfort and joy," he said.

Among those attending the concert was a delegation from the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, which earlier in the day gave the pope a congratulatory message from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow did not come to Rome, but he also sent a delegation and a birthday greeting expressing his "special admiration" for a life dedicated to church ministry.

"What makes your position especially convincing is that you as a theologian are not merely a theoretically thinking scholar, but above all a sincere and deeply devoted Christian," Patriarch Alexy said.

The patriarch wished the pope good health and many more years of life.



Get To Know the many faces of Catholic Social Services

The face of an **innocent baby** in loving arms

The face of a **despairing mother** with no food for her children

The face of a **hope-filled family** reunited in strength

Regardless of age, race, or religion, **Catholic Social Services** assists over 18,000 people annually within the 46 counties of Western North Carolina

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Providing Help.
Creating Hope.
Changing Lives.

www.charlottediocese.org
www.cssnc.org

MISSION STATEMENT OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

We are a Christian ministry of charity, service and justice dedicated to providing help to those in need, hope to those in despair, and inspiration for others to follow.

CORE VALUES

1. We are faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church as expressed in Sacred Scripture and Catholic Tradition.
2. We respect the sanctity of human life from conception to a natural death.
3. We are active advocates for social justice.
4. We work to assist our clients in developing and strengthening their God-given talents and abilities.
5. We have a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.
6. We recognize diversity by providing services, according to our Catholic Teaching, to people of various economic, social, religious, racial or ethnic backgrounds.
7. We adhere to responsible stewardship.
8. We are committed to professionalism.
9. We partner with parishes and others of good will to strengthen services to clients.
10. We minister to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those we serve.

704-370-3228 336-727-0705 828-255-0146

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations Coming Soon!

We're ready to help with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we celebrate with you their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or one of our **scheduled parish visits:**
St. Philip, Statesville – Sat. & Sun., April 21-22 after Masses
St. James, Hamlet and Sacred Heart, Wadesboro – April 28 and 29, after all Masses

SPECIAL PARISH VISITS: If you'd like to arrange a parish visit, ask your pastor to call me, manager Allen Bond, and we'll make every effort to meet his schedule. May God Bless you all as we approach Easter.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

President Bush, abortion foes applaud court's decision to uphold ban

ABORTION, *from page 1*

George W. Bush, who called partial-birth abortion an "abhorrent procedure" in an April 18 statement from the White House.

"Today's decision affirms that the Constitution does not stand in the way of the people's representatives enacting laws reflecting the compassion and humanity of America. The partial-birth abortion ban, which an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress passed and I signed into law, represents a commitment to building a culture of life in America," said Bush.

He signed it into law in 2003, but because of court challenges it never went into effect.

"The Supreme Court's decision is an affirmation of the progress we have made over the past six years in protecting human dignity and upholding the sanctity of life. We will continue to work for the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law."

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing the majority opinion in the Gonzalez v. Carhart and Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood cases, said the law's opponents "have not demonstrated that the act would be unconstitutional in a large fraction of relevant cases."

Also voting in the majority were Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

Voting in the minority were Justices Paul Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter and John Paul Stevens.

In her dissenting opinion, Ginsburg said the decision "tolerates, indeed applauds, federal intervention to ban nationwide a procedure found necessary and proper in certain cases by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists." She added the decision "refuses to take ... seriously" previous Supreme Court decisions on abortion.

Six federal courts had ruled the act had unconstitutionally restricted a woman's legal right to an abortion. In October the Supreme Court accepted cases from California — the Planned Parenthood case — and Nebraska — the Dr. Leroy Carhart case. The high court conducted oral arguments in November.

In what the law calls partial-birth abortion, also referred to as an "intact dilation and extraction," a live fetus is partially delivered and an incision is made at the base of the skull, through which the brain is removed, and then the dead body is delivered the rest of the way.

In the 1990s, Congress had twice passed a ban on partial-birth abortions. Both times the bills were vetoed by President Bill Clinton.

In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska ban on partial-birth abortions. Writing for a 5-4 majority at that time, Breyer said the law imposed an undue burden on a woman's right to make an abortion decision. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who died in September 2005, and now-retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor were both on the high court at the time this ruling was issued. O'Connor sided with the majority, and Rehnquist with the minority.

In 2003, Congress again passed a ban on partial-birth abortions, and the bill was signed into law by Bush.

Kennedy's majority opinion said there was "medical disagreement whether the act's prohibition would ever impose significant health risks on women" — a prohibition based in significant part on the finding that the procedure was never medically necessary — and that other procedures exist to abort late-term pregnancies.

During the November oral arguments, Solicitor General Paul Clement, who argued for the federal government, said Congress had sufficient evidence that "partial-birth abortions were never medically necessary, and that safe alternatives were always available such that no woman would be prevented from terminating her pregnancy. As a result, Congress was entitled to make a judgment in furthering its legitimate interests that they were going to ban a particularly gruesome procedure that blurred the line between abortion and infanticide."

A brief separate opinion written by Thomas and joined by Scalia said they wanted to reiterate their view that "the court's abortion jurisprudence ... has no basis in the Constitution."

In statements issued April 18, abortion opponents rejoiced in the decision.

"Granted this is a very small step, but it is the first step away from a society that looks at the life of an unwanted, unborn child as nothing more than a problem that needs to be disposed of, and the first step toward a society that respects and values all human life," said a statement by former Republican Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, author of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

"When drafting this legislation, we were confident that it would withstand constitutional scrutiny and today's ruling confirms that belief," said a statement by Rep. Steve Chabot, R-Ohio, who sponsored the bill in the House. "Our legislation was supported by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress, signed into law by the president and has now been upheld by our highest court."

In praising the decision, Father Frank Pavone, president of Priests for Life, said: "Congress and the vast majority of state legislators and American citizens have made it clear over the last decade that this procedure — by which a child is killed in the very process of delivery — has no place in a civilized society."

"Finally," said National Right to Life Committee legislative director Douglas Johnson, "it is illegal in America to mostly deliver a premature infant before puncturing her skull and removing her brain, which is what a partial-birth abortion is."

"I am encouraged by the important strides made by the court today," said Mailee Smith, staff counsel of Americans United for Life. "The court sent the message that it will not strike down abortion regulations simply because they are abortion regulations."

"We are waiting for the anti-Catholic bigots to go bonkers over the fact that all five of the justices who voted against infanticide are Roman Catholic," said a statement by William Donohue, head of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

History of the Act

1995
Congress approves Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

1996
President Clinton vetoes bill. Congress fails to override veto.

1997
Congress approves Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

1998
Clinton vetoes act again. Congress fails to override veto.

2003
Oct. 21 — Congress approves act for third time

Nov. 3 — President George W. Bush signs bill into law. Court challenges are filed to stop enforcement of the law.

2004
Sept. 8 — U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf becomes the third federal judge to rule the act unconstitutional

2005
July 8 — Three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upholds the Kopf ruling.

2007
April 18 — U.S. Supreme Court upholds the act banning partial-birth abortions.

Source: CNS reports

©2007 CNS

The Oratory Religion Camp

. Two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park the weeks of July 15-21 and July 22-28, 2007.
. Boys and girls under 12 who will enter grades 2-6 in September can apply for consideration.
. Swimming, crafts and religious activities.
. The fee is $125.

For information and application: **www.oratorycamp.com**

Visit us online at www.rockhilloratory.com

The Oratory Religion Camp, P. O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586.
Volunteer counselors (16 or older) can write for an application.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Tragedy strikes Virginia university campus

SHOOTINGS, *from page 1*

Teresa Volante, Catholic campus minister at Virginia Tech, said she had sent out an electronic notice that the Newman Center chapel was open for anyone who wanted to stop in and pray.

But she said the center, located just off the campus, was rather quiet at that time since the dormitories on campus were still locked down and the off-campus students had been instructed to stay away.

"I'm here for students to talk to," she said.

Later in the afternoon Debbie McClintock, a volunteer who came in to help, told Catholic News Service that people at the center were calm and were focused on helping anyone who came in. A prayer service was held at 7 p.m. at the center.

At St. Mary's Church, the only Catholic parish in Blacksburg, the receptionist said the pastor, Father James Arsenault, had spent more than three hours at the hospital with those who were wounded before heading over to the university to help there.

She said the church would be open all afternoon, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed for adoration, followed by a special Mass in the evening.

Father Rob Cole from Our Lady of Nazareth Church in Roanoke came in to celebrate the Mass, since Father Arsenault was still busy ministering to victims and their families.

The university president, Charles Steger, called the shootings "a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions."

Bishop DiLorenzo, who celebrated a noon Mass for the victims April 17 at the cathedral in Richmond, said his heart goes out to the parents and family members of the dead students.

"At this time one cannot help but think of the endless years of commitment, of love and care these parents have invested in their children and then to have it all cut down by a bullet is tremendously sad," he said.

"The tragedy really hit home with me," he said, because he learned of it at a chancery luncheon that included two women who have children studying at Virginia Tech. He said that fortunately their children were not harmed.

Emily Flach, a freshman business major who lives on campus, said, "People are just really shocked. It's unbelievable that something like this happened."

She told CNS at 3 p.m. that many students had not eaten all day because of the lockdown and a remaining uncertainty about whether it was safe to go out.

She said her dormitory is about three minutes' walk from West Ambler Johnston, the dormitory where two students were killed in the first shooting about 7:15 a.m.

Two hours later the gunman, identified as Cho Seung-Hui, a 23-year-old senior from South Korea, attacked students attending classes in Norris Hall, an engineering building, shooting more than 40 people before killing himself as police were closing in.

The initial death toll was placed at 22, including Cho, but as the day wore on the number of confirmed dead rose to 33.

When Flach learned there would be a prayer service at the Newman Center that evening, she said she thought that was a good idea. "I think the best thing we can do is come together ... and pray for everyone," she said.

Anne Greenwood, a second-year graduate student in history, said she was in a conference room in the Major Williams building, when Cho began shooting people at nearby Norris Hall.

She said the first notice the group she was with had about the shootings was when they began receiving campus e-mail around 9:30 a.m. In quick succession, messages from the administration said there had been a shooting in a residence hall, then warned everyone that a gunman was still on campus and that they should stay inside.

Greenwood said the people she was with were unsure whether they were hearing gunshots because of extreme high winds at the time.

"To be quite honest, it was scary as hell," she said.

Speaking with CNS a couple of hours after students were allowed to leave the campus, Greenwood said the impact of the gunman's toll was still hitting her.

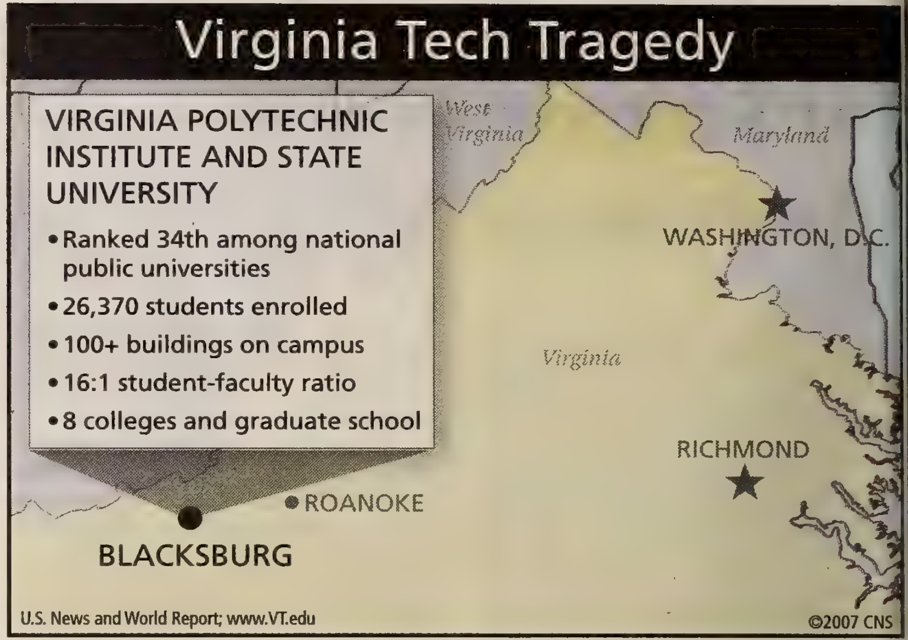
"I'm having a hard time dealing with the fact that so many died," she said.

The April 16 shooting was the deadliest on-campus attack in U.S. history. Before that the worst was at the University of Texas in Austin in 1966, when a gunman climbed a clock tower and killed 16 people before police killed him.

Last year on the first day of classes for the 2006-07 school year at Virginia Tech, an escaped inmate was captured near the campus after he allegedly shot and killed a sheriff's deputy and a security guard. While the search for the inmate was on, classes were canceled, the Virginia Tech campus was closed and students and staff were ordered to stay indoors.

Virginia Tech has about 26,000 students. Volante said about 800 to 1,000 of the students regularly attend Sunday Mass at the Newman Center or are involved in activities there.

Contributing to this story were Jerry Filteau and Patricia Zapor in Washington.


Virginia Tech Tragedy

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

- Ranked 34th among national public universities
- 26,370 students enrolled
- 100+ buildings on campus
- 16:1 student-faculty ratio
- 8 colleges and graduate school

U.S. News and World Report; www.VT.edu

©2007 CNS

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Learn Rosary Making

A Catholic Tradition

Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer!

LEWIS & COMPANY

Dedicated to Rosary Making!

rosaryparts.com

(800) 342 - 2400

Mary's Garden

TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

We're a small store with a large inventory – **over 6,000 items in stock.**

Our First Communion & Confirmation items include:

1st Communion Sets and Mass Books in English & Spanish
11 Styles of Veils for Girls plus purses, Rosary Bracelets, & more
Boy's Ties in White, Navy, Red, & Black
Cards, Invitations, Bibles, Crosses, Crucifixes, Candles, & more

Gifts for Baptisms, Weddings, Anniversaries, Graduations, Memorials, etc.

Phone: 704 823 7244 **Toll Free: 866 823 7244**

Location:
3816 S. New Hope Rd
Suite 27
Gastonia, NC 28056

Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10 AM to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

Take the Survey!

The Catholic News & Herald is conducting a reader survey. If you are chosen and receive a survey from Bishop Peter Jugis, please take the time to answer the questions and return the form.

Survey results will be published in June.

Nation shocked, bewildered by campus tragedy

U.S. colleges offer prayers for Virginia Tech, counseling to students

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Shaken students and employees at colleges and universities across the country turned to prayer, counseling and various types of outreach as they tried to understand the carnage that left 33 people, including at least 12 Catholics, dead at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., April 16.

Campus ministry programs in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York were among those compiling books of prayers from students for their counterparts at the southwestern Virginia university. A 23-year-old student, Cho Seung-Hui, is believed to have killed 32 students and faculty members and wounded more than a dozen others before turning one of the two guns he had on himself.

That same day and in the following week, special Masses and vigils were planned at campuses in many states. Colleges thousands of miles away were quick to offer counseling help for their own students as they tried to come to grips with the idea that people very much like themselves could be killed while attending a German or engineering class.

Catholic campus ministry programs at state and private universities began putting together books of prayers from their students which will be forwarded to Virginia Tech. At William Paterson University in New Jersey, Father Louis J. Scurti, the Catholic campus minister, was planning a memorial Mass later in the week and encouraging representatives of other faiths to participate.

"It's what we can do to be in solidarity with the students of Virginia Tech," he told Catholic News Service. Though the two schools are quite different in makeup and locale, he said he was surprised at how many parents had called, seeking his reassurance that the same thing could not happen to their children.

"All I can tell them is we have a disaster plan in place, we've tried to prepare," he said.

Across the country in Utah, Michael K. Young, president of the University of Utah, expressed "deep sorrow and shock at this senseless and horrific act of violence. My deepest condolences go to the entire Virginia Tech community, especially the victims and their families and friends."

He added that at his school officials would see what they could learn from "this tragic event to aid our ongoing efforts to promote campus safety."

In Virginia, at Marymount University in Arlington, student body president Jarrett Kealey, a senior from Philadelphia, likened the atmosphere around the small Catholic university to that following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Not only was what happened at Virginia Tech the sole topic of conversation, but "people are going out of their way to be nice, to hold a door and so on," Kealey said.

Many of Marymount's students come from the same part of suburban Washington that accounts for about a quarter of Virginia Tech's enrollment.

"There's really a lot of connection between us," Kealey said, noting that some Marymount students likely went to high school with Virginia Tech students.

Marymount held an interfaith prayer service April 17 to pray for victims, their families and friends. The school also put together a "remembrance wall" with large posters on which Marymount students were invited to write thoughts, prayers and condolences. The posters were to be forwarded to Virginia Tech, along with donations for a memorial that were to be collected at Marymount's spring fair the weekend of April 21-22.

"As I said at the prayer service, we're 260 miles from Virginia Tech. We're in two different worlds," Kealey said. "But not yesterday and not whenever something like this happens."

The Catholic University of America also made a tribute wall available on its campus. The school in Washington arranged for an eight-hour eucharistic vigil at a campus chapel, where the campus community was invited to offer prayers.

Across town at Georgetown University, an ecumenical interfaith prayer service was held the night of the shootings and another one the following day.

Those three schools, along with dozens of other colleges and universities, also offered counseling help.

Such assistance may well be needed for months afterward, said a spokeswoman for Dawson College in Montreal, where an 18-year-old student was killed and 19 others injured by a gunman in September. A student services spokeswoman said counselors are still working at the campus.

Closer to Virginia Tech, the campus ministry program for the University of Virginia in Charlottesville geared up to offer assistance to their own students. Mike School, a youth minister at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, which serves the university, said the students in Charlottesville feel a great connection to the students in Blacksburg.

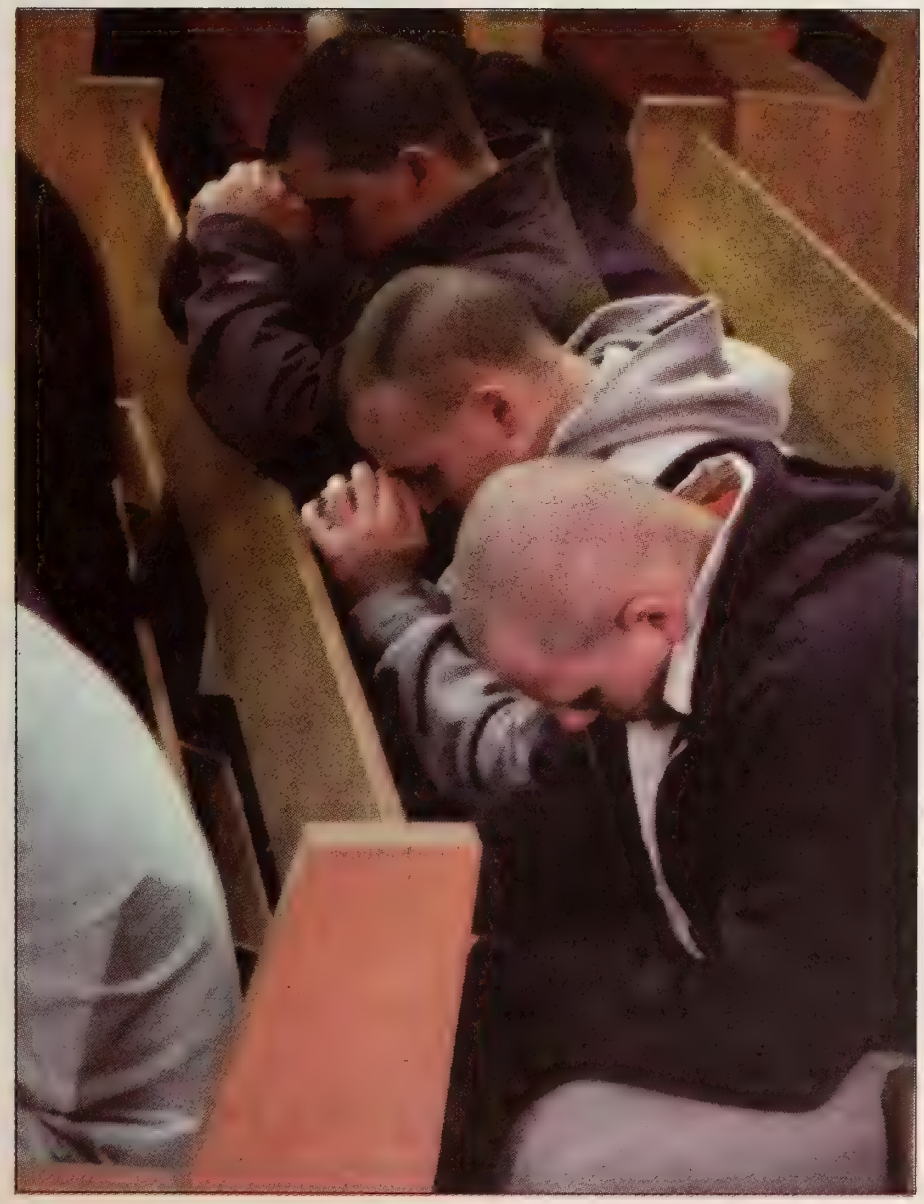
"A lot of them grew up in Virginia," he said. "They have a lot of connections to students there."

School said the ministry team at St. Thomas was anticipating that reactions would be strong once the names of all the victims are released. About one-third of the students at the University of Virginia are Catholic, and School said he expects many of them will turn to the parish in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile tensions remained high as grade schools and universities in at least 10 other states had bomb threats or security scares April 17 that led to evacuations or lockdowns.

"Each school in the Diocese of Charlotte has an individual crisis-management plan in place that addresses various situations, including lockdowns," said Linda Cherry, superintendent for diocesan Catholic schools.

Contributing to this story was Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.



CNS PHOTO BY BRENDAN BUSH, REUTERS

Members of Virginia Tech's Corp of Cadets pray in the War Memorial Chapel at the university in Blacksburg, Va., April 16. A gunman, later identified as a Virginia Tech student, shot dozens of people at the school earlier that day.

Pope saddened by massacre at Virginia Tech

BY ALICIA AMBROSIO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened by the massacre at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg and prayed for the victims and their families, said the Vatican secretary of state.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone sent a telegram to Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond, Va., expressing the pope's condolences to all those affected by the April 16 shooting that left at least 33 people dead, including the killer.

Cardinal Bertone said in the wake of the "senseless tragedy" Pope Benedict asked him to assure the victims, their families and the entire school community of his prayers.

Pope Benedict "asks God our Father to console all those who mourn and to grant them that spiritual strength which triumphs over violence," Cardinal Bertone said.

The text of the telegram follows:

The Most Rev. Francis X. DiLorenzo
Bishop of Richmond (USA)

Deeply saddened by news of the shooting at Virginia Tech, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has asked me to convey the assurance of his heartfelt prayers for the victims, their families and for the entire school community. In the aftermath of this senseless tragedy he asks God our Father to console all those who mourn and to grant them that spiritual strength which triumphs over violence by the power of forgiveness, hope and reconciling love.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
Secretary of State

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Faith, 'spiritual entrepreneurs' profiled in two books

REVIEWED BY
RACHELLE LINNER

BOSTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, three women came together to write a children's book exploring connections among the monotheistic religions. Ranya Idliby is an American Muslim of Palestinian descent; Suzanne Oliver, born and raised Catholic, is an Episcopalian; and Priscilla Warner is a Reform Jew.

Fairly quickly they realized their ignorance of one another's religions and embarked on the dialogue they narrate in "The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, a Jew — Three Women Search for Understanding." They examined harmful stereotypes, struggled with faith and belief, attended religious services and developed genuine friendships.

Early in the dialogue Oliver and Warner wrestled with anti-Semitism "arising from insensitive portrayals of the Crucifixion." Oliver, who "couldn't believe that she was trying to take away from me the most essential story of Christianity," truly listens to Warner's "primal fears and discomfort."

Idliby is articulate in portraying the pain of Palestinians. "It is quite a burden when your national identity becomes an existential challenge, synonymous with anti-Semitism."

The book explores Idliby's experience of "religious homelessness" and her gratitude that Warner and Oliver rescued her from "spiritual isolation and frustration" while she sought (and eventually found) a mosque that could "sustain our family's understanding of the Muslim faith and God."

Inevitably, what they learn leads to dissonance with their religious communities. Idliby faces the most difficult situation because "my religion is in a state of crisis." Oliver, who initially felt "confidence that Christianity was a superior religion," finds herself questioning its doctrines. Warner narrates her long struggle "to come to terms with my feelings about Israel" and her decision to "speak as a Jew with a Palestinian friend."

Their discussion took the shape it did because of the women's shared belief in "the equality, legitimacy and validity of all religious traditions as paths to God."

The Rev. Katharine Rhodes Henderson's "God's Troublemakers: How Women of Faith Are Changing the World" is an exciting study of 20 "spiritual entrepreneurs" whose "work covers the gamut from direct services for immediate needs to advocacy and education designed to provoke systematic change."

Deeply concerned about "the relative silence and invisibility of the religious left in America" she hopes to clarify a "distinctive public voice" to "forge a new identity for progressives as culture shapers and consensus builders, defusing the now dangerous escalation of fundamentalist energies."

Rev. Henderson borrows the psychiatric term "holding environment" to describe the "work of transformation" that "takes place in spaces set apart from the wider milieu wherein new insights and behaviors can be modeled and incubated, where alternatives to mainstream culture can be envisioned and practiced."

Her examples include the Rev. Henna Hahn, a Methodist minister whose Rainbow Center provides services "to women who experience bicultural and biracial challenges"; Rabbi Mychael Springer, who founded a gospel choir at a Jewish hospital; and Connie Baugh, who created the Presbyterian-sponsored Church of Gethsemane "to minister specifically to the needs of ex-prisoners and their families."

Rev. Henderson analyzes their collaborative style of leadership. "Sharing authority and leading from the back seem to involve less ego, yet have the effect of strengthening the group, freeing others to become more deeply engaged, more able to offer their insights and skills to the challenge at hand. Notably absent from these women's definition of leadership was a desire for power as a form of personal clout."

This is a book of vocation stories, of the formative influences that allow women to bridge boundaries and create places to "gather in people others have shunned or neglected."

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: APRIL 29, 2007

April 29, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 13:14, 43-52
Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
2) Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
3) Gospel: John 10:27-30

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Suffering, salvation common bonds for all mankind

Hunger? Thirst? The oppressive power of these dogged and ruthless scourges of humankind is unknown to most of us living in the post-industrial world of the United States or other prosperous countries.

Sure, we might occasionally miss a meal or two; even, in extraordinary circumstances, go to bed hungry. We may once in a while get really thirsty, stuck in a hot place with no ready supply of safe water. But the gnawing, life-threatening hunger that is the daily bread of millions the world over? The tongue-thickening, mind-numbing thirst that haunts the days and nights of huge populations in underdeveloped regions? Most of us have no concept.

So, in Sunday's reading from Revelation, when we hear feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty as images of salvation, we cannot perhaps understand them as profoundly as those who live less sheltered lives.

But there is another image here which speaks to all of us, even if we've never ached with deep hunger or never been driven to despair by lasting thirst.

Because everyone understands tears. Everyone, even if only as a child, has cried — from frustration and abandonment, from anger and grief, from pain and loneliness and fear.

No one lives very long in this world without suffering defeats, small and great. We all know disappointment, betrayal, isolation, loss. Friendships can fail, marriages can fracture, families and nations and communities of faith can tear themselves apart. Dreams and relationships and loved ones die. And whether our tears flow easily and often, or stay pooled within our broken hearts, we all weep.

That's why, when the Scriptures tell us that in the great cosmic victory of Christ, of which his resurrection is the first taste and the absolute guarantee, "God will wipe away every tear from our eyes," it is good news in which we can all rejoice.

Questions:

Who has helped wipe away the tears from your eyes? How can you express your gratitude? Who do you know that is suffering? What's one specific way you can offer consolation?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22-28
Sunday (Third Sunday of Easter), Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19; **Monday (St. George, St. Adalbert),** Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday (St. Fidelis),** Acts 7:51—8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday (St. Mark),** 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Thursday,** Acts 8:26-40, John 6:44-51; **Friday,** Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort),** Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29-MAY 5
Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter), Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14-17, John 10:27-30; **Monday (St. Pius V),** Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday (St. Joseph the Worker),** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday (St. Athanasius),** Acts 12:24—13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14.

Departs October 31, 2007

Classic European Tour

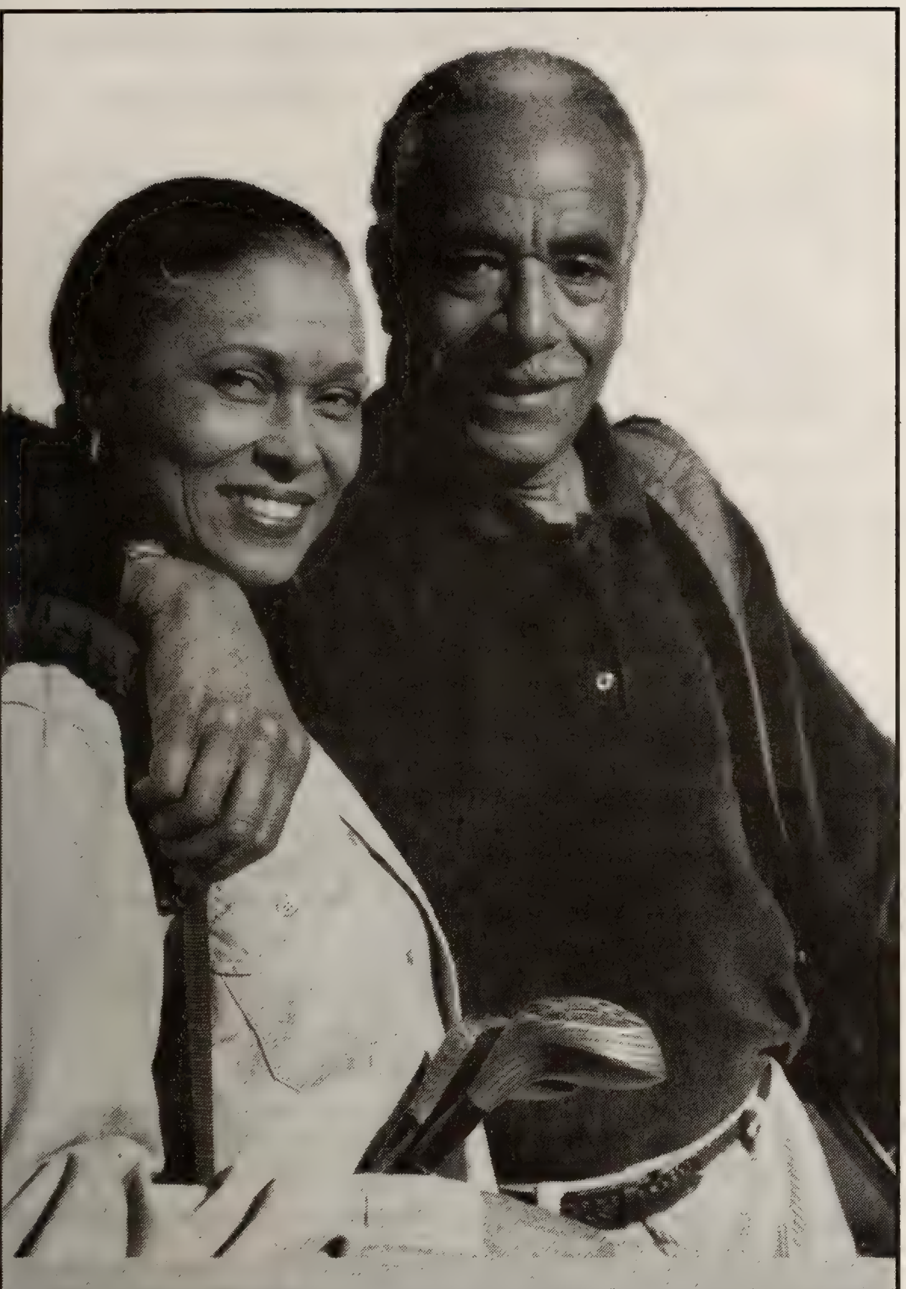
Start in Paris – End in Rome. Ask to travel on the same bus with other Catholics.

15 Days from **$1838***

Includes Paris (3 nights); Geneva, Switzerland (2 nights); wine tasting in Beaune; Red Cross Museum; Sisteron, France; French Riviera; Nice, France (2 nights); Pisa (leaning tower); Montecatini-Terme, Italy (3 nights); Florence; Siena; Tuscany; Rome (2 nights); Vatican tour; Sistine Chapel & more! *Price includes escort, hotels, 17 meals, motor-coach sight-seeing, and taxes; per person / double occupancy. Add $1000 for round trip airfare from Charlotte.

For information, reservations and brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**



Retired.
Not retiring.

Kathy has her own idea of wellness. Some days, it's a hole-in-one. Other times, it's gardening, gourmet dining, and grandchildren. Soon, she'll have more time for it all. Being carefree feels good. Living here will feel great…like hitting the green. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

MAG/CNH/Ret3

CNS PHOTO BY CARLOS WEAVER, COURTESY OF MAXIMUS GROUP

Mike Sweeney, captain of the Kansas City Royals baseball team, and daughter McKara greet Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted outside the debut screening of the DVD "Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition" in Phoenix March 25. The DVD was released on opening day of the 2007 baseball season.

New DVD highlights Catholic faith of top baseball stars

BY REBECCA BOSTIC
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PHOENIX — Baseball is filled with champions who perform well on the field. But it is also packed with what Tom Allen and Jose Morales have dubbed "champions of faith."

Allen, president and editor in chief of Catholic Exchange, and Morales, host of the "Catholic Exchange Today" radio program, decided to seek out Catholics in baseball a few years ago. The result is "Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition." The movie premiered March 25 in Phoenix and the DVD was to be released at the beginning of the 2007 baseball season April 1.

"We wanted to make a film that would appeal to the lukewarm Catholics, the majority. The ones that are out there more intent on watching ESPN and Fox Sports than on going to confession regularly or going to Mass," Allen said at the premiere. "We're honoring God, we're honoring the Catholic Church and we're also honoring these amazing guys who speak so courageously, beautifully, eloquently and powerfully about their Catholic faith."

Major League Baseball players Mike Piazza of the Oakland Athletics, Jeff Suppan of the Milwaukee Brewers and Mike Sweeney of the Kansas City Royals attended the premiere of "Champions of Faith."

"We are all going to be in heaven someday because of Jesus Christ and this is a tool we can use to give to our loved ones so that we can share eternity with them," Sweeney said of the film. "We have to be proud of our faith."

The 60-minute DVD focuses on only a handful of the more than 20 players, coaches and managers featured — highlighting a difficulty each faced as a person or player and how their faith helped them manage that problem. These extremely personal stories are broken up with spiritually themed montages of quotes from players regarding baseball and their faith.

Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix said he immensely enjoyed the film and hopes it will help Catholics overcome the too-common gap between their faith and daily life.

"I was especially impressed by the witness to their Catholic faith given by Mike Sweeney, Mike Piazza, Jeff Suppan and others," Bishop Olmsted said. "As an avid baseball fan, it was fun to get an inside story on some of my favorite players. And as a bishop, it was heartening to see such great athletes speaking candidly about their love of Christ."

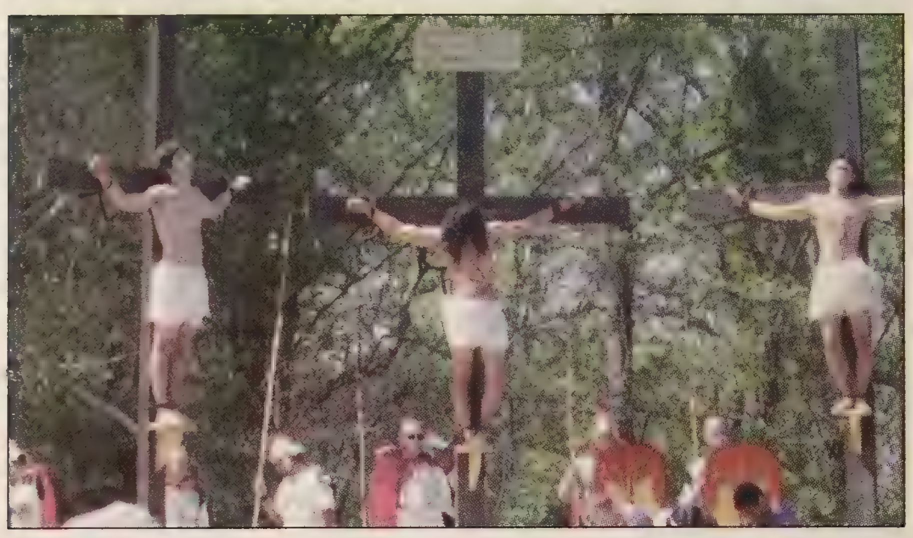
Robert Escobedo, a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Phoenix, also enjoyed hearing the testaments of faith from the athletes in the film, admitting that he was surprised by the faith of those featured.

"I am such a big Mike Piazza fan and followed him ever since he left the Dodgers and I wasn't aware he was as into his Catholic faith as he obviously is," Escobedo told The Catholic Sun, Phoenix's diocesan newspaper. "I'm a big baseball fan, I'm Catholic and I love my faith, but I was really impressed with the way they tied the two together. It was very inspirational."

Allen and Morales hope that people are sufficiently inspired by "Champions of Faith: Baseball Edition" to support a possible second movie in the "Champions of Faith" series. Allen especially hopes that men will be inspired by this film.

"The principal issue of our time in the church is a crisis of faith among men. It goes right to that and speaks to men and boys because at this moment in time men are not the leaders of their families in prayer, faith and Mass attendance," Allen said. "Hopefully, 'Champions of Faith' can start a movement."

Portraying Good Friday

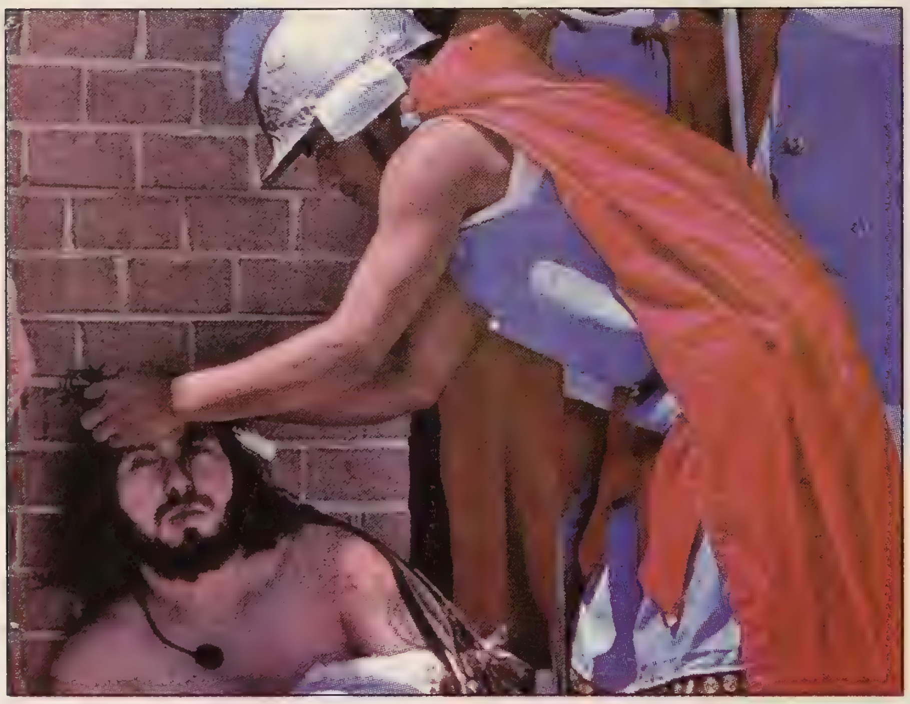


Courtesy Photo

Ivan Rodriguez, center, portrays Jesus during a reenactment of the Crucifixion at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville April 6.

The presentation was a joint partnership of the Hispanic and Anglo members of Holy Cross Church. Approximately 300 people took part in the procession and 50 others portrayed the various roles. Many of the actors were members of the Knights of Columbus, the Columbiettes and religious Hispanic Community, as well as the youth of the parish.

Also pictured are Noel Rodriguez, far left, and Joseph Villasenor, far right, portraying the thieves.



Courtesy Photo

Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville portray Jesus and a Roman soldier during a live dramatization of the Via Crucis — the 14 steps in the journey from the conviction to the crucifixion and entombment of Jesus — at the church April 6. This live devotional is a custom found in Mexico, Central and South America, the Philippines and other countries.

Come Grow With Us
Financial Advisors

TRIUNE LLC

Triune Capital Advisors, LLC is a faith-based, full service broker-dealer firm. Our commitment is to high ethical standards, professional and personal growth for you and your clients. If you are already licensed and are sincere about making a difference in people's lives, contact us.

Sarah Westbrook
704-714-2202
swestbrook@triunecapital.com

201 S. College St. — Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28244
Member NASD Member SIPC

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. Paul Education Center, a vibrant Pre K-Grade 8 parish school of 225 students in historic New Bern, N. C., is seeking a dedicated, dynamic and creative visionary for Principal to carry on the strong tradition of academic excellence and Catholic faith formation for our diverse student body. An exceptional elementary/middle school, steeped in Catholic tradition, SPEC has just completed re-accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The school enjoys outstanding support from the Pastor, parents and staff within this growing parish community of 1,780 families.

The successful candidate will:
a) be a highly qualified, committed, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church
b) exhibit strong leadership, integrity, sound judgment, excellent communication and organization skills
c) possess a master's degree in Educational Administration/Leadership with a minimum of 3-5 years' experience in Catholic schools, preferably as a school Principal
d) possess or be eligible to be licensed as an administrator by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Salary will be commensurate with education, experience and qualifications. Contract year begins July 2007. Deadline for receipt of applications is April 27, 2007. For further information and qualifications visit our website at: www.stpaulccnewbern.org.

To apply, please forward cover letter, resume and credentials by e-mail to specsearch@yahoo.com or by mail to: Principal Search Committee, St. Paul Catholic Church,3005 Country Club Road,New Bern, North Carolina 28562.

DIRECTOR OF DIOCESAN HOUSING CORPORATION

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation is seeking a full-time director to provide vision and leadership to a developing housing ministry. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cdchousingcorp.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by May 4, 2007 to:

Gerard A. Carter, CDCHC
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

or email gacarter@charlottediocese.org.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
HOUSING CORPORATION

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

CNAs & AIDES: In-home aide company hiring NC-licensed CNAs and experienced caregivers for work in the greater Charlotte area. Must be trustworthy and passionate about helping seniors. Day, evening, overnight and live-in shifts available. Call Partners In Care, 8am-5pm, for interview. 704-554-9904.

FOR RENT

HOUSE: 3 BR/2 ½ B. University area with 2-car garage on private lot and quiet street. 5825 Nicholas Ave., Charlotte, NC 28269. $1100/month. 704-968-8579.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

St. Patrick parishioners feed homeless on Easter

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Parishioners from St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte prepare dinner at the Uptown Shelter in Charlotte April 8. Several volunteers prepare and serve dinner to about 100-150 homeless men on the second Sunday of every other month, which fell on Easter this month.

Sharing their mission

Courtesy Photo

Josh Voitus, Paul McNulty and John Eckert, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte, speak to middle school students at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem April 2. The seminarians recently visited three Triad-area schools to talk with the students about their vocations as priests.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:

Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

"GOD'S MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE"
A SPIRITUAL RETREAT
WITH REV. MR. CURTISS P. TODD

MAY 18-20, 2007
LIVING WATERS
CATHOLIC REFLECTION CENTER
MAGGIE VALLEY, NC

Come to the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina to praise and worship God's creative and diverse beauty. This retreat is meant to be an experience in spirituality and personal reflection. It will provide an opportunity for participants to encounter nature while experiencing the pleasures of silence, peaceful reflection and prayer.

Our world today offers us few opportunities to "steal away" for prayer, reflection and rest. We must develop our spirituality and attune it to our times, as each of us has an individual spiritual path.

Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in beautiful Maggie Valley will be the setting. Participants will enjoy private room accommodations, five (5) meals, sessions for spiritual understanding and reflection as well as time to "steal away" and have a true experience in God's creation. For more information on the Center go to the website - http://www.catholicretreat.org.

The Retreat begins Friday, May 18th. Please arrive at 5 pm. The retreat concludes after lunch on Sunday, May 20th. Our Spiritual Leader will be Rev. Mr. Curtiss P. Todd.

Cost: $100 per person – Advance registration and payment required. Space is limited.

REGISTRATION – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Name: ____________________

Address: ____________________

Phone: ____________________

In case of emergency contact: ____________________

Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________________

Phone: ____________________

E-Mail Address: ____________________

Form of Payment: ___Personal Check ___Money Order ___Certified Check

Date of Registration: ____________________

(SORRY, NO CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED)

Complete the registration form, attach your payment and return by Friday, May 4th to:

African American Affairs Ministry
Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203

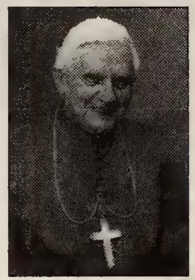
Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Search for truth succeeds only through faith in Jesus, pope says

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The human search for truth can succeed only through faith in Jesus Christ, who is truth, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Faith in Christ grants the true knowledge which the ancient philosophers had sought through the use of reason," the pope said April 18 at his weekly general audience.

The writings of St. Clement of Alexandria, the pope said, outline how a believing Christian can and should use both faith and reason to "reach an intimate knowledge of the truth, which is Jesus Christ, the word of God."

The joining of faith and reason, he said, "leads to true philosophy, that is, the real understanding of the path to take in one's life."

Pope Benedict said St. Clement explained how knowledge of Christ must become "a living reality; it is not just a theory. It is a life force, a union with transforming love."

St. Clement explained how "the ultimate aim of human life is to become similar to God," the pope said. "We are created in the image and likeness of God, but this is also a challenge, a journey. Our final aim and ultimate destination is to become similar to God."

The pope said the fact that people are created in God's image allows them "to know the divine reality."

Knowledge of God, he said, comes first through faith but grows through the practice of moral virtues.

St. Clement insisted that correct moral conduct must accompany the intellectual search for truth and for God, he said.

"The two go together because one cannot know something without living it and cannot live something without knowing it," said the pope.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 18.

Dear brothers and sisters,

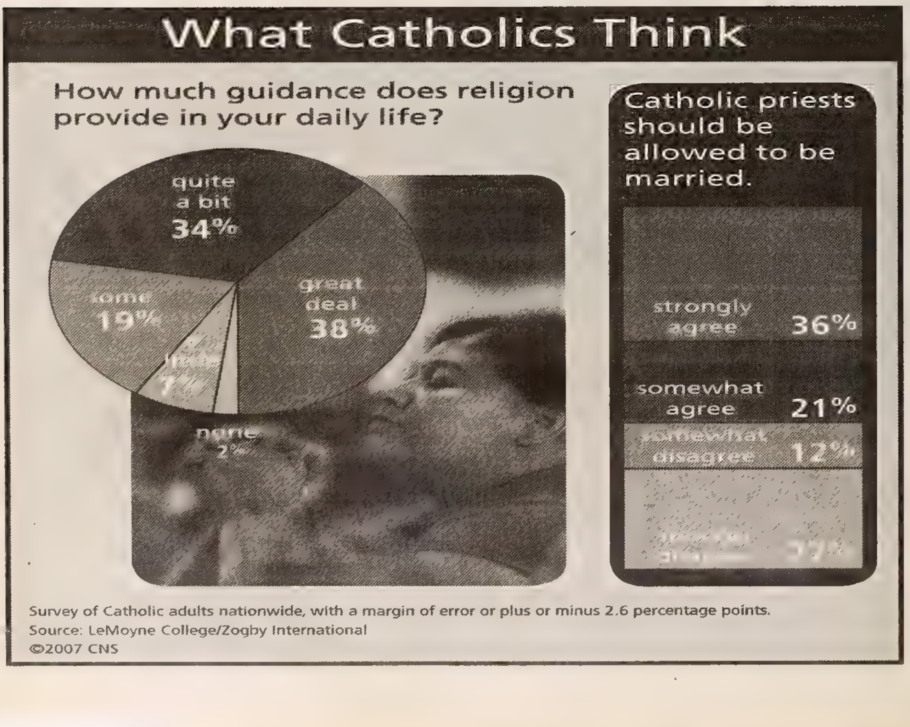
In our catechesis on the fathers and teachers of the early church, we now turn to St. Clement of Alexandria.

As head of the catechetical school of Alexandria, Clement promoted a fruitful encounter between the Gospel and the Greek philosophical tradition. For Clement, faith in Christ grants the true knowledge which the ancient philosophers had sought through the use of reason.

Faith and reason thus appear as two necessary and complementary wings by which the human spirit comes to the knowledge of Christ, the word of God.

Faith itself, as a divine gift, inspires a search for a deeper understanding of God's revelation. As creatures made in God's image, we are called to become ever more like him, not only through the perfection of our intellect, but also through our growth in the virtues.

Freed from our passions, we are drawn to contemplate in love the God who has revealed himself in Christ. By his life and teaching, Clement can serve as a model for all Christians who seek to give an account of their hope and especially for catechists and theologians as they strive to articulate the Christian faith in a disciplined dialogue with the great philosophical tradition.



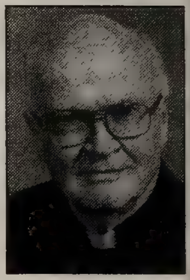
Survey of Catholic adults nationwide, with a margin of error or plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.
Source: LeMoyne College/Zogby International
©2007 CNS

Reflections on Virginia Tech: Is there any defense against malice?

Campus ministry helps students cope with stress

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST



Ever since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999 and the Washington-area Beltway sniper attacks of 2002, "lockdown" is a word that's been lifted out of the penitentiary lexicon and dropped into student handbooks across the nation. When shots are heard, go immediately into a protective lockdown mode and await further instructions from authorities.

But how do you lock down a sprawling campus? How do you make hundreds of campus buildings, replete with entrances and exits, safe from armed attackers or hidden bombs? Is there any defense against malice, and if there is, how can you tell if and when it's coming?

It is malice, by the way, that was operative in the Beltway snipings, Columbine killings and Virginia Tech massacre. There is evil in the world.

Malice can find its way into the minds and hearts of persons young or old. Once there, malicious intent can release destructive force. Two high school students killed 12 of their peers and a teacher and wounded 24 at Columbine before taking their own lives. One gunman killed 32 and then himself at Virginia Tech. The suicide at Virginia Tech ended the search for a perpetrator but shed no light on the motive. We are left to wonder why, as we ponder prevention possibilities on campuses everywhere.

On what would have been an otherwise-normal morning April 16 at Virginia Tech, a campus community of some 26,000 was neither ready nor able to prevent the largest massacre in the history of American higher education.

But was the campus community unprepared? To ask the same question in another way, was any preparation possible?

The campus community was not necessarily unprepared. Yes, preparation is indeed possible. In the Christian view of life after death, preparation for life through death is a definite possibility. Indeed it is a necessity for the successful completion of a Christian life.

Prevention — as opposed to preparation — neither is, nor was, possible at Virginia Tech.

Why?

Because there is no defense against malice in our world.

But preparation is always possible. There is a preparation for anything in a person whose human will is aligned with the will of God. Preparation for any eventuality is the story of a human life lived in accord with the will of the Creator of that life.

That's why campus ministry is as important as the counseling center on a college campus. Certainly, psychological trauma requires immediate attention, but so does the stress on faith and the strain on spirituality.

Moreover, the power of faith and religion to ready the human spirit to withstand any assault, physical or psychological, cannot be overestimated. That's why the church has to provide this ministry in campus settings that are not Catholic.

Liturgically — especially sacramentally — the believer must be helped to heal in the broken places. Near-campus parishes and on-campus ministry centers provide the space and facilitate the reflection that students need if they are to permit sacramental grace and the interpretative framework provided by the Christian Gospel to work the wonders they are capable of working.

The physical attractiveness and proximity of Catholic ministry facilities to the students is important. The young must be drawn to them during their formative years so that they can reflect on the meaning of life, their purpose in life and the laws of God within which the good life is to be lived.

Without ministry, we will be permitting our young to sleepwalk at their peril through a world of good and evil.

Preparation is always possible even where prevention fails.

Father Byron is a former president of The Catholic Univeristy of America in Washington and the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa. He is currently the president of St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia. His e-mail address is: wbyron@sjprep.org.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

America, take control of yourself

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

My nephew, Patrick Kopfle, is a junior at Virginia Tech. When I first learned Monday morning that a student had been shot to death at the school, I immediately thought of Patrick, who is also my godson.

Patrick is a responsible young man, and before I knew of the horrifying number of dead that grew throughout the day, I learned that he was safe.

Patrick had called his mother, who relayed the news to the rest of the family. With my prayers answered for him, it was time to put the needs of the other victims and their families before God.

Telling tragic stories is one thing that the media are very good at. We are in a kind of national living room this week as we gather around TVs and computers to learn what we can about this tragic event, its victims and its apparently deranged perpetrator.

All stories have endings, and simply saying that 33 people are dead isn't satisfactory. And so, the media look for more depth.

It seeks an explanation for the horrific act. Was the campus properly secured? Why wasn't some kind of alarm sounded when two students were killed in a dormitory, two hours before the massacre began in Norris Hall?

There has been little discussion so far of the issue that speaks directly to the brutality of this particular crime, as well as the Columbine High School shooting eight years ago. That issue is gun control.

Think for a moment what the national discussion would have centered on if 33 college students were somehow killed in a nuclear power accident. Reactors all over the country would already be shut down.

If the students were poisoned by Swiss cheese, the product would be gone forever from store shelves. But substitute a gun for cheese and no one is talking about the consequences of an armed citizenry. The manufacturer of the gun, the entity most responsible, after the shooter, for the deaths won't face the level of media scrutiny that a utility company or a cheese maker would face.

Our faith gives us plenty of instruction on this matter. The anti-gun instruction begins with the Fifth Commandment in the Books of Exodus and Deuteronomy — "You shall not kill" — and goes through modern church teaching that calls for protection of the sanctity and dignity of each human life.

I expressed this view on The Catholic Channel on Sirius satellite radio the day after the shootings. My opinion touched off a round of disagreement from other callers, all of whom cited the U.S. Constitution — not the Bible or church teaching — as a justification for gun ownership.

But it should be pointed out that while the Second Amendment to the Constitution may appear to guarantee gun ownership, it says so in relation to the establishment of a well-regulated militia, something that no longer exists.

Also, it goes without saying that for Catholics holy Scripture is a trump card over the laws of man.

In other words, we can pass laws that would seek to reduce the annual toll of 30,000 deaths in the U.S. due to firearms. That, by the way, is 82 people per day. Sadly, in this country we get more than two Virginia Techs every day of the week, Sundays included.

Handguns are designed primarily to hurt and kill human beings. Possessing one means that, in addition to the delusion of self-protection, you are creating an opportunity for death and injury for yourself, your family and even your neighbors through negligence, accident, depression or anger.

For Patrick's sake, for the sake of my children and yours, this nation needs to talk seriously about gun control again.

David Hains is the director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org

---

The church's position on the death penalty

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES
DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. What is the Catholic Church's position today on the death penalty? My understanding is that the church strongly opposes capital punishment, but some friends insist there is no clear position one way or another. Who is right?

A. The latest authoritative Catholic statement concerning the death penalty was issued in a position paper prepared by the Vatican for the World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Paris, February 2007. Its stand against killing another human being, for whatever crime, is clear and strong, as is, by the way, the teaching of many national bishops' conferences, including our own.

The document notes that there has been a growing awareness of the challenges posed by recent executions. But Christians recognize the inalienable dignity of human beings, it said, and this is the basis for recognizing "the universality and totality of human rights, beginning with the right to life."

Use of the death penalty, it continues, is not only a denial of the right to life, but also "an affront to the human dignity shared by all humankind."

Societies and nations have a duty to protect their citizens from aggressors, but it is "hardly possible" to justify the use of capital punishment today. States now have at their disposal other means of "effectively preventing crime by rendering one who has committed an offense incapable of doing harm — without definitively taking away from him the possibility of redeeming himself" (quoting Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Gospel of Life").

The position paper notes that every instance of capital punishment incurs a number of risks: the danger of punishing innocent persons; the tendency to promote a violent form of revenge rather than a real sense of justice in society; and contempt for the Gospel teaching on forgiveness.

Taking of life, it claims, "never attains the worthy objectives for which societies punish offenders, although it may temporarily assuage the appetite for vengeance."

An increasing number of law enforcement and judicial officials agree that the death penalty rarely if ever deters people from criminal activity; that it is administered with gross inequities; that men and women are executed only to discover later that they were innocent; and that blind revenge, not any higher moral motive, too often powers demands for the execution of criminals.

The point was made strongly two years ago by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. "I have yet," she wrote, "to see a death case among the dozens coming to the Supreme Court on eve-of-execution stay applications in which the defendant was well represented at trial. People who are well represented at trial do not get the death penalty."

These are the reasons Pope Benedict XVI claimed, in an address last February, "non-violence for Christians is not mere tactical behavior, but a person's way of being, the attitude of one who is convinced of God's love and power, who is not afraid to confront evil with the weapons of love and truth alone."

They are also the reasons the new Vatican document speaks appreciatively of "groups and individuals that are working with renewed commitment and vigor for the abolition of capital punishment and for the imposition of a universal moratorium on its application".

It is worth noting that our country is not in very respectable company on the death penalty. Approximately 95 percent of all known executions took place in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia — and the U.S.

Since 1990, nine countries are known to have executed child offenders. The total for the United States and Iran is larger than for all the other seven countries combined.

The ethical will

Guest Column

JUDY SMITH
DIRECTOR OF
PLANNED GIVING

Faith's rich heritage for you, future generations

In recent years, "ethical wills" have received significant attention in the media and on the Internet.

In simple terms, an ethical will is the process by which parents and grandparents communicate their religious and moral values to their children and grandchildren. Since these communications are most often in written form as a family legacy, it is easy to understand them as some form of last will and testament.

An ethical will should not be confused with the traditional last will and testament, which is the legal document that, upon your death, designates your estate's personal representative and guardian of your minor-age children and establishes the guidelines for the distribution of your property.

Your ethical will, on the other hand, explains the religious and moral values you strive to live by and encourages your children and grandchildren to follow those values in their lives.

The concept of an ethical will is by no means new. Go back 3,000 years to the Book of Genesis. Chapter 49 is devoted to Jacob delivering his legacy to his 12 sons. Some of his sons had lived less than exemplary lives and for them his words were much more condemnation than commendation.

In contrast, Jacob generously blessed his sons who had pleased him and had adhered to his standards.

In addition, Jesus' Last Supper discourses to his disciples as described in Chapters 14-17 of the Gospel of John are generally characterized as Jesus' ethical will for all humankind.

Your ethical will may be in the form of a journal intertwining descriptions of events and personalities in your life with your religious and moral values for living. Or it may be an audio or a video recording in which you encourage your family to follow the principles of stewardship.

You may also respond to questions such as, "What have I learned from life?" "What have I learned from my family and friends?" "What does my Catholic faith mean to me?" "What people and ideas have been important to me?" or "What are my hopes and dreams for my family?"

The rich heritage of our Catholic faith and what it means to you is worthy of passing on as a legacy to the future generations of your family.

It is, of course, most beneficial to share this with your family while you are alive. Your family will appreciate your legacy and may know and understand you even more than they thought possible.

Catholic center helps Ecuadoreans break cycle of poverty

BY BARBARA J. FRASER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

QUITO, Ecuador — Carlos Gomez was 9 years old, working in a plaza in this mountain city, when a tall, lanky American priest stopped for a shoeshine and a chat, then offered him a free meal.

Gomez said he and the other shoeshine boys "didn't believe him, because he said the food wouldn't cost anything, and we knew that everything in life has a price."

Curiosity won, and Gomez accompanied Jesuit Father John Halligan, a New York native, to a center for working boys that the priest had started beside the Jesuit high school in Ecuador's capital. Gomez not only got a meal but also had a chance to play with other boys.

That meeting changed Gomez's life, and the Working Boys' Center has changed the lives of thousands of families in the more than 40 years since.

But it was not all food and games: The center had rules to teach important life skills.

Father Halligan and Sister Miguel Conway, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, insisted that the boys deposit some of their earnings into savings accounts.

Of the money he earned daily from shining shoes, Gomez turned half over to his mother to help support his family. The other half he divided between bus fares and savings.

The center has grown to serve 400 families of working children, and the values Gomez learned — the dignity of work and planning for the future — are still among its main pillars.

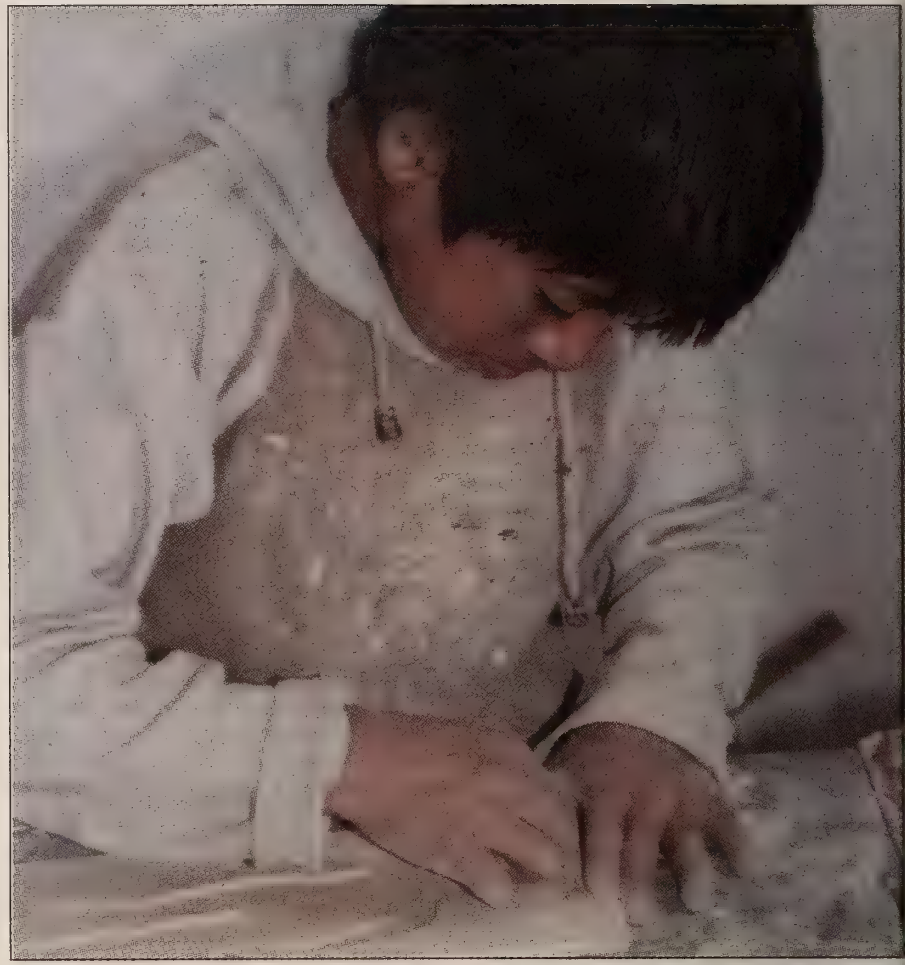
Today, younger boys still go out to shine shoes, but only three mornings a week. When they come back to the center for classes, they first line up to deposit 25 or 50 cents into their savings accounts. By the time they graduate, they may have a nest egg of several hundred dollars they can use for further study or to start a small business.

When Father Halligan began working with the kids he encountered on Quito's streets, "it was a question of answering unmet needs," he said. "I knew nothing about those needs. I thought we could do a little catechism and help them get jobs."

But the situation of working children in Latin American countries is complicated. Many of the families involved in the center's programs have migrated to Quito from the countryside. Often an entire family lives in a single room on the edge of the city.

Because jobs are scarce and the parents have little or no formal education, the father may do odd jobs while the mother takes in other people's laundry. Boys tuck their shoeshine kits under their arms and head for the city's squares, often contributing anywhere from 15 percent to 85 percent of the family's income, Father Halligan said.

Working children often drop out of school or fall far behind their grade level, and the lack of education makes it more likely that they will live in poverty as adults. The center set out to break that cycle.



CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA J. FRASER

Edson Cadena, 13, who normally shines shoes, works in the toyshop of the Working Boys' Center in Quito, Ecuador. The center helps child workers from the streets learn more productive trades and helps them save money to start a business or continue their education.

The center offers six years of primary school courses, vocational training for adolescents, special education and classes for parents who never finished primary school.

Children and parents learn to budget. For people accustomed to living hand to mouth, that is a new idea.

"They've never had any concept of planning for the future," Gomez said.

The parents use their savings to make a down payment on a lot, and once a month all the families turn out to help build homes.

For Sister Sheila O'Brien, the greatest reward is "to see the sense of self-worth and dignity that these women have" once they realize their abilities.

A 2006 study of 1,700 families who have participated in the center found that most of the graduates hold steady jobs, that the parents stay together, and that at least 90 percent no longer live in poverty. More than 80 percent said developing a sense of the value of work and learning to budget and save money were the most important things they learned.

While the center has served about 6,000 families over the years, there are still an estimated 100,000 working children in Quito, he said, but a shortage of funds has limited the center's expansion.

The annual budget is $1.2 million, most of which comes in small donations. That works out to about $2 per person daily for food, education and health care, which makes the center highly cost effective, he said.

Gomez does not measure the benefits in economics. He said he was rebellious as a boy and was thrown out three times, but always returned "because they understood me. I felt they loved me."

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth -- Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

APRIL 27, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 27

Perspectives

Douglas Kmiec discusses partial-birth abortion ban; Father Aurilia reveals the 'After-Easter Syndrome'

| PAGES 14-15

Two faiths, common ground

Catholic parish shares church with Jewish community

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — One Catholic parish in the Diocese of Charlotte has a unique relationship with its Jewish brothers and sisters.

On Friday nights, Sacred Heart Church in Brevard opens its doors to become home to the Brevard Jewish Community in Transylvania County.

The gesture is about reaching out and sharing with those in need.

"Being a Catholic in North Carolina can be difficult," said Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

"I have had doors closed in

See FAITHS, page 7

Building a lasting legacy

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Jackie Martin and Rachel Day, seniors at Charlotte Catholic High School, work on the roof of a Habitat for Humanity house in Charlotte April 20. The Class of 2007 also has raised more than $46,000 for the construction of the house, their class gift.

Charlotte Catholic students construct Habitat house

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When members of Charlotte Catholic High School's Class of 2007 want to see the legacy they have left as their class gift, they'll have to travel several miles from their former school to see it.

"We figured that our school has so much already, why not give something to the community?" said Paige Heskamp, vice president of the senior council at Charlotte Catholic.

When it came time to choose a class gift, the students decided not to contribute something to their school, but rather to their community, and to one family in particular.

The class worked hard

See HOUSE, page 5

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

A figure of a child angel sits atop a headstone in a Washington, D.C., cemetery. In a newly published document, the Vatican's International Theological Commission said there are good reasons to hope that babies who die without baptism go to heaven.

Grace over sin

Vatican commission: Limbo reflects 'restrictive view of salvation'

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — After several years of study, the Vatican's International Theological Commission said there are good reasons to hope that babies who die without being baptized go to heaven.

In a document published April 20, the commission said the traditional concept of limbo — a place where unbaptized infants spend eternity without communion with God — seemed to reflect an "unduly restrictive view of salvation."

The church continues to teach that, because of original sin, baptism is the ordinary way of salvation for all people and urges parents to baptize infants, the document said.

But there is greater

See LIMBO, page 9

Polling Catholics

Survey checks Catholic attitudes on immigration, terrorism, bishops

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — A majority of Catholics in a nationwide telephone poll said the United States should begin a program to give undocumented immigrants an opportunity to

See POLL, page 8

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Youths in Action

Students perform musicals, concerts; youths find Jesus

| PAGES 4-5

Culture Watch

Social justice in books; Vatican releases DVDs

| PAGES 10-11

In Our Schools

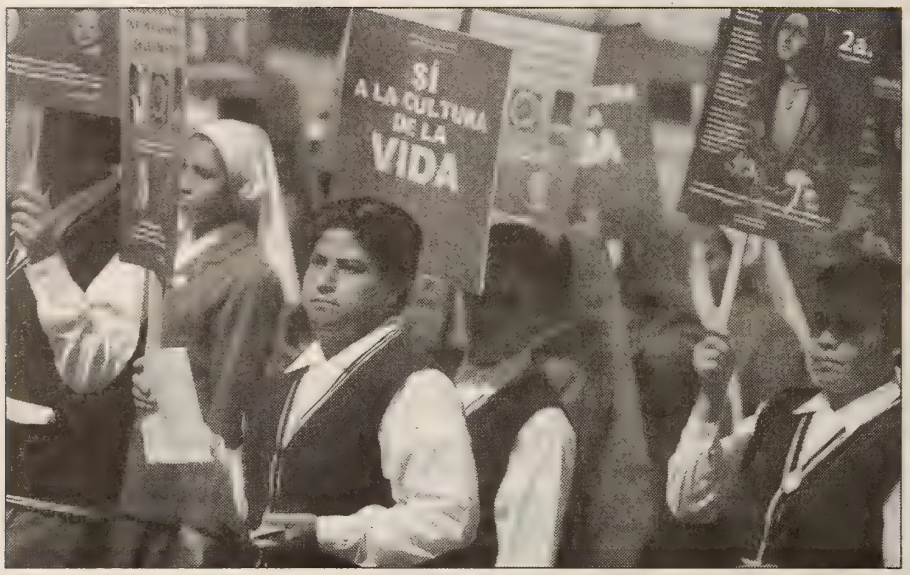
Sacrifices for needy kids; award winners

| PAGES 12-13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

PRO-LIFE PROTESTORS



CNS PHOTO BY DANIEL AGUILAR

Nuns hold pro-life signs during an anti-abortion march in Mexico City April 22. The demonstration took place as Mexico City's leftist-controlled assembly was due to vote on easing restrictions on abortion, which was only permitted when a woman had been raped, or when pregnancy endangered the mother's life. The Catholic Church has been involved in efforts to derail the legislation.

Despite Catholic opposition, Mexico City passes abortion bill

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Despite an intense opposition campaign by the Catholic Church, the Mexico City Assembly has approved an initiative legalizing abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

Following a heated session April 24, the legislature voted in favor of the new law, which will allow hospitals run by the city government to provide abortions. The bill will become law when it is signed by the mayor.

Outside the Assembly, on the streets of Mexico City, supporters and opponents of the measure faced off, separated only by a thin row of riot police.

Waving banners and chanting, opponents of abortion vowed to find new ways to defeat the bill, which has put Mexico City, the nation's capital, on the short list of places in Latin America where abortions are allowed — along with Cuba, Puerto Rico and Guyana.

"We will continue fighting to prevent this," said Ivan Manjarez, a former Mexico City legislator with the conservative National Action Party (NAP), which opposes abortion. "You cannot take away the rights of those who are weakest."

Currently, abortions are only allowed in cases of rape or serious birth defects or when the pregnancy endangers the mother's life. Doctors who perform unauthorized abortions, as well as the mothers who hire them, can be jailed for up to 5 years.

Supporters of the bill say the prohibition has resulted in hundreds of thousands of clandestine abortions across the country, often carried out in unsafe conditions. Federal health officials recorded 88 deaths in 2006 due to botched abortions; some organizations claim this figure is much higher.

NAP, which historically has strong ties to the Catholic Church, says it plans to challenge the measure before the Supreme Court, arguing the law violates Mexico's Constitution. However, the party's minority status in the Mexico City Assembly may hinder this effort: It controls 17 of the chamber's 66 seats.

A constitutional challenge requires at least one-third of the chamber's support — 22 signatures — and NAP has been hard-pressed to find help from rival parties on the issue.

Members of the party say that if the constitutional challenge fails they will file a complaint with the federal attorney general's office and seek other legal avenues to derail the measure.

Civic groups are also attempting to force a citywide referendum on the issue. On April 23, the Mexican College of Catholic Lawyers presented a petition, signed by 36,000 capital residents, demanding a special vote on the law.

Pope Benedict XVI recently entered the fray, condemning the measure in a statement released by the Mexican bishops' conference April 20.

"The pope unites with the church of Mexico and countless others of good will who are worried by the Mexico City law that threatens the lives of unborn children," the statement read.

Public opinion polls on abortion reveal sharp divisions among Mexicans. A survey conducted April 21 by the Mexico City daily Reforma shows that a slim majority of city residents — 53 percent — approve the decriminalization of abortion. Outside Mexico City, 59 percent of those polled disapproved of the initiative.

Health workers must argue for moral system, says leading U.S. doctor

ROME (CNS) — Health professionals need to band together to "argue for a morally valid and just" health care system, said a prominent U.S. Catholic physician.

"We as health professionals have enormous moral power, and we're not using it. By that I mean we're not alerting our society to what's happening to patients and saying that we feel it needs to be improved," said Edmund Pellegrino, a longtime leader in developing bioethical standards based on Catholic values.

He also is chairman of the U.S. President's Council on Bioethics.

In an April 20 talk at the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum University in Rome, the former president of The Catholic University of America spoke on "Justice and Fairness in Health Care" as part of his weeklong series of lectures sponsored by the university's bioethics department.

The number of Americans without health care coverage is on the rise; as of 2004 approximately 45.8 million people were uninsured, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

But insured or not, people are not getting the kind of health care they need, Pellegrino said. Although policymakers talk about various ways to improve health care, he said, no system will be adequate unless it is tackled as an ethical or moral problem, not just an economic or political one.

"It's a fact that certain members of our society become sick, old, and frail ... and you can judge the quality of a society by how they treat their sick, old, frail and dying" members, including foreigners, he said.

People need to decide whether health care is a right, a privilege, a commodity or a moral obligation of a good society, he said.

In the United States, health care is treated as a commodity or a product or service that can be bought or sold for the highest price the market can bear "and that 'virus' is being spread to the rest of the world," he said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Father John Vianney Hoover will present *"The History of the Catholic Church in North Carolina"* at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Ln., May 5, 9:30-3 p.m. For reservations and more information, call Brother Bill Harkin at (828) 926-3833.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East., will have a *Holy Hour, Rosary and Benediction* for an end to abortion and all the culture of death following the vigil Mass April 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 334-2283.

CHARLOTTE — Dominican Sister Jane Dominic Laurel will speak on *"Growing in Holiness through Being a Faithful Spouse and Parent"* at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., May 4 at 7:30 p.m. There is no fee but RSVP to renee@catholicscripturestudy.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., hosts a *First Friday Women's Retreat,* 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Room 239 of the New Life Center, following the 9 a.m. Mass. The program for May 4 will be "The Sacred Vocation of Motherhood." For more information, call Marie Grzeskiewicz at (704) 542-9748.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, is hosting a *"Community Shred"* May 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the U.S., according to the FBI; shredding personal documents is one way to help stop it. Everyone is encouraged to bring personal and confidential documents to the church, where PROSHRED Security will destroy them. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you for vespers May 5 at 4 p.m. Mass will be celebrated May 6 at 10 a.m., and Sunday vespers will be sung at 5 p.m. New Creation Monastery is located in uptown Charlotte at 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr. Call Father John Vianney Hoover at (704) 344-0934 if you plan to attend.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Peter Church's weekday lunchtime spirituality program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. The program for May 10 will be *"Meeting God through Centering Prayer."* Bring your lunch, hear a short talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to recharge during the workweek. Sessions are free and everyone is invited. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., will present *"Stem Cells and Cloning: Understanding the Scientific Issues and the Moral Objections"* May 12, 8:45-10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Father Pacholczyk holds undergraduate degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology and chemistry and a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University. Parking in The Green and admission are free, but seating is limited. To pre-register, e-mail stemcell@juno.com or call (803) 517-2600 or (704) 332-2901. For more details, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-annual Rosary Rally* will be held May 20 at 3 p.m. at

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

APRIL 27, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 27

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope meets Palestinian leader with honors given to head of state

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With all the honors usually given to a head of state, Pope Benedict XVI welcomed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to the Vatican.

During their private meeting April 24, the two leaders "reviewed the situation in the Middle East," said a Vatican statement, which hailed efforts to restart the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

It also said that in Abbas' meetings with the pope and with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, the situation within the Palestinian territories, including "the difficulties Catholics face and the value of their contribution to that society," was discussed.

Cardinal Bertone told reporters later that the Vatican hoped recent changes within the Palestinian government and between Israeli and Palestinian leaders "would bear fruit" and lead to peace.

He also said he and the pope told Abbas that the Christian community in the Holy Land needs protection and assistance "to prevent an exodus because their presence is a witness to the origins of Christianity" and to the fact that Christians, Muslims and Jews can live together in peace.

Cardinal Bertone said the Catholic Church, especially through its schools that accept both Christian and Muslim students, is providing Palestinians with a value-based education that "is very important for the development of peace in the region."

Although the Palestinians do not yet have a state, the Vatican followed its protocol for a visiting head of state. Abbas and his delegation were visiting Italy and other European countries in an attempt to convince them to resume direct aid to the Palestinian Authority. The aid was frozen after Palestinian elections in 2006 brought Hamas, a militant group, to power.

On March 18 Abbas swore into office members of a new government representing both Hamas and Fatah, a moderate party.

Vatican official compares evil of abortion to suicide attacks

ROME (CNS) — Abortion, which leads to the deaths of innocent humans, is just as evil as killing innocent bystanders in a suicide attack, said the secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Some evil, like the shootings at Virginia Tech, are obvious and visible, said Archbishop Angelo Amato in an April 23 speech on terrorism and evil.

"To the daily ration of evil" reported in the news, there must be added the evil that remains almost invisible and usually is presented "as an expression of the 'progress' of humanity," the archbishop told a Vatican-sponsored seminar for airport chaplains.

As examples of evil presented as progress, Archbishop Amato cited "abortion clinics, authentic slaughterhouses of budding human beings" or "the laboratories where, for example, RU-486, the morning-after pill, is made or where human embryos are manipulated as if they were simply biological material."

Evil also is present "in the parliaments of so-called 'civil' nations where they promulgate laws contrary to the nature of the human person, like the approval of marriages between persons of the same sex or euthanasia," he said.

The archbishop described this phenomenon as "'terrorism with a human face,' which also occurs daily and is equally repugnant" with the actions of a suicide bomber. It often is masked with "expressions that hide the tragic reality of the facts.

"For example, abortion is called (the) 'voluntary interruption of a pregnancy' and not the killing of a defenseless human being."

In every generation, he said, people continue to commit acts of evil with disastrous results.

"In fact, despite progress in every field, despite the conquests of science, the existence of evil behaviors remains stable: wars, hatred, killings, betrayals, abuses, injustice and conflicts," he said.

"Evil today," he said, "is not only the action of individuals or well-defined groups, but comes from dark centers, laboratories of false opinions, anonymous powers that pound our minds with false messages, judging as ridiculous and retrograde behavior conforming to the Gospel."

St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old tradition will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — An adult faith formation series, *"The Church and Human Sexuality,"* will meet Tuesdays through May 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. Topics will include the theology of creation and of the body, the sacrament and sacramentality of marriage, the sexuality of single life, the church and homosexuality and God is love. Presentations are based on and include Scripture, the lives of the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the writings and teachings of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. No fees or pre-registration needed. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. ToT will meet Wednesdays through May 9, at 6:45 p.m. at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy. For more informatiom, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

GREENSBORO — The *Reemployment Support Group* of St. Paul the Apostle Church will meet May 3, 7:30-9 p.m., in Room 8 of the Parish Life Center, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. If you are currently out of work or looking to make a career change, join us for encouragement, support and informative topics to help you in your job search. For more information, call Colleen Assal at (336) 294-4696, ext. 226.

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church and School, 2210 N. Elm St., are sponsoring a series of workshops for women called *Wisdom of Women*. Sessions will be held on the first Thursday of the month, 9:30-11 a.m. in the parish center. For more information or to register call Lucy Wellmaker at (336) 632-1940 or e-mail coachw@lucywellmaker.com.

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, are invited to participate in *The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will host a luncheon May 23 at the Cardinal Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will feature a performance by the Scottish Country Dancers. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KING —Good Shepherd Mission, 105 Good Shepherd Dr. at Kirby Road, will celebrate its *25th Anniversary* June 10 during the 12 p.m. Mass. All former parishioners are invited to attend the Mass and reception. Please e-mail historical pictures and stories to Lance Kull at lancekull@hotmail.com by May 5. For more information, call (336) 972-5934.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

April 28 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
[illegible] Church, Newton

April 28 — 5:30 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Francis Church, Lenoir

April 29 — 10 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Trinity Church, Taylorsville

April 30
LARCUM
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Students near, far remember the fallen

Courtesy photo by Casey Corser

The school spirit rock at St. Matthew School in Charlotte was recently painted by fifth-graders to pay tribute to the victims at Virginia Tech, the site of the April 16 shooting that left 33 dead, including the student gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, who took his own life. The fifth-graders wrote the names of the victims and gunman, as well as personal messages of love and hope, on the rock.

Elsewhere in the Diocese of Charlotte, students at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville and Belmont Abbey College in Belmont gathered for memorial services to pray for the victims and their families. Bishop McGuinness has three alumni who are currently students at Virginia Tech. All are fine, the school said.

Ruth Payne, Belmont Abbey's campus ministry director, hoped the prayers, singing and Scripture readings at the April 17 vigil would have a positive effect for everyone involved.

Catholic students from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., signed a poster April 19 to send to Virginia Tech as a sign of love and encouragement. Father Peter Nasetta, campus minister, preached words of hope and healing during the April 19 memorial Mass at St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel at George Mason.

"How can you make sense of what you can't make sense of?" Father Nasetta said in his homily. "Questions persist."

But, Father Nasetta said, another senseless act was for God to take human form as his Son, to take on the world's sufferings and ultimately to die to save humanity.

"Out of love for us, God chooses to become one of us and then die for us," he said. "God's love is mysterious. The way our God works is hard to understand."

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.

2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.

3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

Middle school youths get to know Jesus better at daylong event

Youths participate in lectures, games, music that nourish 'their need for action'

MORGANTON — Youths from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently got to know Jesus a little better.

Approximately 130 youths attended Extreme Faith 2007, the annual middle school youth day, this year themed "To Know Jesus Christ." The daylong event, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry, was held at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton March 17.

"We appeal to the spiritual, physical and social needs of this unique age," said Peg Ruble, associate director of youth ministry.

"We offer a day with prayer and workshops that focus on their faith experience, and activity that nourishes their need for action," she said.

Workshops included a variety of topics, presented in unique ways.

"One workshop focused on making moral choices that could result in receiving a chocolate pudding mess or a Klondike bar," said Ruble.

"Two workshops focused on music, one traditional with an organ and the other with acoustic guitar," she said.

"One workshop invited the youths to meditate on the prayer of St. Patrick and then to create a flower pot to hold their shamrock plant. They were asked to surround the pot with images of Christ," said Ruble.

Two other workshops dealt with the youths' questions regarding the opposite sex and how God presents us with the tools to choose their relationships with love.

Extreme Faith also featured games and music provided by musicians from Belmont Abbey College.

COURTESY PHOTO

Middle school youths play games during Extreme Faith 2007 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton March 17.

Broadway comes to Kernersville

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the cast of "Thoroughly Modern Millie," performed by students of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville.

'Thoroughly Modern Millie' another hit for Bishop McGuinness

KERNERSVILLE — Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, increasingly well-known for the quality of its musical and drama productions in recent years, once again proved that talent, hard work and dedication make a show successful.

The stage production of the Broadway musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" was presented at the High Point Theatre March 8-10. The show was the largest production ever put on stage at the theater.

"This was the finest production in the school's history, a real showcase for the extraordinary talents of our students with interest in the performing arts," said Principal George Repass.

"Our quest for excellence in this area has been one of our highest priorities in recent years, and the exceptional product yielded by this project is real proof of the success of that effort," he said. "We are all extremely proud."

After acquiring the rights to the show last year, the school began a well-orchestrated journey of intensive singing and dancing rehearsals. The show was directed by Micki Sharpe, a Philadelphia-based professional actress member of the Actors Equity Association, who has performance experience in both Philadelphia and New York.

Sharpe also served as director and choreographer for the show, while Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, dean of students, was the show's producer. The cast was composed of 30 students and the orchestra had 28 musicians.

To upgrade the look and feel of the show, Bishop McGuinness acquired professional sets from Kansas and professional costumes from Florida. Dr. Alan Hirsh, head of the school's music program, orchestrated the score for the production and conducted the student orchestra.

Ministers build 'web' of prayer, support

HICKORY — Approximately 25 ministers involved in youth, young adult and campus ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte recently took part in "Charlotte's Web," a ministry enrichment and network retreat.

The retreat, designed to build "a web of prayer, support and collaborative fellowship," was held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory March 22-23. The event was sponsored by the diocesan offices of youth, young adult and campus ministries.

Tom Zanzig, a freelance writer, trainer, retreat director and speaker on adult faith formation and spirituality, led the retreat reflecting on the topic, "The Rhythms of Life."

In addition to Zangig's topic, Charlotte's Web also included prayer, reflection, sharing and social time.

Zanzig also spoke about adult education during a parish catechetical leader in-service program at the Catholic Conference Center March 22.

COURTESY PHOTO

Speaker Tom Zanzig (second from left) is pictured with employees of the Diocese of Charlotte during "Charlotte's Web" at the Catholic Conference Center March 23. Also pictured (from left): Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart Eileen Spanier, director of diocesan young adult ministry; Zanzig; Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry; Mary Wright, director of diocesan campus ministry; Kay Jordan, assistant in campus and young adult ministry; and Peg Ruble, associate director of youth ministry.

CFCC
Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Courtesy Photo

Band members from Charlotte Catholic High School perform at St. Patrick Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, in March.

Charlotte Catholic bands perform in Ireland

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School bands recently performed several concerts in Galway and Dublin as part of the "Ireland Tour" in conjunction with the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Festival.

Charlotte Catholic's concert and symphonic bands, under the direction of Matthew Smith, were invited by the Lord Mayor of Dublin to perform public concerts at St. Nicholas Church in Galway and St. Patrick Cathedral in Dublin.

In addition, Charlotte Catholic's "Marching Cougars" represented the United States in the St. Patrick's Day Festival Parade before an estimated crowd of 650,000 people.

The 100-member organization was accompanied by 34 parents for the weeklong performance tour, sightseeing and visits to several historical and educational venues.

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of May:

Rev. Ramon Berg	2003
Rev. Henri Blanc	1972
Rev. Edmund Kirsch	2001
Rev. Francis J. McCourt	1982
Rev. William McShea	1973
Rev. James E. Noonan	1992
Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Keefe	1994
Rev. Edward C. Smith	1983
Rev. James A. Stuber	1985

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Charlotte Catholic students construct Habitat house

HOUSE, *from page 1*

to raise the $60,000 necessary to build a Habitat for Humanity house. Contributions came from fundraising events as well as from Charlotte Catholic students and their families. As of April 20, more than $46,000 had been collected.

Of the 280 students in the senior class, about 200 had donated money for the project, and nearly all had signed up to work on the house, located in north Charlotte. A Montagnard family with two young daughters, and a third child expected in a few months, will occupy the house.

The project is being spearheaded by Jessica Green, president of the senior council.

"It's a really nice idea, but it takes a lot more work than I ever would have imagined," said Green, who estimated she spends about an hour each day on the Habitat project.

Still, "it's a dream come true for a lot of us to see the house being built," she said.

Even though their gift won't be seen by many future Charlotte Catholic students, the seniors are still excited and proud of the project.

"It's great to do something for the community," said senior Michelle Krause.

Generally, senior classes raise between $2,000 and $3,000 for their gifts, said Jerry Healy, principal. Past gifts have included scholarships, podiums and flag stands.

"The scope of this gift is totally out of the realm of what I imagined was possible," he said.

"This project shows how unique our class is," Green said. "Everyone is so excited — you really see your progress and your hard work."

While many schools have donated money to Habitat for Humanity, Charlotte Catholic administrators have allowed students to miss classes in order to spend time building the house, Green said.

Students have signed up to work on the house Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for the next three months.

A typical Habitat for Humanity house takes 13 weeks to complete.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Jake Wiesehan, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School, hammer's studs to the frame of a Habitat for Humanity house in Charlotte April 20.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization. Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 225,000 houses, providing shelter for more than 1 million people. Now at work in 100 countries, Habitat builds a house every 26 minutes.

Homeowner families are chosen according to their need, their ability to repay the mortgage and their willingness to work in partnership with Habitat. The organization does not discriminate according to race, religion or ethnic group.

Volunteer builders install framing, roof decking, insulation, drywall, exterior siding and paint. Professional subcontractors are hired to complete heating, air conditioning and electrical work; to pour concrete; and to lay floor covering.

"We're always giving money, but we rarely get to see what it does," said student Michael Troy. "Here, we get to see it and help the people our money is going to."

"This project is a testimony to this class's willingness to serve their community," said Healy. "It's also a testimony to the values instilled by their parents and fostered at Charlotte Catholic."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Mary's Garden

TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

We're a small store with a large inventory – **over 6,000 items in stock.**

Our First Communion & Confirmation items include:
1st Communion Sets and Mass Books in English & Spanish
11 Styles of Veils for Girls plus purses, Rosary Bracelets, & more
Boys' Ties in White, Navy, Red, & Black
Cards, Invitations, Bibles, Crosses, Crucifixes, Candles, & more

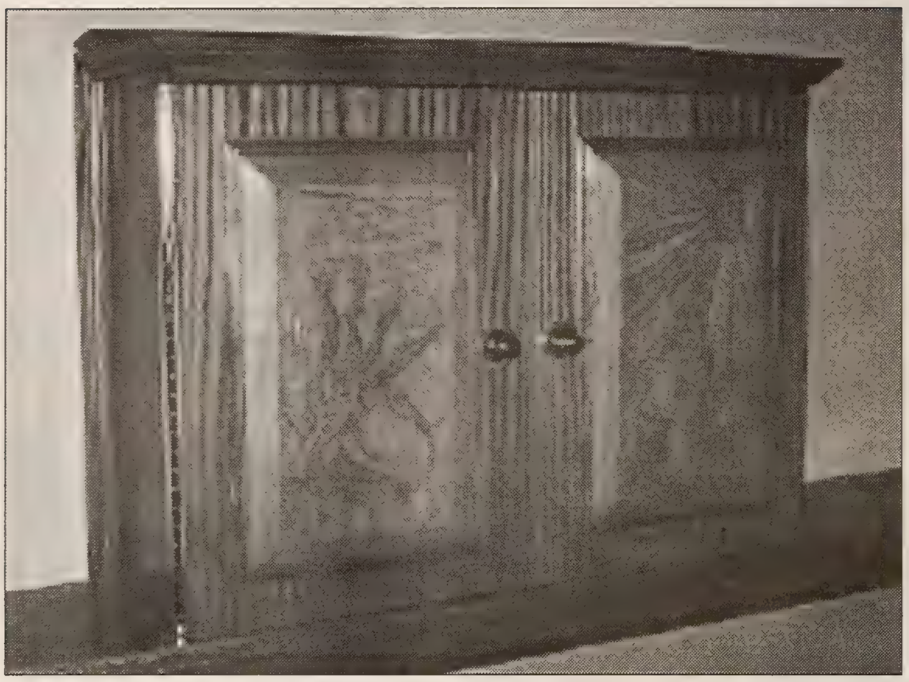
Gifts for Baptisms, Weddings, Anniversaries, Graduations, Memorials, etc.

Phone: 704 823 7244 **Toll Free: 866 823 7244**

Location:
3816 S. New Hope Rd
Suite 27
Gastonia, NC 28056

Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10 AM to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

Divine designs



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the new tabernacle at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, designed by area Catholics and dedicated in March.

Catholics build new tabernacle for St. Paul the Apostle Church

GREENSBORO — An area church now has a brand new tabernacle, thanks to the efforts of some talented Catholics.

In late 2006, Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father William Ruhl, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, approached parishioner Tony Simone and asked him to build a new tabernacle for the church.

Father Ruhl's requirements were that the new tabernacle be set into the wall behind the altar and include a second double door in the front.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent apostolic exhortation, "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("The Sacrament of Charity"), encouraged parishes to have the tabernacle containing the Blessed Sacrament "readily visible to everyone entering the church."

Within several weeks of their meeting, Simone presented blueprints for inspection, which were approved by Father Ruhl and Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Paul Dechant, parochial vicar.

"The only problem seemed to be finding a fitting design for the front doors of the tabernacle. Nothing seemed to fit just right," said Simone.

That week in December 2006, The Catholic News & Herald ran a story about woodcarver Paul Nixon, a parishioner of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, who sculpted a cane with religious imagery for a man who had a severly deformed arthritic hand.

"The timing of the story was a stroke of luck," said Simone.

Simone called and then met with Nixon, who was interested in helping. A few weeks later, Nixon presented some artistic suggestions to Simone, who brought them to Father Ruhl. Approval was quickly granted on a design and work proceeded.

The new tabernacle was dedicated by Father Dechant during Mass March 24.

The tabernacle is made of oak and brass with a marble base interior and a shelf in the front. It has a rear door so that extraordinary ministers of holy Communion can access the interior without going to the front of the tabernacle.

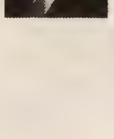
The front has two sets of two doors —the outer set holds the decorative panels that were carved by Nixon; the inner set gives access to the interior of the tabernacle.

The left panel design consists of a dripping candle surrounded with wheat and grapes; the right panel has a chalice surrounded with wheat and grapes with rays of light coming from the symbol of the Eucharist.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU HAVE THOUSANDS OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS.
THE BAD NEWS IS...

- You have thousands of investment options, and you don't know how to pick the best ones for your situation.
- You have thousands of investments options, and you don't have time to research even a fraction of them.

Call to learn more about:

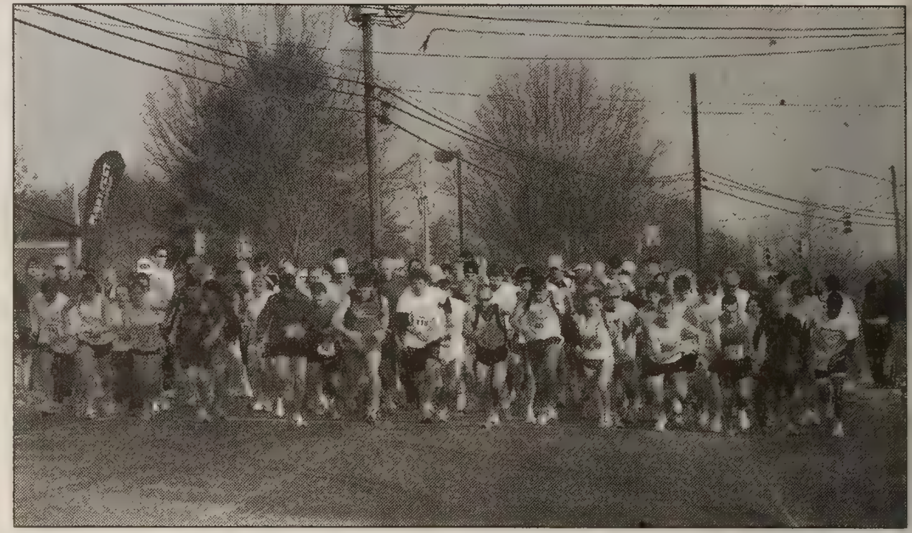


PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT
Les Davaz
Financial Advisor
Member, St. Patrick's Church
100 N. Tryon St., Suite 3300
Charlotte, NC 28202
(704) 331-2233 or
(800) 438-0397
http://fc.smithbarney.com/davaz

citigroup
SMITHBARNEY

* Minimum balance $25,000 Equity, $100,000 Fixed Income. © 2006 Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC. Smith Barney is a division and service mark of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and its affiliates and is used and registered throughout the world. CITIGROUP and the Umbrella Device are trademarks and service marks of Citigroup Inc. or its affiliates and are used and registered throughout the world.

Racing in Mocksville



Courtesy Photo

Members of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville participate with 250 runners from throughout North Carolina and nearby states in the parish's 19th annual Shamrock Run, Walk and Tots Trot March 10. The Shamrock Run is a longstanding Mocksville tradition, as many community organizations, including the YMCA and Mocksville Runners Club, help with the event, which consists of a 10K and 5K run, and "Tots Trot" for children. The parish donates part of the proceeds to a charity in Davie County.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Please join the
Piedmont Triad Office of
Catholic Social Services

for the fourth annual

PARTNERS IN HOPE
fund raising event to benefit our programs

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Tuesday — May 8, 2007
6 pm to 9 pm

Millennium Center
101 West Fifth Street
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Tickets: $75 per person / $550 table for eight

Reservations: Call Tammy at 336-714-3228 to confirm space.

"In this church, two faith communities come together."

Catholic parish shares church with Jewish community

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Marvin Barg and Sue Curtis, members of the Brevard Jewish Community, and Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, are pictured with a torah kept in the Catholic church in Brevard.

FAITHS, *from page 1*

my face due to ignorance and a lack of understanding about what it means to be a child of the Lord. It is my task to lead people to the Almighty, have people find God," he said.

The relationship between Catholics and Jews began in 2001, when Father Del Giudice was approached by Pat and Jay White of the Jewish community's board of directors. Father Del Giudice said "yes" to the proposal without hesitation, receiving the overall approval of the parish.

"In this church, two faith communities come together," said Father Del Giudice. "It provides a place; they have a home."

"Now they can't get rid of us," joked Marvin Barg, who co-serves with Norman Bossert as cantor and lay leader for the Jewish Shabbat (Sabbath) services held on Friday nights in the church.

There are approximately 150 Jewish families on the mailing list, which includes anyone who attends a service or requests to be added to the list, according to Sue Curtis, editor of the community's newsletter and board secretary.

"The community has a small nucleus of about 20," said Curtis.

Despite the differences in their faiths, the respect between the two faith communities is apparent in the interaction of the various members.

"We exchange greetings for the holidays, to wish 'Happy Hanukkah' and to be wished 'Merry Christmas,'" said Father Del Giudice. "(We) acknowledge the sacred seasons we celebrate with a genuine greeting and authentic recognition of each other's belief."

"I was surprised at the interest from the people in the Catholic church about our faith and the acceptance for the Jewish faith," said Curtis.

That interest led members of the two faiths to share more than a building.

"We've shared a number of events. When we share the Seder, it has been a learning experience — and a good one," said Barg.

The Seder is a special ritual during the Jewish festival of Passover, a holiday commemorating Jewish deliverance from Egyptian bondage. Many Catholics participate in a Seder during the season of Lent.

"At the (parish) memorial service held for Pope John Paul II (in April 2005), Norman and Marvin spoke and told the story of a young Jewish boy adopted by Christians in Poland," said Father Del Giudice.

"The family went to their priest, Karl Wojtyla, and asked if they should raise him as a Catholic. Wojtyla told them they should allow him to learn his faith and be a part of his people," recalled Father Del Giudice.

"They said the Mourners Kaddish (Sanctification) for the pope. There wasn't a dry eye in the church," he said.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the unity found between the Catholic and Jewish communities in Brevard, it can be seen in the reverence paid to the beliefs and traditions of each faith.

A cross hangs in the church study, the craftsmanship of two members of the Jewish community and given as a gift to the pastor. For the last several months, the Ark of the Covenant has stood in the same study, housing the Torah.

"People come to the spirit for the same reasons; when you peel back the cover we are looking for the same things — understanding, faith, a desire for peace, love and spirituality," said Curtis.

"Though we have fundamental theological differences, we share a great deal in common in our ethical faith," said Barg. "What we have in common outweighs the differences. What we have here goes beyond bricks and mortar."

"This is a great experience of faiths building bridges rather than putting up walls," said Curtis.

"We talk about fellowship and friendship, brotherhood and sisterhood," said Father Del Giudice. "It's easy to say, but another thing to put it into action."

Join Father John Putnam and Father Christopher Roux
on a pilgrimage to

**Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of
Our Lady's Appearance at Fatima, Portugal**

July 18 – 31, 2007

With side trips to: Lisbon – St. Anthony of Padua's birthplace; Obidos – medieval walled city; Santarem – Holy Miracle of Eucharist; Roman ruins and much more in Portugal!

Cost: $2400 from Newark – includes air fare, meals, accommodations and side trips

Registration deadline: May 13

Info: Carol Stefanec (804) 346-3049 (Richmond, Virginia)

Our pilgrimages support seminarians and foster vocations.

(This is a privately-sponsored pilgrimage, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Travel with other Catholics departing October 29, 2007

Hawaii

4 Islands – 15 Days: ***from $1428****

Includes taxes & inter-island flights!

Join other Roman Catholics on the most affordable two-week, four-island fully escorted Hawaiian vacation you'll ever find. Your group will fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo, and three nights in Kona. Sightseeing on every island includes: A Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial, the Wailua riverboat cruise, Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina, a Hilo orchid garden and Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! *Your price, from only $1428 (per person, double occupancy) includes baggage handling, hotels, taxes, all flights between the islands, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Add $800 for round trip airfare from Charlotte. ***'Your Man'* Tours** specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1967 offering weekly departures to Hawaii on this vacation package. This price is so low because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Friends and family are welcome! Space is limited for this October 29 departure and reservations with a $100 deposit are now due.

For information, reservations & brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

Survey checks Catholic attitudes on immigration, terrorism, bishops

POLL, *from page 1*

earn permanent residency.

The poll also showed that more than 80 percent of those interviewed believed world economic problems, religious intolerance, world political instability and the history of conflict in the Middle East led to terrorism.

The Contemporary Catholic Trends poll, taken every six months by LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y., and the Zogby International polling firm, also showed that 70 percent either somewhat agree or strongly agree that the U.S. bishops are doing a good job leading the church.

The figure is down from 71 percent in a poll taken last fall. The poll results were issued April 4.

Catholic attitudes on how well the bishops are doing their job seem to have a bearing on how Catholics responded to other questions in the poll. While 55 percent favored a plan to give permanent residency to undocumented immigrants, support was higher among those who think the bishops are doing a good job than among those who do not believe the bishops are doing a good job.

On a separate question, whether the U.S. government should reduce income differences between rich and poor, 50 percent of Catholics polled said the government should reduce income differences, while 45 percent disagreed; another 5 percent had no opinion.

But support was higher for this idea — 52 percent — among those who believe the bishops are doing a good job. Conversely, the question gained the support of only 42 percent who thought the bishops were not doing a good job.

Both local pastors and Pope Benedict XVI scored higher approval ratings, 86 percent for each. But 68 percent of those polled strongly agreed their pastor was doing a good job, compared to 47 percent who strongly agreed the pope was doing a good job.

Asked whether the church was stronger or weaker since news of the clergy sex abuse scandals broke five years ago, 41 percent said the church is weaker, 31 percent felt there had been no change, and 23 percent believed it is stronger.

But among those who follow the news of the U.S. bishops, a plurality of respondents felt the church had grown stronger, but that figure was still less than 40 percent.

Among those who feel the church is weaker after the scandals, a higher percentage, 48 percent, believe so if they were aware of a sex abuse allegation in their diocese. Support for the U.S. bishops' leadership is stronger among those unaware of clergy sex abuse allegations in their diocese, although Catholics by a 3-to-2 margin approved of the bishops' leadership even if they were aware of an abuse allegation.

The bishops enjoyed an 83 percent approval rating in the first Contemporary Catholic Trends poll in fall 2001. It dropped to a low of 58 percent in spring 2004 and had reached a 71 percent approval rating last fall before this spring's slight dip.

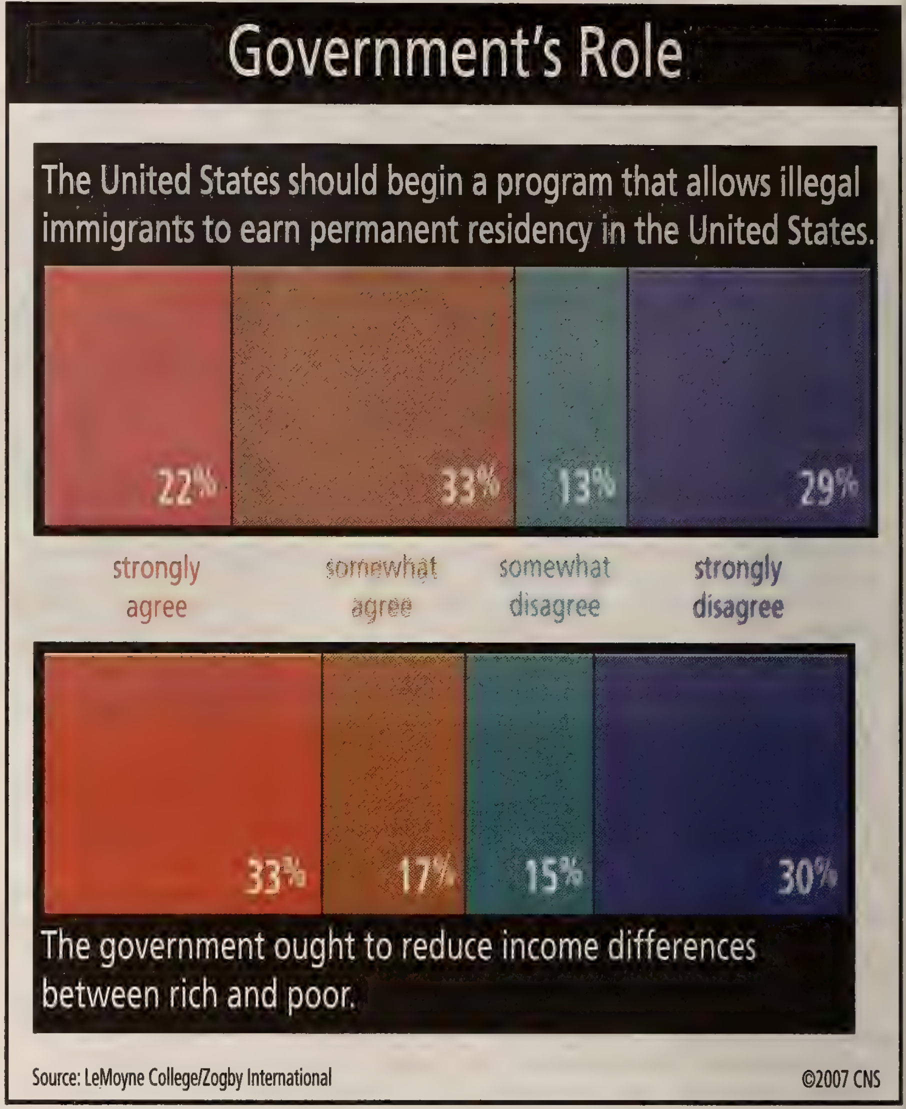
The poll consisted of phone interviews March 14-16 with 1,522 Catholics chosen nationwide from a Zogby-compiled database of self-identified Catholics from previous polls. The margin of error is plus or minus 2.6 percentage points.

The poll also revealed that 59 percent felt religion does not currently have enough influence in public life, while 15 percent said it had too much sway; another 23 percent said religion had the right amount of influence.

The numbers prompted an April 4 statement from William Donohue, head of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, saying the data on religion's influence in public life have "deep ramifications" for presidential hopefuls.

"Protestants can be counted on to vote for the Republican nominee and Jews can be counted on to vote for the Democratic candidate. Catholics, on the other hand, have been in flux for the past few decades, and whoever wins their vote wins the White House," Donohue said.

"The results of this latest poll suggest that Catholic voters will be most responsive to those candidates who support a more public role for religion," he said.



Government's Role

The United States should begin a program that allows illegal immigrants to earn permanent residency in the United States.

The government ought to reduce income differences between rich and poor.

Source: LeMoyne College/Zogby International

©2007 CNS

Sisters of Mercy join Catholic immigration advocates at Hill to push for reform bill

WASHINGTON — Mercy Sister Linda Werthman of Silver Spring, Md., represented the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas during the April 17-19 Justice for Immigrants national gathering organized by the U.S. Catholic bishops' migration awareness campaign of the same name.

After a day and a half of briefings and strategizing with advocates who work on immigration every day, activists from more than 66 dioceses took their campaign for immigration reform to Capitol Hill April 19.

Sister Werthman said the Sisters of Mercy support House bill H.R. 1645, also known as the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy, or STRIVE, Act.

As of mid-April, H.R. 1645, had the backing — at least as a starting point — of many in a vast coalition of business, agriculture, union, civil rights, ethnic and religious organizations.

Kevin Appleby, director of migration and refugee policy for the U.S. bishops, said the STRIVE Act has many of the components sought by the USCCB and others.

docPod

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Take the Survey!

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is conducting a reader survey. If you are chosen and receive a survey from Bishop Jugis, please take the time to answer the questions and return the form.

Survey results will be published in June.

Limbo reflects 'restrictive view of salvation'

LIMBO, *from page 1*

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

The church teaches that baptism is the ordinary way to salvation for all people and urges parents to baptize infants. But in a newly published document, the Vatican's International Theological Commission said there are good reasons to hope that babies who die without baptism go to heaven.

theological awareness today that God is merciful and "wants all human beings to be saved," it said.

Grace has priority over sin, and the exclusion of innocent babies from heaven does not seem to reflect Christ's special love for "the little ones," it said.

"Our conclusion is that the many factors that we have considered ... give serious theological and liturgical grounds for hope that unbaptized infants who die will be saved and enjoy the beatific vision," the document said.

"We emphasize that these are reasons for prayerful hope, rather than grounds for sure knowledge," it added.

The 41-page document, titled "The Hope of Salvation for Infants Who Die Without Being Baptized," was published in Origins, the documentary service of Catholic News Service. Pope Benedict XVI authorized its publication earlier this year.

The 30-member International Theological Commission acts as an advisory panel to the Vatican, in particular to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Its documents are not considered expressions of authoritative church teaching, but they sometimes set the stage for official Vatican pronouncements.

The commission's document said salvation for unbaptized babies who die was becoming an urgent pastoral question, in part because their number is greatly increasing. Many infants today are born to parents who are not practicing Catholics, and many others are the unborn victims of abortion, it said.

Limbo has never been defined as church dogma and is not mentioned in the current Catechism of the Catholic Church, which states simply that unbaptized infants are entrusted to God's mercy.

But limbo has long been regarded as the common teaching of the church. In the modern age, "people find it increasingly difficult to accept that God is just and merciful if he excludes infants, who have no personal sins, from eternal happiness," the new document said.

'No explicit answer'

Parents in particular can experience grief and feelings of guilt when they doubt their unbaptized children are with God, it said.

The church's hope for these infants' salvation reflects a growing awareness of God's mercy, the commission said.

But the issue is not simple, because appreciation for divine mercy must be reconciled with fundamental church teachings about original sin and about the necessity of baptism for salvation, it said. The document traced the development of church thinking about the fate of unbaptized children, noting that there is "no explicit answer" from Scripture or tradition.

In the fifth century, St. Augustine concluded that infants who die without baptism were consigned to hell. By the 13th century, theologians referred to the "limbo of infants" as a place where unbaptized babies were deprived of the vision of God, but did not suffer because they did not know what they were deprived of.

Through the centuries, popes and church councils were careful not to define limbo as a doctrine of the faith and to leave the question open. That was important in allowing an evolution of the teaching, the theological commission said.

A key question taken up by the document was the church's teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation. That teaching needs interpretation, in view of the fact that "infants ... do not place any personal obstacle in the way of redemptive grace," it said. In this and other situations, the need for the sacrament of baptism is not absolute and is secondary to God's desire for the salvation of every person, it said.

"God can therefore give the grace of baptism without the sacrament being conferred, and this fact should particularly be recalled when the conferring of baptism would be impossible," it said. This does not deny that all salvation comes through Christ, it said, but it requires a more careful understanding of how this may work.

United with Christ

The document outlined several ways by which unbaptized babies might be united to Christ:

— A "saving conformity to Christ in his own death" by infants who themselves suffer and die.

— A solidarity with Christ among infant victims of violence, born and unborn, who are endangered by the "fear or selfishness of others."

— God may simply give the gift of salvation to unbaptized infants, corresponding to his sacramental gift of salvation to the baptized.

The document said the standard teaching that there is "no salvation outside the church" calls for similar interpretation.

The church's magisterium has moved toward a more "nuanced understanding" of how a saving relationship with the church can be realized, it said. This does not mean that someone who has not received the sacrament of baptism cannot be saved, it said. Rather, it means that "there is no salvation which is not from Christ and ecclesial by its very nature," it said.

The document quoted St. Paul's teaching that spouses of Christians may be "consecrated" through their wives or husbands. This indicates that the holiness of the church reaches people "outside the visible bounds of the church" through the bonds of human communion, it said.

The document said the church clearly teaches that people are born into a state of sinfulness — original sin — which requires an act of redemptive grace to be washed away.

But Scripture also proclaims the "superabundance" of grace over sin, it said. That seems to be missing in the idea of limbo, which identifies more with Adam's sinfulness than with Christ's redemption, it said. "Christ's solidarity with all of humanity must have priority over the solidarity of human beings with Adam," it said.

Liturgically, the motive for hope was confirmed by the introduction in 1970 of a funeral rite for unbaptized infants whose parents intended to present them for baptism, it said.

The commission said the new theological approach to the question of unbaptized babies should not be used to "negate the necessity of baptism, nor to delay the conferral of the sacrament."

"Rather, there are reasons to hope that God will save these infants precisely because it was not possible to do for them that what would have been most desirable — to baptize them in the faith of the church and incorporate them visibly into the body of Christ," it said.

The commission said hopefulness was not the same as certainty about the destiny of such infants.

"It must be clearly acknowledged that the church does not have sure knowledge about the salvation of unbaptized infants who die," it said.

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, who heads the commission and the doctrinal congregation, met with the pope to discuss the document Jan. 19 and, with the pope's approval, authorized its publication.

Only 6 places left

Join the Diocese of Charlotte
and Fr. Mo West, Vicar General and Chancellor, for the
ALASKA CRUISE and RETREAT
with a day in Seattle!
August 17-25, 2007

Your 8-day excursion includes:
* Daily Mass; time for spiritual growth and peaceful reflection on the majestic grandeur of God's creation
* Round trip airfare from Charlotte
* All meals and accommodations on Holland America's luxury cruise ship Oosterdam with stops in Seattle, Juneau, Hubbard Glacier, Sitka, Ketchikan and Victoria, BC
* One pre-cruise night at hotel in Seattle with city tour and free time
* Airport transfers in Seattle

Price starts at only $2,199 per person for double occupancy and includes airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, accommodations, Seattle hotel and city tour, transfers, port charges and taxes (which may be subject to change).

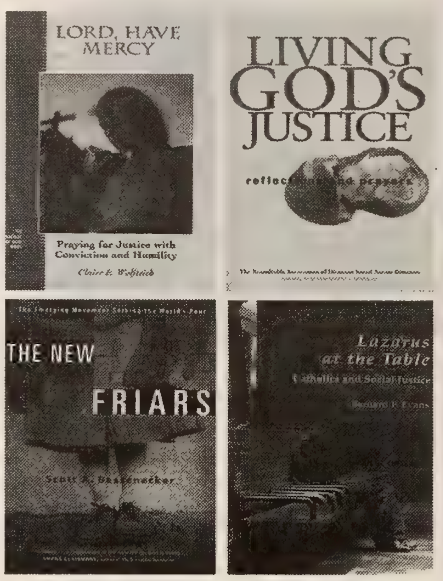
Reserve today for best cabin choice and lowest rates! Call for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese (704)370-3332 or Corporate Travel Service (800)727-1999, Ext. 116.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Social justice themes permeate a buffet of books

REVIEWED BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



This buffet of books parallels the litany of justice issues Catholics are called to address.

While South African apartheid, the work of Cesar Chavez among farmworkers and the struggle between those who term themselves pro-life and pro-choice serve as examples of justice, or the lack thereof, the value of "Lord, Have Mercy: Praying for Justice With Conviction and Humility" is in the questions Claire E. Wolfteich asks of readers, moving them to pray and to reflect upon justice: How do we make sense of the awful things that people do to one another? How do we prayerfully engage social and political issues without simplifying those issues, or causing greater alienation in the faith community?

One realizes that she is writing about something toward which she herself journeys and with which she struggles. By linking the search for justice to prayer, Eucharist, Scripture and the inspired words of church writers such as Swiss theologian Karl Barth, German Jesuit Father Karl Rahner and St. Ignatius of Loyola, Wolfteich provides readers with the prodding and wisdom they need in seeking justice.

"Living God's Justice: Reflections and Prayers," by the Roundtable Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors, provides spiritual material on which those who hunger for justice will be nourished. Some are the words of the well-known, e.g., Thomas à Kempis, while others were written by those in social justice outreach. Some are a few lines, others are leader-congregation pieces appropriate for meetings of social justice commissions. Together, they make for a volume through which readers will be aided in their prayers for justice.

In "The New Friars," Scott A. Bessenecker features people who have made a commitment to live with and work among the poor. He tells their stories so well readers will have no problem smelling the garbage of the communities or picturing the squalor residents call home. He leaves no doubt how injustice among the world's poorest people can be and is being addressed.

Bessenecker is the director of global projects with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA; his accounts may inspire those, particularly young adults, who wish to live justice more than they want to talk about it.

Of the new friars, he writes, "Their love for people who have fallen to the outer ring of society comes from a long-standing and historic tradition of disciples who loved surfing the edges. Today's Western church relegates them to the periphery. We've forgotten that some of Christianity's best years have been spent outside the bounds of popularity."

Readers who find themselves asking "What does the church teach about justice?" will appreciate the seven areas — the life and dignity of the person, family and community, rights and responsibilities, the poor and vulnerable, work and workers' rights, solidarity, and creation — Bernard F. Evans features in "Lazarus at the Table: Catholics and Social Justice."

An associate professor of pastoral theology who holds the Virgil Michel ecumenical chair in rural social ministries at St. John's School of Theology-Seminary in Collegeville, Minn., Evans offers a step-by-step introduction and overview of church teaching about each. Drawing upon encyclicals and statements of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he provides context for what the church teaches and why.

While the compilation by itself is valuable to students, the inclusion of discussion questions and recommended actions that conclude the chapters on each of the topics provides readers with the inspiration to practice what has been preached. It would be ideal for use in a parish-based adult faith formation program.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 6, 2007

May 6, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 14:21-27
Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13
2) Revelation 21:1-5
3) Gospel: John 13:31-33, 34-35

Loving as God did never goes out of style

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I was in seventh grade, not long after Christmas I remember dressing up for church in some knee-high leather boots and a "hip hugger" skirt — very avant garde for 1968.

I thought I was quite stylish and in sync with the fashion of the time (in a word, "cool"). That's why it amuses me to see boots, flared-leg pants and low-waist jeans make such a comeback.

Clothes that I got rid of decades ago are now "retro" or "vintage," and they're in high demand (even polyester shirts!). Some of what's considered "new" is actually quite outdated but it's being appropriated and reinterpreted by a whole new clientele.

Likewise, the "new commandment" that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel — to love one another — isn't really new at all. It's actually rooted in the Torah, or Jewish law, according to Leviticus 19:18: "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

So what's so new about it?

For one thing, Jesus invites his disciples to broaden the scope of that commandment. Not only are Christians to love their "fellow countrymen" or those who are like themselves. They are to embrace all people, even enemies.

Furthermore, Jesus calls us to love others, not only as we would love ourselves (truth be told, we don't even love ourselves all that well!), but "as I have loved you."

Big difference.

The danger of hearing anything spoken many, many times is that it can become stale, trivial and inconsequential, like "yesterday's news." Yet the good news of the risen Lord is that even an "old" commandment becomes new, acquiring an even broader meaning and taking on fresh significance.

Loving one another as the Lord loved us never goes out of style, nor is it finished once and for all. It is an attitude, a choice, an action that is renewed every day.

Questions:

How have you trivialized Jesus' commandment to "love one another"? In what situation or relationship are you called to love as Jesus loves you?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"I give you a new commandment" (John 13:34).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 29-MAY 5
Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter), Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14-17, John 10:27-30; **Monday (St. Pius V),** Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday (St. Joseph the Worker),** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday (St. Athanasius),** Acts 12:24--13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday,** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 6-12
Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-35; **Monday,** Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday,** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday,** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday (Bl. Damien of Moloka'i),** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday,** Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras)** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

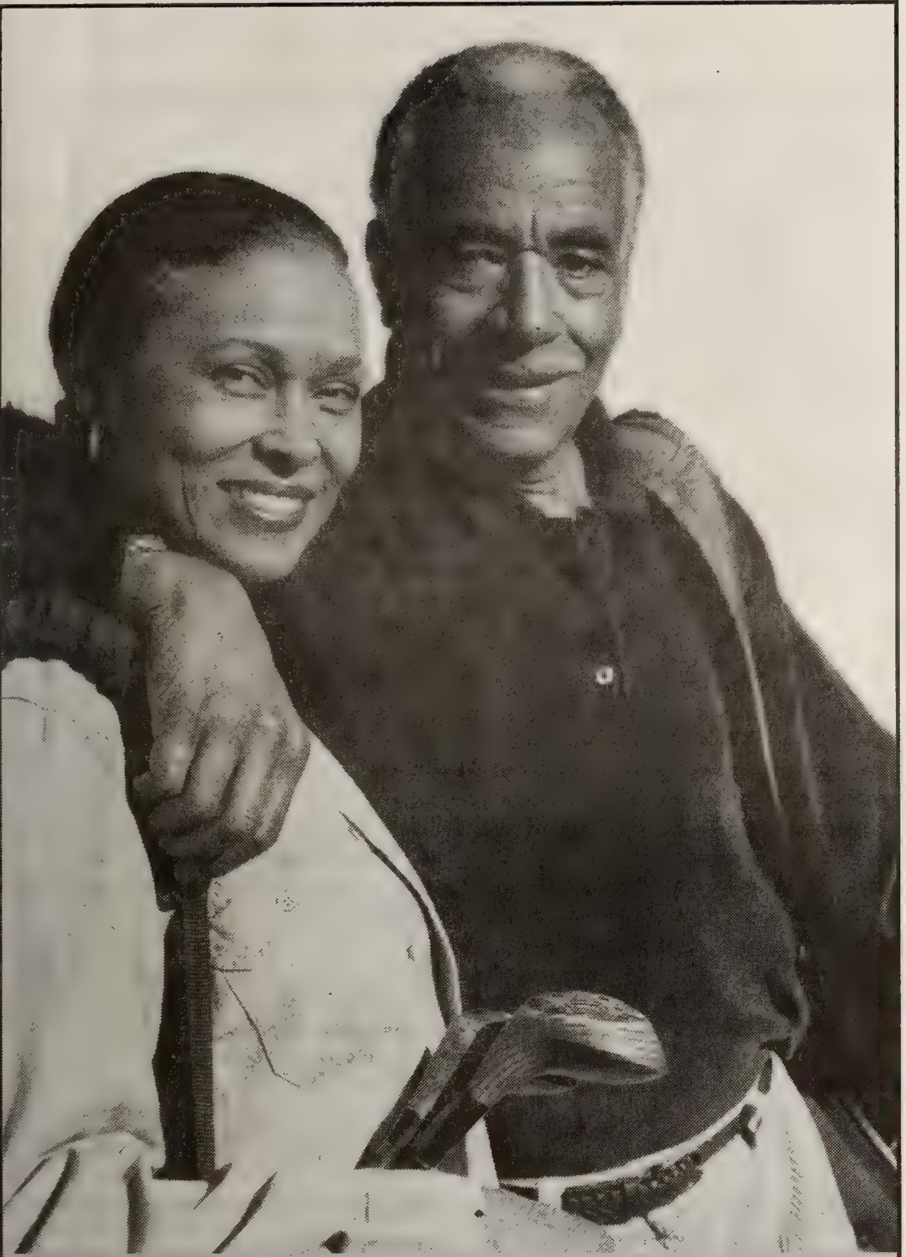
11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)



Retired.
Not retiring.

Kathy has her own idea of wellness. Some days, it's a hole-in-one. Other times, it's gardening, gourmet dining, and grandchildren. Soon, she'll have more time for it all. Being carefree feels good. Living here will feel great…like hitting the green. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

MAG/CNH/Ret3

Maryland professor makes history on 'Jeopardy!'

BY SUZANNE M. SINGLETON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WALKERSVILLE, Md. — As he sits on the blue couch in his Walkersville home watching "Jeopardy! America's Favorite Quiz Show," Scott Weiss knows most of the answers.

"Being in front of everyone on the planet on TV on the show — that's a different kind of thing!" said the assistant professor in the department of mathematics and computer science at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, who was a recent contestant on "Jeopardy!"

The 36-year-old garnered winnings of $63,000 over four rounds.

An avid puzzles and games enthusiast with a basement full of board games, Weiss decided to take an online test (along with tens of thousands of others) a year ago, which began the process of becoming a "Jeopardy!" contestant.

He was one of the lucky ones who received a call to audition in Washington. Then he was invited to Sony Studios in Los Angeles for a December taping.

In the process, Weiss made "Jeopardy!" history. He ended the final round in a three-way tie with two other contestants; each had $16,000 after providing the question of Bonnie Parker of the infamous Bonnie and Clyde.

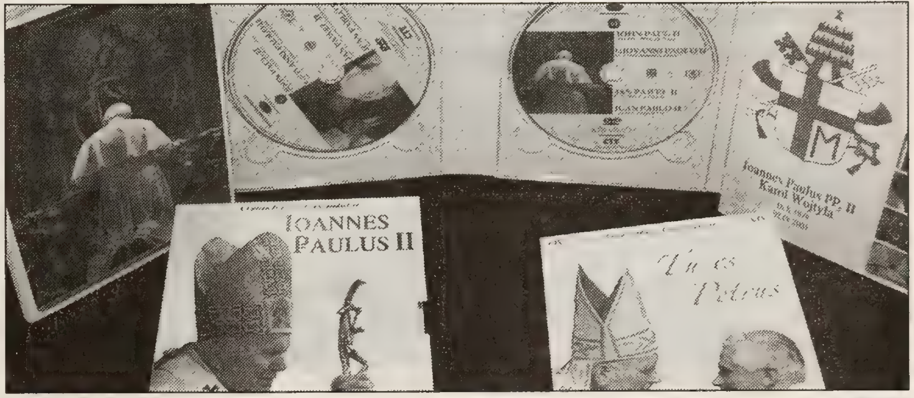
For the first time in the show's 23-year history, all three contestants returned for a new taping when usually only one contestant advances — beating 1 in 25 million odds.

"I did wager intentionally to cause the tie if we all had it right," said Weiss. "Having watched 'Jeopardy!' for so long, I knew that there had never been a three-way tie before. So I saw a chance to make history and to give away some more of the show's money."

The Long Island, N.Y., native held a viewing party at his home to watch his four performances. In addition, the university, where he has been employed for nine years, held a large viewing party for faculty and students.

During the weekend of March 24-25, the avid "Jeopardy!" fan participated in the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in Stamford, Conn., where he placed 19th out of 698 competitors — his second-best showing.

In-house productions



CNS PHOTO

The Vatican has released a new, complete catalogue of its in-house production of DVDs documenting the life and death of Pope John Paul II, the papal transition of 2005, the Second Vatican Council, and what goes on behind the walls of Vatican City.

Vatican releases DVDs detailing lives of recent popes

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican has released a complete catalog of DVDs documenting the life and death of Pope John Paul II, the papal transition of 2005 and the Second Vatican Council, and what goes on behind Vatican City's walls.

To mark the second anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican television center presented a full-color, two-page catalog showcasing the seven DVD collections for sale.

The collection is unique "because CTV (Vatican television center) cameramen can get close to the pope" and capture images and events that other television crews cannot.

For example, the hour-long documentary, "Benedict XVI: The Keys of the Kingdom," starts out giving the viewer a ride in the backseat of the popemobile. The camera peers over Pope John Paul's shoulder and shows crowds waving to him as the pope is driven home from Rome's Gemelli hospital a few weeks before his death April 2, 2005.

Viewers also are given privileged peeks of the Sistine Chapel, where voting for the new pope took place, workers erecting the smoke stack that would tell the world with a puff of white smoke that a pope had been elected, and the cardinals' living quarters during the papal transition.

Accompanied by detailed and colorful commentary, there is also footage of the newly elected Pope Benedict walking up to the closed red curtain moments before he was presented to the world from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. There is also footage of the joyous celebrations the new pope encountered on the streets when he returned to his old apartment to greet neighbors and friends.

Praise and worship

Courtesy Photo

Allana-Rae Ramkissoon, vice principal of Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte, leads students in a celebratory dance during a Harambe Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Charlotte Feb. 15, as part of a Black History Month celebration.

The Harambe Mass, which celebrates the heritage of African-American Catholics, has been a monthly tradition at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte since 2001. Alicia Verdun, a parishioner of Our Lady of Consolation Church and a parent of a fifth-grader at Our Lady of the Assumption School, coordinated the Mass in which students took part in several of the rituals.

Mary Jones and Bernard Carr, members of Our Lady of Consolation Church Choir; and Eric Massy, Our Lady of Consolation Church's music minister, helped a choir of Our Lady of the Assumption School students lead traditional African-American hymns while accompanied by Maureen Johnson on a ceremonial drum.

Father Richard Hanson celebrated the Mass.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

CNAs & AIDES: In-home aide company hiring NC-licensed CNAs and experienced caregivers for work in the greater Charlotte area. Must be trustworthy and passionate about helping seniors. Day, evening, overnight and live-in shifts available. Call Partners In Care, 8am-5pm, for interview. 704-554-9904.

FOR RENT

HOUSE: 3 BR/2 ½ B. University area with 2-car garage on private lot and quiet street. 5825 Nicholas Ave., Charlotte, NC 28269. $1100/month. 704-968-8579.

LAKE LURE VACATION CABIN: Beautiful mountain setting inside Lake Lure city limits. New, spotless, spacious, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wrap-around deck. Spectacular views! Close to all area activities. Relax for weekend, week or more. Reasonable. Military discount. No Pets. 828-299-3714

FOR SALE

200 volumes Catholic mysticism/contemplative prayer/spirituality. Send S.A.S.E. Jim Costello,2 Whirlaway Court, Hendersonville, NC 28792 for listing/price entire library.

PRAYERS & PETITIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for hearing my novena. Please answer. DL

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

St. Paul Education Center, a vibrant Pre K-Grade 8 parish school of 225 students in historic New Bern, N. C., is seeking a dedicated, dynamic and creative visionary for Principal to carry on the strong tradition of academic excellence and Catholic faith formation for our diverse student body. An exceptional elementary/middle school, steeped in Catholic tradition, SPEC has just completed re-accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The school enjoys outstanding support from the Pastor, parents and staff within this growing parish community of 1,780 families.

The successful candidate will:
a) be a highly qualified, committed, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church
b) exhibit strong leadership, integrity, sound judgment, excellent communication and organization skills
c) possess a master's degree in Educational Administration/Leadership with a minimum of 3-5 years' experience in Catholic schools, preferably as a school Principal
d) possess or be eligible to be licensed as an administrator by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Salary will be commensurate with education, experience and qualifications. Contract year begins July 2007. Deadline for receipt of applications is April 27, 2007. For further information and qualifications visit our website at: www.stpaulccnewbern.org.

To apply, please forward cover letter, resume and credentials by e-mail to specsearch@yahoo.com or by mail to: Principal Search Committee, St. Paul Catholic Church,3005 Country Club Road,New Bern, North Carolina 28562.

DIRECTOR OF DIOCESAN HOUSING CORPORATION

The Catholic Diocese of Charlotte Housing Corporation is seeking a full-time director to provide vision and leadership to a developing housing ministry. A complete job description for this position can be found at www.cdchousingcorp.org. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package. To be considered for this position, submit a resume postmarked by May 4, 2007 to:

Gerard A. Carter, CDCHC
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

or email gacarter@charlottediocese.org.

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
HOUSING CORPORATION

TRIUNE
Capital Advisors LLC

Come Grow With Us
Financial Advisors

Triune Capital Advisors, LLC is a faith-based, full service broker-dealer firm. Our commitment is to high ethical standards, professional and personal growth for you and your clients. If you are already licensed and are sincere about making a difference in people's lives, contact us.

Sarah Westbrook
704-714-2202
swestbrook@triunecapital.com

201 S. College St. — Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28244
Member NASD Member SIPC

CORRECTION

In the March 30 issue, Katrina Krulikas, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence who received a prize from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, was incorrectly listed as a first-grader. She is a fourth-grader. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

Surprise homecoming

CORTES
U.S. NAVY

COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Jim Cortes of the U.S. Navy reserves surprised his children, first-grader Connor and fourth-grader Kyndall, as well as their classmates, when he visited Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point for lunch Feb. 9. Cortes had just returned from a tour of duty in the Middle East, where he had been serving a tour of duty since October.

Cortes, his wife, Patty, and their children, including pre-schooler Lydia, are parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

Cortes, who has been the department head of training with the Navy for approximately 1,100 deployed service members in the SW Asia Theater of Operations, was stationed in Norfolk, Va., awaiting his next assignment.

You are Invited
To the 2007
"Life is Sweet"
Pro-Life Conference
& Dessert Social
Hosted by Charlotte area Right to Life
Saturday, May 5th 1:00 – 4:00pm
St. Gabriel Catholic Church Parish Center
Featuring Debi Vinnedge
Founder of Children of God for Life
Plus, Break-out Sessions on:
- Embryonic Stem Cells
- Post Abortion Issues
- Sidewalk Prayer & Counseling
www.CharlotteLife.org

Kids helping kids

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Students at Asheville Catholic School hold up some of the items they collected for donation during Lent April 4 as part of their school's outreach program.

Lenten sacrifices benefit children's home

BY CAROLE MCGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students at Asheville Catholic School are helping the less fortunate.

Students gathered for a prayer service in the school gymnasium April 4, during which the gifts they collected through their Lenten sacrifices were blessed by Father John Schneider, pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

Collected as part of the school's outreach program, the gifts will benefit residents of Elida Homes in Asheville, a nonprofit agency serving children and families in western North Carolina with programs including residential and foster care, and child development and community support services.

Throughout their Lenten journey, the students fasted and attended reconciliation services, collected needed school supplies and raised $300, mostly in change, to help buy shoes for Elida residents.

According to Rita Pisano, religion coordinator for Asheville Catholic, the donated supplies included more than 4,000 pens, pencils and erasers, as well as art supplies, notebooks, backpacks, socks and stuffed animals.

That winning fire

COURTESY PHOTO

Walter Reid of the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal's office (left), and Sister of St. Joseph Helene Nagle, principal (right), are pictured with St. Ann School students who won first place in the 29th Annual Fire and Life Safety Bowl at the Oasis Temple in Charlotte March 15. Fourth- and fifth-grade students from 30 public and private schools in Mecklenburg County participated in the event, with teams answering questions from study materials provided by the fire marshal's office. Reid awarded St. Ann School participants $500, individual trophies and the John W. Knowles Award. Knowles, a longtime Mecklenburg County fire marshal, retired in 1998. The Fire and Life Safety Bowl is presented by the Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal's office, the Charlotte Fire Department and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The St. Ann School team, coached by Diane Troy, consisted of Ella Little, Phylissa Greeley, Alex Prys, Jodi Croat and Cara Toebbe. Team managers were Matthew Hajek and Nicole Balas.

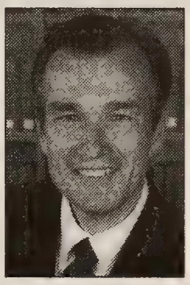
Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Happy Mother's Day from the Supreme Court

Partial-birth decision preserves, promotes fetal life

Faith & Precedent



DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST

Mother's Day has come a month early to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In mid-April, the court upheld Congress' prohibition of partial-birth abortion. A practice bordering, if not mimicking, infanticide has been put largely off limits.

Partial-birth abortion involves the near-completed delivery of an intact child, only to then intentionally puncture the child's skull for the purpose of inflicting death by suctioning out the brain.

When the state of Nebraska sought to ban this gruesome procedure some years ago, the Supreme Court found the state's ban too vague to be enforceable and lacking a health exception.

Congress tightened up the language and supplied an exception for life, but not health. Responsible medical testimony found the procedure to be "never medically necessary" and fraught with its own health risks.

In its latest ruling, the court conceded that the need for a health exception was contested. Nevertheless, in spite of that medical uncertainty, the court found there was no basis to invalidate the law in its entirety.

Rather, the presumption should be in favor of the law's enforcement, leaving the door ajar just a bit should an unusually rare medical condition be specifically demonstrated to medically require the procedure.

In general, said the court, the federal restriction was perfectly valid since "the government has a legitimate and substantial interest in preserving and promoting fetal life."

While only vindicating a ban of one notably ugly procedure, the ruling is important for the insight it supplies about the new court led by Chief Justice John Roberts. Especially relevant given the advent of Mother's Day is the extent to which the court chose to highlight the profound social injury that abortion represents to motherhood.

Writing for the court majority, which included Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia, Justice Anthony Kennedy affirmed that "respect for human life finds [its] ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child."

Acknowledging abortion to be a painful and difficult moral decision, the court pronounced that it would be "self-evident" for any mother to regret her choice to abort. The majority speculated that this pain would be far greater if the law had permitted a doctor to engage in the shocking killing of a child partially born.

Dissenting, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg understood the implications of motherhood for the case entirely differently.

Calling even the limitation of a single, heinous abortion procedure "alarming," she and her fellow dissenters (Justices John Paul Stevens, Stephen Breyer and David Hackett Souter), characterized the abortion right as essential to a woman's autonomy and her "enjoyment of equal citizenship."

Why a woman's equality depends upon the option of destroying the life of her child is unexplained.

As a one-time law dean, it was my privilege to meet Ginsburg from time to time. In person, she is a kind and intelligent woman. Her thoughtfulness toward my law students — men and women alike — was always generous.

What is baffling in light of these personal meetings is the stridency of her dissent and her sarcastic denigration of Congress' effort to protect life by likening it to the most repressive gender laws.

Indeed, Ginsburg comes very close to equating the protection of unborn children to abusive behavior toward women. Seemingly to refute the "bond of love" between mother and child noted by the majority, Ginsburg emphasizes unwanted pregnancies and the daily incidents of sexual assault.

This is non sequitur. Proscribing an inhuman abortion practice does not re-impose "discredited notions about women's place in the family and under the constitution."

Ginsburg is right, of course, that at one time — a half-century or more ago — the law rather exclusively highlighted "the destiny and mission of women to fulfill the noble and benign offices of wife and mother."

America can and should still celebrate these as noble callings. Nothing about protecting unborn life, however, requires that they be the only vocational choices of a woman.

The Supreme Court's Mother's Day gift? Rejection of the pernicious idea that women can only achieve by standing upon the graves of their unborn children.

It's not about the job

Faith in God's providence overcomes concerns about employment

Guest Column

RICO DE SILVA
GUEST COLUMNIST

"It's not about the job, son." It's about faith, trust and confidence in God's providence.

I believe this is what God has been trying to teach me for the last five months after I lost my job a week before Thanksgiving and my daughter's first birthday.

May 1 is the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, and the Catholic Church honors him as the patron saint of workers worldwide. I have always looked up to St. Joseph as one of my role models, but five months of unemployment have definitely raised my devotion to a higher level.

Initially, I was not too concerned about being jobless. My wife, on the other hand, was concerned from the beginning, as she is staying home with our daughter. Finding a job had always come naturally to me. I am bilingual and these days being fluent in Spanish is considered a very marketable commodity.

I told my wife, "Honey, don't worry. I'll have a job by Christmas."

However, God had other plans. It was going to take more than speaking Spanish and trusting in all my skills to find a job.

A couple of phone interviews with a recruiter for a local company went extremely well. This made me feel confident that I was going to land a job with them as a Spanish interpreter. The recruiter assured me that the only step left for my hiring was a phone interview with the company CEO.

"He should be calling you real soon," the recruiter said.

He never did. The day after Christmas, I received a nice letter telling me that they had hired someone else. I was a little disappointed, but not scared yet.

I hit my breaking point at the end of January after several interviews with different companies and two very close calls. One of the companies even asked me to come back for a second interview, and their VP of sales sparked my optimism: "We should be ready to hire you soon."

After sending countless e-mails and leaving several phone messages, I am still waiting to hear from them.

I sensed danger.

It was time to get on my knees and ask for divine intervention. Enter St. Joseph.

I figured somebody who could provide for the Immaculate Conception and the Son of God could understand my worries. After all, I am sure that when he had to flee to Egypt with a "stay-at-home mom" and a newborn baby, he did not know what to expect, but he trusted that God's providence would take care of all their needs.

So I started begging St. Joseph relentlessly to help me find a job quickly. At the same time, my prayer to God was an echo of my wife's chronic complaint: "I don't understand how a bilingual man with a college education can't find a job."

Neither did I, sweetheart.

A very wise priest told me once that you never want to ask God "why," but "how." He used the example of finding Jesus in the Temple when Mary asked the young Jesus: "Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you anxiously" (Lk 2:48).

Jesus' answer marks the only occasion in the Gospels where he rebukes his mother. Using this lesson as my frame of reference, I started asking God, through the intercession of St. Joseph, to please show me how to find a job — ASAP.

After my attitude adjustment and my increased prayer life, I knew I was getting close to my goal after one job interview in late February. My interviewer, a devout Christian, decided to pray for me at the end of the interview. Nowhere in "What Color is My Parachute" does it say that prayer is an integral part of job interview etiquette.

Of course, I did not get the job, but only God knows why. But finally, on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, I got a job offer.

Coincidence? No, 'God-incidence.' By the time you read this column, I'll be sitting at my desk at my new inside sales job.

I do not wish for anyone, single or married, to go through a long period of unemployment like I did to increase their trust in God and his providence. But if you find yourself in that predicament, go to St. Joseph.

Like St. Teresa of Avila wrote in her "Dialogues," whatever you ask of St. Joseph, you shall receive.

It's true. I did.

Rico De Silva is a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

Write a Letter to the Editor

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

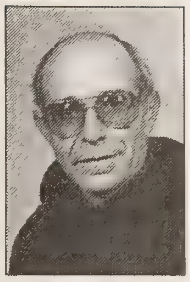
Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

The 'After-Easter Syndrome': Power of the powerless

Our imperfect lives are made perfect by Christ's love

Guest Column

CAPUCHIN FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA
GUEST COLUMNIST



Our real world is made up of despair and hope, failure and success, defeat and victory, sin and grace, crying and laughter.

Our human nature seems more inclined to despair than to hope; we are more easily susceptible to believing in the worst than to count on the best. Usually, a pessimist — to prove that the darkness is real — will turn off the light.

The good news is that we believe in the heroes' ability to snatch victory from defeat, and Jesus proves just that with his resurrection. Jesus' resurrection did not depend on the faith of his disciples; if it had, it is likely it never would have occurred.

His resurrection relied on the power of God rather than on the powerless fear. The defeated disciples, however, made the resurrection meaningful when they shared Jesus' triumph.

Jesus knew that fear was an overwhelming burden for the disciples, so he reassured them: "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not fear" (Jn.14:27). But even with this assurance, the disciples stayed away from his execution.

After Jesus' burial, they were hiding. The angel encouraged them: "Fear not ... He is risen." There was no reason to fear.

But, as humans, we are often paralyzed by fear. Our fear ranges from a vague uneasiness and anxiety about everything in general to nothing in particular. We can fear specific things — disease, old age, loneliness, parenting, marriage, strangers, germs, nightmares, bankruptcy, responsibility, death.

But, basically, we are afraid of what God will allow to happen to us — what if he allows the same things that happened to his own son to happen to us?

The worst that could happen is death; but the resurrection of Jesus has overcome even that. Not even death can snatch us from the Savior's hand. His resurrection has become our personal triumph over our inability and fear.

Probably no other disciple felt the sting of Jesus' death more than Peter. Jesus had called him the "rock," perhaps counting on him to be steady as a rock. But Peter proved not to be dependable.

How do you ever again look squarely in the face of the one you have denied three times? But Jesus' love does not fail, no matter how much we fail him. Our relationship with him does not depend on our ability, but on his love.

Peter was not the only one who failed Jesus' love. Still, Peter, James, John and Mary Magdalene were the first ones to witness the miracle of the resurrection. There is, sometimes, a great sense of irony and humor in our powerless fear and our courage to overcome it.

The message of Easter morning is that we are not condemned to live a defeated life. God is willing to roll away the stones that seem to seal our destiny.

It is true that we have limitations and imperfections. So what? What we cannot do, the cross and the resurrection will do — give power to the powerless.

Capuchin Father Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

What will the future of our children be?

Godless hardness of heart spawns violence

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"What will youth look like after all the violence they have experienced? Will they be our next peacemakers, terrorists or basket cases?"

These questions were raised at a recent symposium — "Growing Up in Economic and Political Difficulty: Youth in Palestine, Northern Ireland and Urban America" — that was sponsored by the Life Cycle Institute and psychology department at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

One presenter showed pictures of Northern Ireland neighborhoods where there are tall, barbwire walls between the Catholic and Protestant sectors. Another picture showed graffiti in one sector demonizing the people of the other sector.

The presenter told us the youth throw rocks at each other over those walls regularly, and that at night people are careful not to leave lights on in the front room because that is an invitation for warring parties to throw bricks through their windows.

As a result of this violence, Catholic and Protestant citizens live in close proximity but rarely associate with each other.

In many countries experiencing extreme violence, a large part of the population is young people under the age of 18. Growing up in these environments causes these youths to have nightmares, expectations of continuous violence and little idea of what a civil atmosphere is like.

Civic responsibility and harmonious collaboration are not part of their lives.

If young people lack the vision of creating a better future, what will their future look like? Most likely it will continue to be an existence of violence, hatred, terror and death.

One presenter spoke of the need to teach youth how to find common ground and to cultivate ways of identifying common interests and issues they can all agree on.

Interestingly, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin proposed this same idea as a means of bringing disenchanted Catholics back into the fold.

Ironically, his suggestion met extreme resistance; his detractors were brother bishops who saw seeking a common ground as compromising the Catholic faith.

These days there is little mention of seeking common ground to end the wars that are being fought among nations and in the church. We seem to be in an age of hardened hearts that justify themselves on the grounds they have the only truth.

Employing might is preferred to earnest dialogue. To some extent, we have lost our appetite to better understand one another.

Pope John Paul II was forever reminding us of solidarity, to see and treat all people as family and converse with each other as cherished friends.

The philosopher Cicero would add that "our organ of speech is the voice." In using it we should aim at two things — "to be clear and to be melodious."

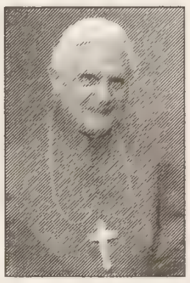
Solidarity implies a melodious voice, and especially an open heart like that of the father of the prodigal son who was willing to go to any lengths to create harmony and to restore.

Embracing this godly principle is our best means for overcoming a godless hardness of heart that spawns violence.

Pope says his new book highlights difficult levels of reading Bible

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said that in his new book he tried to highlight what the Bible says about Jesus, what the moral implications of his teachings are and how reading the Scriptures can lead to a real relationship with Jesus.

At his April 25 weekly general audience, the pope said his three-pronged approach to the Bible's words were inspired by Origen of Alexandria, a third-century theologian.

The pope's book, "Jesus of Nazareth," went on sale April 16 in Italian, German and Polish; the English edition is set for release May 15.

During his general audience, Pope Benedict called Origen "one of the greatest" teachers of the Christian faith, particularly because of the way he combined scholarship, preaching and teaching with the example of "exemplary moral conduct."

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English at his weekly general audience April 25.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our catechetical journey through the early church brings us to the remarkable figure of Origen of Alexandria. This great teacher of the faith was highly esteemed by his students, not only for his theological brilliance but also for his exemplary moral conduct.

His father, Leonides, was martyred during the reign of Septimius Severus. Though Origen himself always had a deep yearning to die a martyr's death, he decided that the best way to honor his father and glorify Christ was by living a good and upright life.

Later, under the emperor Decius, he was arrested and tortured for his faith, dying a few years later.

Origen is best known for his unique contribution to theology: an "irreversible turn," which grounded theology in Scripture. He emphasized an allegorical and spiritual reading of the word of God, and demonstrated how the three levels of meaning — the literal, the moral and the spiritual — progressively lead us to a deeper prayer life and closer relationship with God.

Origen teaches us that when we meditate on God's word and conform our lives to it, we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to the fullness of truth. May we follow Origen's example by praying with Scripture, always listening attentively to God's word.

Deacon sees human side of prisoners labeled as ‘monsters’

Prison minister helps inmates find peace with God, peace with themselves

BY STEVE EUVINO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. — After nearly seven years in prison ministry, Deacon Malcolm Lunsford has not “seen any monsters” on death row but “just a lot of guys who’ve gone wrong somewhere.”

That includes David Leon Woods, an inmate scheduled to be executed by lethal injection May 4 at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

Deacon Lunsford describes Woods as the most remorseful inmate he has ever met.

Woods, now 42, was 19 when he stabbed a neighbor 21 times during an attempt to steal a television. He was sentenced to death March 28, 1985.

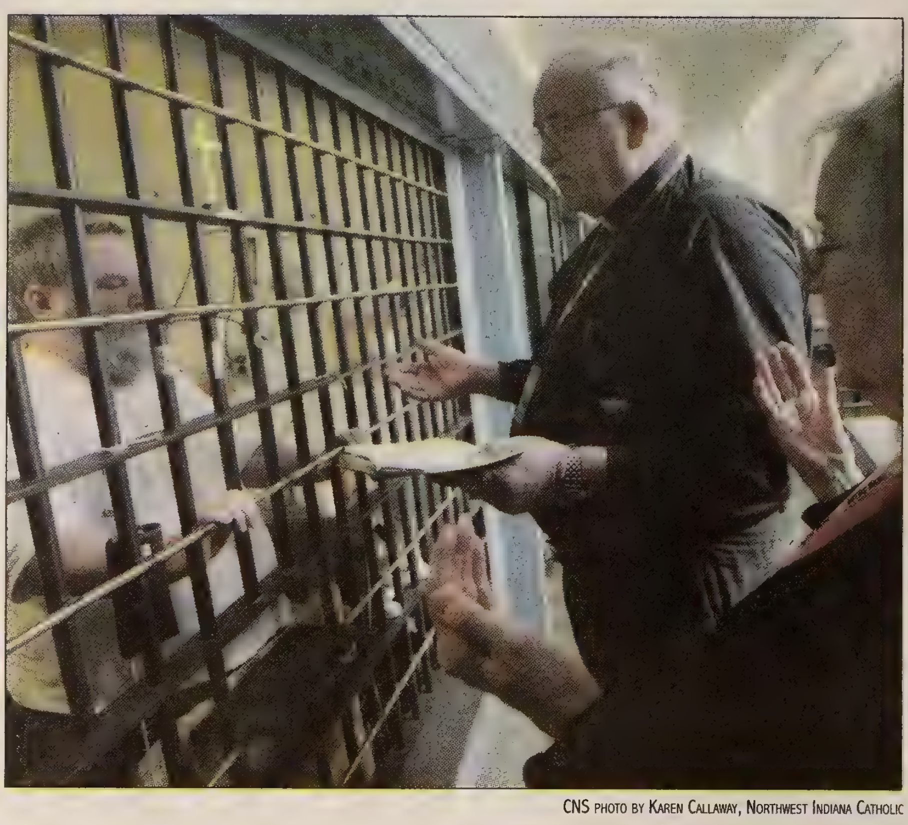
Deacon Lunsford said that while Woods has been on “the row” he has “learned to forgive himself. He’s never denied his guilt. He’s never created a problem,” the deacon added.

Woods serves as a porter to his fellow inmates, bringing them meals and water.

Deacon Lunsford has been ministering to prison inmates since he was ordained to the diaconate for the Diocese of Gary in 2000.

During his weekly visits to the state prison he makes an effort to come early to spend time with Woods but he can only communicate with the prisoner from outside the cell.

“We talk, and he’s completely at peace,” the deacon said, noting that Woods insists he’s “ready” for his execution.



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

Above: Deacon Malcolm Lunsford and his wife, Shirley, pray with death-row inmate James Harrison during an afternoon Communion call at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City in late February. The couple regularly visits the state prison together, praying and chatting with inmates. Below: Deacon Lunsford distributes Communion to a death-row inmate.

The deacon cited the efforts of Wanda Callahan, Woods’ spiritual director from the Church of the Brethren in Goshen, in working with the prisoner.

“The important thing is that he’s forgiven himself. He realizes he’s done wrong,” Deacon Lunsford told the Northwest Indiana Catholic, diocesan newspaper of Gary.

“In order to be at peace and be with Our Lord, you have to be at peace with yourself,” he said.

The state prison in Michigan City has 21 inmates on death row. Deacon Lunsford and his wife, Shirley, along with other deacons and clergy, spend time with inmates on Tuesday evenings.

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY, NORTHWEST INDIANA CATHOLIC

> “In order to be at peac
> and be with Our Lord
> you have to be at peac
> with yourself.”
>
> —Deacon Malcoln
> Lunsfor

Services alternate weekly betwee Masses and Communion service Permission has recently been granted t bring all the death-row inmates to or cell for Mass.

Two years ago, Deacon Lunsfor attended the execution of Gregory Sco Johnson, a convicted murderer. He sai Johnson gave him “a big smile and thumbs up” prior to the fatal injection.

Even though Johnson also ha made his peace, the deacon is sti uncomfortable with the death penalty.

“What are we proving? They’r locked up; they can’t hurt anybody. B the law says no, we kill them.”

“We’re killing them because the killed,” Shirley Lunsford added. “It’s n right.”

The deacon, who has met wit victims’ families, said they are often sti as angry even after the execution.

“There’s no closure until a perso has forgiveness,” he said.

Bishop Dale J. Melczek of Gar who has written Indiana Gov. Mitc Daniels for a stay of execution for Wood in favor of life imprisonment withou parole, noted that the death penalty ha long been eliminated in other develope countries.

Studies have shown, the bishop sai that capital punishment “does not hel effect healing in the families of victim and does not deter crimes.”

Woods has some relatives wh occasionally visit him. Other visito have included some of his victim children, who came to forgive hin Deacon Lunsford said.

“David’s had a hard life,” the deaco said, citing family and other person problems.

“He’s just a nice young man,” th deacon said. “You see these guys i prison and you wonder, what in the worl happened to them to get them in prison

“These guys, at one time in the lives, have been very, very violent,” h said, “but not now.”

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus’ boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord’s Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem’s historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations Coming Soon!

We’re ready to help with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we celebra with you their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or one of our **scheduled parish visits:**
St. James, Hamlet and Sacred Heart, Wadesboro – April 28 and 29, after all Masses
St. Matthew School – May 11-18 — 7:30am-4pm weekdays

SPECIAL PARISH VISITS: If you’d like to arrange a parish visit, ask your pastor to call me, manager Allen Bond, and we’ll make every effort to meet his schedule. May God Bless you all as we approach Easter.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

MAY 4, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 28

Perspectives

Hains examines reaction to Imus apology; Caldarola discusses priorities in life

| PAGES 14-15

'The church of today'

Youths explore faith, friendship at Diocesan Youth Conference

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

RIDGECREST — Youths from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently gathered to pray, sing and celebrate their communion and dedication to heir Catholic faith.

Approximately 250 high school-age teens attended the 30th annual Diocesan Youth Conference, this year themed "Less of Me, More of Him," aken from Pope Benedict XVI's inaugural homily. The event was held at the Ridgecrest Conference Center n Ridgecrest April 27-29.

The Diocesan Youth Advisory Council, comprised of youths from different parishes, chose the conference heme and worked to organize

See **YOUTHS**, page 12

Fathers on the front lines

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Father Mario Rosario does the "commando crawl" during training at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C., March 27. Father Rosario, a first lieutenant in the Army, and three other Catholic priests completed the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course April 5 and could easily serve in Iraq within a year.

Priests train in South Carolina to be military chaplains

BY CHRISTINA LEE KNAUSS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

FORT JACKSON, S.C. — As the soldier leaned out over a length of rope stretched 20 feet in the air over a net, he began the "commando crawl," a careful, hand-over-hand movement across the rope to a wooden platform on the other side.

The other men and women in his platoon waited on the ground below and cheered him as he slowly made progress.

The casual observer would never guess the man on the rope, a first lieutenant, was also a Catholic priest, Father Mario Rosario, studying to become a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

He and eight other Catholic priests were among

See **CHAPLAINS**, page 9

PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

lembers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Infant of Prague 1643 Jacksonville, gather during the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte in October 2006. he biennial state convention of Catholic Daughters met in Charlotte April 27-29.

For love of the church

Catholic Daughters convene in Charlotte

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Nearly 100 women dedicated to the life and work of the Catholic Church recently gathered in Charlotte to celebrate their past and plan their future.

About 90 representatives of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas met at the Charlotte Marriott Executive Park April 27-29 for the biennial North Carolina state convention.

"Our purpose is to support our priests and our parishes in any way we can," said Maryann Grabasky, North Carolina state regent.

For more than a century, Catholic Daughters have worked tirelessly in support of the Catholic Church and its ministries.

The organization was founded in Utica, N.Y., in 1903 by John Carberry and several other Knights of Columbus as

See **DAUGHTERS**, page 5

To change a climate

Teleconference explores faith response to climate change

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — In a 1995 pastoral message, the bishops of the Appalachia region were concerned about an ecological crisis.

"If we fail to care for our precious Earth, and for

See **CLIMATE**, page 7

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Respect Life

Priest-scientist's views on cloning, stem cells

| PAGE 6

Culture Watch

Religious themes in sports; singer's stance spur reaction

| PAGES 10-11

In Our Schools

Multicultural festival; students win science award

| PAGE 13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

RUNNING ON FAITH

CNS photo by Ammar Awad, Reuters

Athletes hold up a torch in front of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank, at the start of the Pope John Paul II Marathon for Peace April 25. Italian, Israeli and Palestinian athletes participated in the annual 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) run from Bethlehem to Jerusalem.

U.S. seminarian runs in Holy Land not to win, but to promote peace

JERUSALEM (CNS) — After having run the 26-mile Rome Marathon in March, seminarian Philip Smith said he was not daunted by the prospect of running the 6.2-mile Pope John Paul II Marathon for Peace.

But, he said, those six miles were more than just a marker of distance.

Running with a group of 150 Palestinian and Israeli athletes from Manger Square in Bethlehem to the Western Wall in Jerusalem April 25 provided a symbolic bridge between the two populations and promoted peace in a region so much in need of it, he said.

Smith said the group of athletes ran together the entire route so there was no sense of competition among them.

"We moved at a very slow pace so we could all stay together," he said, adding that he now has a better idea of the situation in the Holy Land.

"This marathon is an opportunity to use sports by people of different convictions" to work for peace and understanding, said the 22-year-old student from Pontifical North American College in Rome.

"There is a great diversity of people from all over running for peace, and we can all see that we have the common goal of peace, and sport is the way to do it together," he said.

He noted that this was a concept that Pope John Paul had encouraged — viewing sport as a language that could bring together individuals from conflicting backgrounds for a higher value.

The fourth Pope John Paul II run was organized by the Rome Pilgrimage Office and the Catholic Italian Sports Center, which also organized the Clericus Cup soccer tournament for priests and seminarians in Rome. The sports center selected one representative from each of the 16 teams in the tournament to participate in the marathon.

Smith was selected to represent the North American team because of his previous marathon experience.

Smith said it was important to see his trip to the Holy Land for the run primarily as a pilgrimage following in the footsteps of Jesus as well as one of concern for human dignity.

"This brings to mind the fact that Christ comes into our world with war and with violence. We remember that he is with us in the real world, so somehow we hope to overcome these problems," said Smith.

Bethlehem leaders told the runners they were giving hope to the younger generation by showing them that the future can be better than the current situation, Smith said.

During the run, the Italian sportsmen carried the torch that had been blessed by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome.

The pope said he hoped the marathon would promote "fruitful dialogue between ... different religions."

Yearbook says U.S. Christian church membership rising

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Total membership in U.S. Christian churches continued to rise in 2005, despite ongoing declines in some of the country's largest mainline Protestant churches, according to the 2007 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

Total recorded inclusive membership in 2005 was 165,878,323, up more than 2.4 million from the previous year, the yearbook said.

The 439-page yearbook is an annual publication of the New York-based National Council of Churches. This year's book is the council's 75th edition.

It lists U.S. and Canadian church bodies, and includes directories of U.S. and Canadian seminaries, religious periodicals, ecumenical organizations, cooperative religious organizations, institutions engaged in religious research and a selective directory of non-Christian religious organizations.

Because it relies on data collected by the church bodies, the 2007 yearbook covers 2005 data gathered by the churches in 2006.

The yearbook reports what year the figures come from, since not all churches collect new data every year.

The Catholic Church remained the largest Christian church in the U.S. in 2005 with a reported membership of 69,135,254, or nearly 42 percent of all Christian church membership.

With an increase of 1.94 percent over its previous year's total, the Catholic Church was also among the fastest-growing of the nation's 25 largest churches, followed closely by the Assemblies of God, which recorded 1.86 percent growth, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with 1.63 percent growth.

In 2004 the Catholic Church came in third behind the other two in rate of growth. Because of annual fluctuations, a better indicator of trends is membership change over a longer period, such as a decade.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

NORTH WILKESBORO — A *Catholic Scripture Study* group meets at St. John Baptiste de La Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd. Visit www.catholicscripturestudy.com for more information. Classes meet Wednesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. and 6:45-8:15 p.m. Please call Rob Hicks at (336) 957-7193 for more information or if you plan to attend.

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office in the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a free community *Refugee Forum* May 6 at 3 p.m. at the Levine Jewish Community Center, 5007 Providence Road. The forum will feature a panel of refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Vietnam, Liberia and Ukraine. Dr. Beth Whitaker, assistant professor of political science at UNC-Charlotte, will describe conditions leading to each refugee's flight, and the panelists will share compelling tales of personal tragedy, determination and resilience. There will be time for questions from the audience, after which agencies will be on hand to offer opportunities to advocate, volunteer or donate. For more information, contact Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3283 or mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE — Recharge with St. Peter Church's weekday lunchtime spirituality program, 12-12:45 p.m. in the St. Peter's Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. The program for May 10 will be *"Meeting God through Centering Prayer."* Bring your lunch, hear a short talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to recharge during the workweek. Sessions are free and everyone is invited. For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., will present *"Stem Cells and Cloning: Understanding the Scientific Issues and the Moral Objections"* May 12, 8:45-10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Father Pacholczyk holds undergraduate degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology and chemistry and a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University. Parking in The Green and admission are free, but seating is limited. To pre-register, e-mail stemcell@juno.com or call (803) 517-2600 or (704) 332-2901. For more details, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-Annual Rosary Rally* will be held May 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old tradition will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will present *"Seeking the Heart of God"* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Thursdays, May 24 through June 28, 7-9 p.m. For more information, please contact Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext.4.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a free *Christian Coffeehouse* May 27, 7-9 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, or to reserve a table for six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MAY 4, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 28

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Synod outline says Bible is source of Christian unity, bond with Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Bible is a source of Christian unity and is evidence of Christianity's special bond with the Jewish people, said the outline for the next world Synod of Bishops.

The theme of the synod, scheduled Oct. 5-26, 2008, will be: "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." While focusing specifically on the Bible, the synod's outline emphasized Christian belief that Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of the word of God and that the entire Bible can be understood only in reference to Jesus.

The "lineamenta," or outline, of the synod's theme was released at an April 27 Vatican press conference.

The document contains dozens of questions about what Catholics know and understand about the Bible and its relationship to the teaching of the church.

Bishops' conferences and other groups were asked to respond to the questions by November. The responses will form the basis of the synod's working document.

Expressing particular concern over Catholic ignorance of the Old Testament, the outline said Christians and Jews recognize the Hebrew Scriptures as the inspired word of God.

Christians cannot claim to know and love the Bible if they do not know and love the Old Testament, it said.

Christianity and Judaism are "grounded in the same covenant, because God, who is always faithful to his promises, has not revoked the first covenant" with the Jewish people, it said.

The outline specifically asked bishops to report on any incidents in which the Scriptures are misused "to ferment attitudes of anti-Semitism," a problem usually associated with readings about the passion of Jesus and the role of the Jewish leaders of his time.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — An adult faith formation series, *"The Church and Human Sexuality,"* will meet Tuesdays through May 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. Topics will include the theology of creation and of the body, the sacrament and sacramentality of marriage, the sexuality of single life, the church and homosexuality and God is love. Presentations are based on and include Scripture, the lives of the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the writings and teachings of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. No fees or pre-registration needed. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — *Theology on Tap*, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s, 30s and 40s, is a casual forum where people gather to learn and discuss the teachings of the Catholic Church. "ToT" will meet Wednesdays through May 9, at 6:45 p.m. at Logan's Roadhouse, 1300 Bridford Pkwy. For more informatiom, call Deb at (336) 286-3687, e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com or visit www.triadcatholics.org or

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will host a luncheon May 23 at the Cardinal Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will feature a performance by the Scottish Country Dancers. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in *The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE —St. Therese Church *Senior Fun & Games* meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572 for more information.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — *Spirit of Assisi* will host an appreciation lunch May 9 at 12:30 p.m. for all presenters, participants, prayer partners and financial supporters. RSVP to Sister Kathy Ganiel, OSF, at (336) 624-1971 or e-mail kganiel@triad.rr.com.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 5 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Barnabas Church, Arden

May 5 — 4:30 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Brevard

May 6 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
[illegible] Baptist Church, Tryon

May 7 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Michael Church, Gastonia

May 8
Presbyteral Council Meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

May 9 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

May 11 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Holy Spirit Church, Denver

May 12 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Philip Church, Statesville

At Vatican, Kissinger discusses dialogue, diplomacy, Mideast

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The international community needs farsighted individuals and institutions capable of promoting values that will increase dialogue, justice and peace, said former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Kissinger attended the Pontifical Academy of Social Science's April 27-28 discussions on "Charity and Justice in the Relations Among Nations and People" at the Vatican because he was interested in a philosophical discussion of the nature of international relations.

Meeting reporters afterward, Kissinger also spoke about the importance of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons, the importance of dialogue for peace in the Middle East, the complexity of the situation in Iraq and the need for a bipartisan U.S. foreign policy.

Today politicians in every country are under pressure to deal with immediate problems, "but the way you make history is to set your sights higher and look more into the distant future," he told reporters.

Kissinger said he did not agree with everything Pope Benedict XVI said in his September speech in Regensburg, Germany — the speech that caused controversy by referring to violence in Islam — but that the pope's central point was important.

"The Holy Father supports a dialogue between religions, but he believes there needs to be ground rules for a dialogue," Kissinger said. The essential ground rule is the use of "reason, which means you respect the other side even when you do not agree with it."

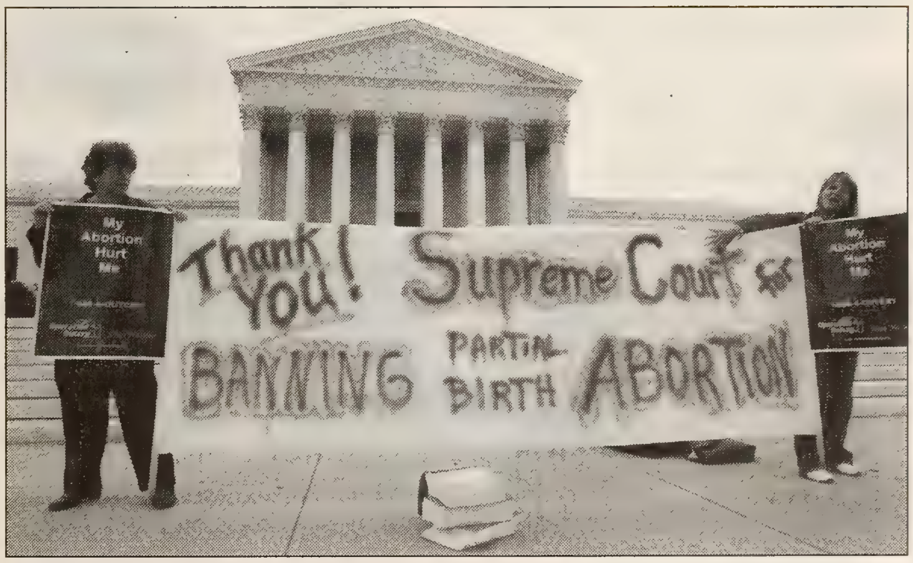
"This is the basis on which peace can be made between religions and not on the basis that one religion says that it alone can determine what is right for everybody," he said.

Kissinger, who had a private meeting with Pope Benedict in September, said, "As a student of philosophy and of history, I have been very interested in the contribution to the continuity of our values by the Catholic Church," especially in a way that "emphasizes reason and dialogue and community."

Although he is not a Catholic, he said he shared the Vatican's conviction that in international relations "contributions can be made by values to the continuity and survival of our civilization."

Kissinger said Iran's potential to develop nuclear weapons is among the most worrisome events on the international stage. He called for a political solution to the increasing crisis within Iraq and for negotiations between Israel and its neighbors to bring peace to the region.

Grateful outcry


My Abortion Hurt Me
Thank YOU! Supreme Court for BANNING PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION
My Abortion Hurt Me

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Karen Bodle and Rebecca Porter hold a sign outside the Supreme Court in Washington April 26 thanking the high court for its recent ruling upholding a federal ban on partial-birth abortion. The women are affiliated with Operation Outcry, a group of women who have had abortions and speak publicly about the tragedy in their lives caused by abortion.

Many abortion opponents lauded the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision April 18 upholding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

President George W. Bush, who signed the ban into law in 2003, called partial-birth abortion an "abhorrent procedure" in an April 18 statement from the White House.

While praising the decision, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said: "The court's decision does not affect the legal status of the great majority of abortions, and does not reverse past decisions claiming to find a right to abortion in the Constitution.

"However, it provides reasons for renewed hope and renewed effort on the part of pro-life Americans," he said. "The court is taking a clearer and more unobstructed look at the tragic reality of abortion, and speaking about that reality more candidly than it has in many years."

Making strides

Courtesy Photo

More than 200 people participate in the 14th Annual Walk for AIDS, which raised more than $22,000 for House of Mercy in Belmont April 14.

Walk for AIDS raises more than $22,000 for House of Mercy in Belmont

BELMONT — The 14th Annual Walk for AIDS raised more than $22,000 for House of Mercy in Belmont.

More than 200 walkers and 40 volunteers participated in the event April 14. House of Mercy, a nonprofit residential facility for low-income people living with AIDS, has served more than 235 men and women since 1991.

Before the 3-mile walk through historic downtown Belmont, the Charlotte Community Drummers performed West African drumming featuring rhythms from Guinea, Mali and Sierra Leone.

John Buerkert, House of Mercy chairman and vice president of CaroMont Health, greeted the walkers along with Sonja Gantt, 2007 honorary walk chair and WCNC-TV news anchor.

Mel Tomlinson, a former resident of House of Mercy, shared with the crowd how House of Mercy helped him through his health crisis. Tomlinson danced professionally with the Dance Theatre of Harlem, New York City Ballet, Boston Ballet and N.C. Dance Theatre before entering House of Mercy with life-threatening symptoms of AIDS.

Today, Tomlinson lives in Charlotte, is a licensed pastor and continues work as a dance instructor and motivational speaker.

A picnic reception and live music followed the walk on the grounds of the House of Mercy residence. Prizes were awarded for top fundraisers and best banners, including second place to the Knights of Columbus council from Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont.

Founded in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, House of Mercy provides housing and compassionate 24-hour care for low-income persons living with advanced AIDS.

Physical, psychological and spiritual support is provided to House of Mercy residents who are admitted without concern for race, religion or sexual orientation.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us. Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with NO BUY-IN FEES
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Discerning the call

Women's religious life retreat

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

STONEVILLE — The Office of Women Religious in the Diocese of Charlotte is sponsoring a prayer and discernment retreat for women ages 18-40 who are seeking to know more about life as a woman religious.

The overnight retreat will be held at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, 30 miles north of Greensboro, May 11-12. The retreat will open with evening prayer at 7 p.m. Friday and continue through dinner at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

The retreat also will include reflection time, question-and-answer sessions and small-group discussions. Representatives from various religious orders will be on hand to answer questions and provide information about the religious life.

"This retreat is for any woman who is wondering if she has a call from God to the religious life," said Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Inkrott also said any laywoman interested in helping to promote religious vocations is welcome at the retreat.

Sister Carmen Torres, a sister of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, will present the bilingual keynote address Saturday morning. Sister Torres serves as the vocations director for her order, which is based in Drexel Hill, Pa.

She also taught faith formation courses for Hispanic adults and young adults and served as the director of catechesis for Hispanics in the archdiocese.

"Through this retreat, we're trying to create awareness of religious life," Sister Inkrott said.

Today's religious sisters come from a wide variety of ethnic, economic and education backgrounds. Many have lived in the "outside world" before heeding the call to the religious life.

Modern sisters defy the stereotypes of women working only as teachers and nurses; they are also doctors, CEOs, artists, lobbyists, musicians, authors, counselors, ship captains, physical therapists, lawyers and television-program hosts.

Currently, 19 religious orders are represented in the Diocese of Charlotte, serving in a wide range of ministries, including education, health care, pastoral administration and service to the poor.

"The retreat will provide an opportunity to ask that question you've always been dying to ask about religious life," said Sister Inkrott.

"I hope that we will be able to give women a better idea of what the religious life is like," she said. "Also, I hope that any seeds of a call that may have been planted in young women's hearts will be cultivated during the retreat."

WANT MORE INFO?

The retreat will open with evening prayer at 7 p.m. May 11 and close with dinner May 12. For more information on the retreat or the religious life, contact Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious, at (704) 370-3213 or mtwarren@charlottediocese.org.

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Take the Survey!

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is conducting a reader survey. If you are chosen and receive a survey from Bishop Jugis, please take the time to answer the questions and return the form.

Survey results will be published in June.

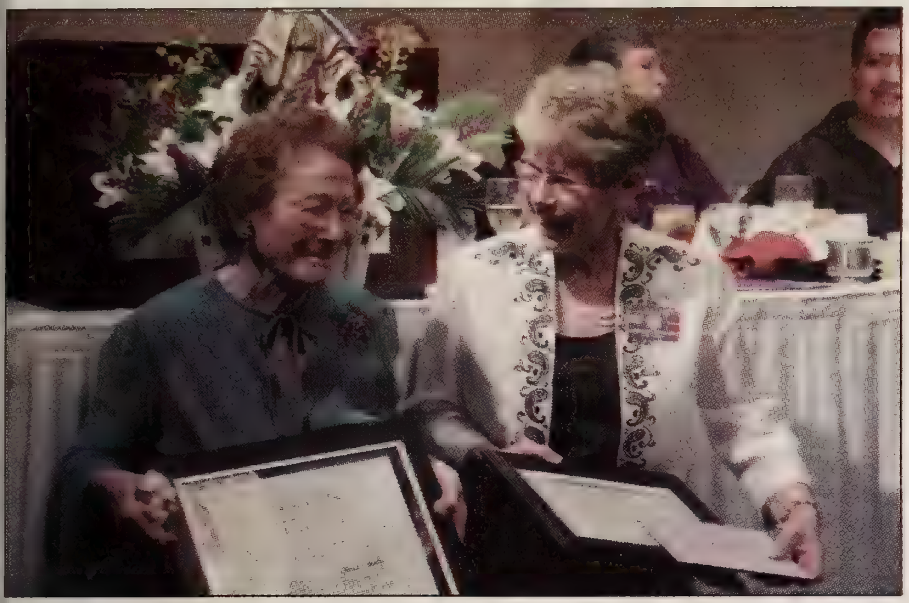


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Kathleen Fitzpatrick (left) is honored as a member of The Century Club by Maryann Grabasky, state regent for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, in Charlotte April 28. Fitzpatrick, who turned 100 March 31, has been a Catholic Daughter since 1933. Her daughter, Mary Manion, and niece, Ruth Carlisle, are also members of Court Charlotte 1199.

Catholic Daughters convene in Charlotte

DAUGHTERS, *from page 1*

a charitable, benevolent and patriotic sorority for Catholic women.

Today, the organization has nearly 95,000 members in 1,400 courts in the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guam, Saipan and the Virgin Islands.

There are currently about 755 Catholic Daughters in North Carolina, representing 15 courts from Elizabeth City in the east to Bryson City in the west.

According to its Web site, the purpose of the Catholic Daughters is to participate in the religious, charitable and educational apostolates of the Catholic Church.

Catholic Daughters engage in creative and spiritual programs that develop members' God-given talents in meaningful ways that positively influence the welfare of the church and all people throughout the world.

Also, Catholic Daughters strive to embrace the principal of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

Catholic Daughters support a range of causes, including respect life, alleviation of the suffering of the poor, helping the homeless, disaster relief and support of religious vocations and military personnel.

One cause all courts contribute to is disaster relief — each court is required to donate $10 each year to disaster relief. Recent beneficiaries of the fund include victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita and of the severe flooding in New England in the spring of 2006.

"Each individual state and court has its own special projects, and they come together for national causes," said Margaret Bingham, a national director of the Catholic Daughters.

Bingham gave the keynote address at a banquet April 28.

North Carolina courts support Victory Junction Gang, a camp for children with chronic medical conditions or serious illnesses; seminarian education; care packages for military personnel serving overseas; essay contests for schoolchildren; Blessed Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity; pro-life legislation and more.

"'Unity and Charity' is our motto, and I firmly believe in them," said Veronica Sartor, a parishioner of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville and a 10-year member of Court Asheville 412.

"We are very visible in the parish," said Sartor, who is a board member of the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry. "Everything that the church is involved with, we're involved with."

Grabasky was especially proud of the newest Catholic Daughters court, instituted April 22 in Havelock, N.C.

Father Dan Oschwald, pastor of Annunciation Church in Havelock, requested a Catholic Daughters court be formed for the wives of U.S. Marines stationed at nearby Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Many of these newest Catholic Daughters, including the court regent, have husbands deployed overseas, Grabasky said.

The new court has been so successful — 26 women have already joined — that Father Oschwald has requested that a Junior Catholic Daughters court now be established for the girls of the parish.

One of the primary goals the convention delegates set forth was to increase membership over the next two years.

During her keynote address, Bingham encouraged the convention representatives to set a goal for each Catholic Daughter to recruit two new members in the next two years.

"We are women of faith doing works of charity and promoting a respectful image of womanhood," said Bingham.

"Why wouldn't women want to join an organization that does the work of God?" Bingham said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, call Maryann Grabasky at (336) 299-7151, Ruth Carlisle at (704) 532-8515 or Sandy Beauchemin at (828) 586-1136.

NO RISK to hold space — FULL refund before July 31st !

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL

January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** – guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today – FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese – **(704) 370-3332**

Mary's Garden

TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS

We're a small store with a large inventory – **over 6,000 items in stock.**

Our First Communion & Confirmation items include:
1st Communion Sets and Mass Books in English & Spanish
11 Styles of Veils for Girls plus purses, Rosary Bracelets, & more
Boys' Ties in White, Navy, Red, & Black
Cards, Invitations, Bibles, Crosses, Crucifixes, Candles, & more

Gifts for Baptisms, Weddings, Anniversaries, Graduations, Memorials, etc.

Phone: 704 823 7244 **Toll Free: 866 823 7244**

Location:
3816 S. New Hope Rd
Suite 27
Gastonia, NC 28056

Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10 AM to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

Examining the 'slippery slope'

Priest-scientist to speak in Charlotte on stem-cell research, cloning

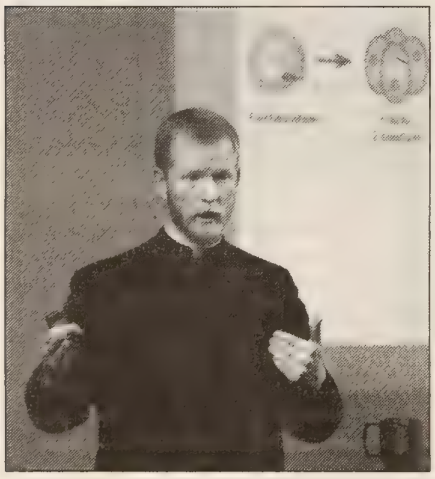
CHARLOTTE — Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, will speak at St. Peter Church in Charlotte May 12.

The subject of Father Pacholczyk's talk will be "Stem Cells and Cloning: Understanding the Scientific Issues and the Moral Objections."

"This is an opportunity to learn what the Catholic Church's teaching are on the subject of stem-cell research and cloning," said Constance Loveall, head of the respect life committee at St. Peter Church, which is sponsoring Father Pacholczyk's presentation.

"An embryo is a human being … not some other kind of animal. Whether it's a person yet at the moment of conception, whether it's been ensouled — those are very interesting intellectual discussions but they're not ultimately relevant," said Father Pacholczyk.

"In the moral analysis, what's critical is that once you're a being who is human, a being with the potential to become an adult, then you are a bearer of human rights," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY TRACY, THE PILOT

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, seen in this March 2, 2005 photo, will speak at St. Peter Church May 12 on cloning and stem-cell research.

Scientists should pull back from the cloning "slippery slope," in which short-lived embryos would be created for the sole purpose of servicing another human being, said Pacholczyk. A better idea would be to concentrate their research efforts on "non-morally problematic" alternatives.

"Adult stem-cell research has been used effectively already," he says. "Whenever you get a bone marrow transplant, for immune or blood diseases, those transplants work because there are adult stem cells. We transplant them out of the other person."

Recent efforts to transplant adult stem cells into people with spinal cord injuries have had promising results as well, he noted. Umbilical stem cells also have been used to treat a variety of ailments, including leukemia.

Father Pacholczyk holds undergraduate degrees in philosophy, biochemistry, molecular cell biology and chemistry, and did laboratory research on hormonal regulation of the immune response. He also earned a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University, where he focused on cloning genes for neurotransmitter transporters that are expressed in the brain.

Father Pacholczyk studied in Rome for five years, doing advanced work in dogmatic theology and in bioethics, examining the question of delayed ensoulment of the human embryo.

Contributing to this article was The Pilot, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston.

WANT TO GO?
Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk will speak at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., May 12, 8:45-10 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Parking in The Green and admission are FREE but seating is limited. Pre-register at stemcell@juno.com or call (803) 517-2600 or (704) 332-2901. For more details, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

Parents of baby adopted as embryo fight embryonic stem-cell research

DOVER, Del. (CNS) — Tim and Dawn Smith adopted a leftover frozen embryo in January 2004 and gave birth nine months later to their adopted daughter, Erin.

At the time they had no idea it would lead them to a public battle in coming years with legislators and lobbyists seeking to let such embryos be destroyed for embryonic stem-cell research.

The fate of such frozen embryos no longer wanted by their genetic parents is at the heart of a debate in the Delaware Legislature.

On March 29 the Senate voted 13-7 to adopt the Delaware Regenerative Medicine Act, which would sanction human embryonic stem-cell research in Delaware, allowing researchers to destroy the embryos to harvest their stem cells. The bill was awaiting action in the House.

The Smiths, parishioners of Holy Cross Church in Denver, married in 1991 but in 1997 learned that they were infertile.

After considering traditional adoption alternatives, the couple decided to try the embryo adoption.

"I really wanted to experience pregnancy," Dawn Smith said. "It is kind of neat to be both Erin's birth mother and adoptive mother."

While Erin was born in October 2004, she was conceived in vitro about eight years earlier. Her embryo lay frozen for about seven years before the Smiths volunteered to adopt her and have her implanted in Dawn Smith's womb.

Last year when the state Legislature was debating a similiar bill, Tim Smith was rankled to hear one proponent of the bill refer to the "excess" embryos in fertility clinics as "medical waste."

"Some would call Erin medical waste," he says. "I call her my daughter. If Delaware's Legislature passes Senate Bill 5, embryos like Erin could be killed and used for medical experiments."

The Smiths, who want to have another child from an adopted embryo, are aware of different views within the church on embryo adoption. Tim Smith said they prayed for guidance on the moral implications.

"It would seem, in the absence of (any) clear teaching about it, that we should err on the side of giving them (frozen embryos) a chance," he said.

Catholic teaching clearly rejects in vitro fertilization, saying conception should only take place in the context of the conjugal act. But once the embryo from in vitro fertilization already exists, new questions arise that are not clearly resolved by church teaching.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, a staff ethicist at the National Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, said pregnancy "must be the fruit of husband and wife."

But he added that in the absence of authoritative teaching Catholics who study the issue prayerfully and reach a different conclusion may act in good faith.

For a Suitable Training in Holiness...
AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Pastoral Theology

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2007 CLASSES IN
Charleston, South Carolina
Class Location: Columbia, SC
Application Deadline: May 15, 2007

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Our Commitment
- Theological Education – Formation of Mind
- Spiritual Formation – Conversion of Heart
- Pastoral Orientation – Prudential Wisdom

Foundational Texts
- Sacred Scripture
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Writings of Pope John Paul II
- Documents of Vatican II
- 1983 Code of Canon Law
- Catholic Liturgical Documents
- Classics of Catholic Spirituality

Format
- One Weekend a Month
- August – May
- Three-Year Cycle

For an Application or More Information
Toll Free: 866-866-1100
Email: ipt@avemaria.edu
Web: www.ipt.avemaria.edu

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

Join Father John Putnam and Father Christopher Roux
on a pilgrimage to
Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Our Lady's Appearance at Fatima, Portugal
July 18 – 31, 2007
With side trips to: Lisbon – St. Anthony of Padua's birthplace; Obidos – medieval walled city; Santarem – Holy Miracle of Eucharist; Roman ruins and much more in Portugal!
Cost: $2400 from Newark – includes air fare, meals, accommodations and side trips
Registration deadline: May 13
Info: Carol Stefanec (804) 346-3049 (Richmond, Virginia)
Our pilgrimages support seminarians and foster vocations.
(This is a privately-sponsored pilgrimage, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Teleconference explores faith response to climate change

CLIMATE, *from page 1*

the poor, then creation itself will rebel against us. Further, to undermine nature and the poor is to reject the word of God in creation," the bishops wrote in "At Home in the Web of Life: A Pastoral Message on the Sustainable Community in Appalachia from the Catholic Bishops of the Region."

"Deep within the ecological crisis lies the spiritual error of materialism. Materialism does not reverence God's creation. Instead it abuses creation in the name of mammon," the bishops, including then-Bishop William G. Curlin, wrote.

Creation "rebelling against us" is why the Catholic Committee of Appalachia (CCA), together with other religious nonprofit sponsors and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops conference, conducted a teleconference April 28, highlighting the moral implications of global warming, entitled "Climate Change: Our Faith Response."

To minimize travel and to model concern about global warming, CCA secured speakers at four teleconferencing sites to link most of central Appalachia: University of North Carolina at Asheville; the Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Va.; West Virginia Educational Technology Center in Institute, W.Va.; and Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Ky.

An important implication of the program was that as people of faith, Catholics must work at creative solutions to environmental issues and demand that church leaders do so as well. So far, that hasn't happened much, as Tom Barnes, one of the teleconference's speakers, pointed out.

"I grew up Catholic. I've been a Catholic for 50 years, and I've never heard an environmental sermon in any church," said Barnes, a wildlife biologist at the University of Kentucky who spoke on the science of global warming.

"We need to start with ourselves — eating healthy, recycling," said Dave Podsedly, a parishioner at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, who sat in on the conference. "We're really promoting health of ourselves and of the planet."

Start with setting a good example, he said, pointing out that talking about ways to improve the environment and then driving a gas-guzzling vehicle would be inconsistent.

St. Francis of Assisi was among those who showed that Christian life is a road to community, teleconference speaker Marcus Keyes said.

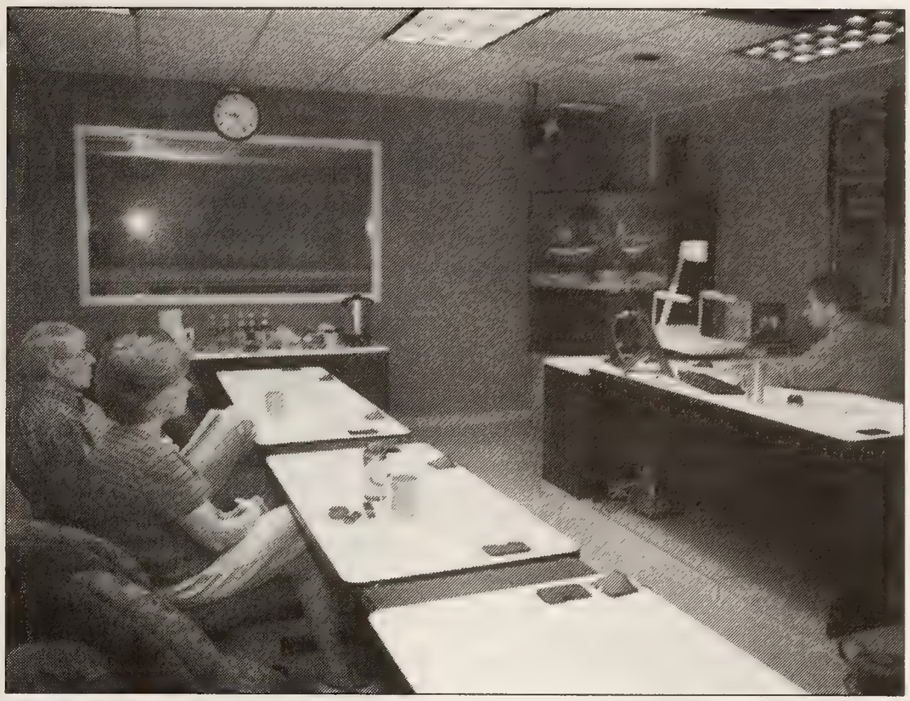
"Respect for life extends to all of creation. Yet, we as a church clearly continue on the path of death that has been outlined today," said Keyes, director of the Glenmary Commission on Justice who reflected theologically on global warming.

"We are at a crossroads and must decide if we will travel the path of life or the path of death. We continue to live as if creation were not a gift but an entitlement," he said.

That may be changing. Some 80 experts representing the scientific, political, economic and spiritual sides of the climate-change debate gathered for "Climate Change and Development" at the Vatican April 26-27.

Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped the conference would foster the "research and promotion of lifestyles and models of production and consumption that respect creation and the real demands of sustainable progress of peoples."

Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the justice and peace council, said the church's concern for the environment and creation goes all the way back to the Book of Genesis. In the two stories of creation, God gave humankind the mandate to subdue and have dominion over the earth, but he also expected humanity "to cultivate and care for it," the cardinal said.



PHOTOS BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Richard Fireman (at desk) speaks on global warming during a teleconference linking four Appalachian sites. Sitting in on the conference are Dave Podsedly of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and Maureen Linneman, event planning committee member. On screen: teleconference site Abingdon, Va.

"Greed, apathy, arrogance and ignorance are the four major sins that keep us where we are instead of where God created us to be, said Sue Konopka, a parishioner at St. Barnabas Church in Arden. "Our choices are killing us."

"Nothing is going to wake people up until we have one catastrophe after another or a lot of catastrophes all at once," she said.

While scientists don't deny that nature is cyclic, the burning of fossil fuels — such as oil and coal — is speeding up the cycle beyond the earth's ability to recover.

"In the last 150 years (since the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania in 1859), we've released half of the oil that was put in the ground over millions of years," said Richard Fireman, speaking at UNC-Asheville.

"The problem is that we don't see what is killing us," said Fireman, western regional director of N.C. Interfaith Power & Light, a program of the N.C. Council of Churches devoted to deepening the connection between ecology and faith.

Global warming is caused by excesses of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

"It's like getting a biopsy," Podsedly said. "You cannot believe it and then not do anything. Maybe these are biopsies of the earth that we're getting now."

Fireman cited data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which the United Nations Environment Program and the World Meteorological Organization created in 1988.

More than 1,250 authors and 2,500 scientific experts contributed to IPCC's most recent report, "Climate Change 2007," according to the Union of Concerned Scientists' Web site.

The IPCC notes that, "In the last 10,000 years, the Earth's average temperature hasn't varied by more than 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures only 5 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than those today prevailed at the end of the last Ice Age, in which the northeast United States was covered by more than 3,000 feet of ice."

The report says scientists predict continued global warming on the order of 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit over the next 100 years that is likely to result in:

— a rise in sea level between 3.5 and 34.6 inches (as icebergs melt), leading to more coastal erosion, flooding during storms and permanent inundation;

— severe stress on many forests wetlands, alpine regions and other natural ecosystems;

— greater threats to human health as mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects and rodents spread diseases over larger geographical regions;

— disruption of agriculture in some parts of the world due to increased temperature, water stress and sea-level rise in low-lying areas such as Bangladesh or the Mississippi River delta.

Scientists see increased deaths from heat waves, storms, floods, droughts and fires, along with malnutrition, increased frequency of cardio-respiratory diseases due to higher concentrations of ground-level ozone related to climate change, Fireman said.

He pointed out that it is the most vulnerable — the poor, elderly and children — who will suffer most.

Thus, global warming is not just an environmental issue — it's about morality and justice, as well.

We must "choose a culture of life rather than a culture of death," Keyes said, meaning that we must begin to live in ways that help all people, worldwide, to have safe and healthy lives.

Instead of living as part of creation, harmonizing and cooperating with it, he said, "we continue to live alienated from the rest of creation rather than as part of the whole web of life.

"To live as we do is a rejection of the God of love. As spiritual and faithful people we must live creatively and faithfully as one strand in the web of life," Keyes said.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

Connecting faith and sacrifice

Military bases are like missionary diocese for U.S. archbishop

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

FRIEDBERG, Germany — Like spring in many dioceses, spring in the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services is confirmation season.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien packed his bags in late March and was to spend the next two months confirming the children of military personnel — and a few soldiers and sailors — stationed in Germany, Belgium, Italy and England.

Almost all the members of the armed services with whom he would come into contact had been deployed in Iraq or Afghanistan, and many would be going back.

"I find impressive the humility of military people," the archbishop said April 11 after celebrating Mass and sharing lunch with soldiers who had returned from Iraq.

"They know how fragile life is," the archbishop said. "They don't boast. They don't act like heroes. They act surprised when someone thanks them."

One young soldier, his foot still in a cast from an injury in Iraq, played his guitar during the meal, then had an intense heart-to-heart with the archbishop about perhaps becoming a Catholic.

At the Friedberg Mass April 11, just as at confirmation the evening before at the garrison headquarters in Giessen, the local chaplain expressed the feelings of the small Catholic contingent in the 1st Brigade of the Army's 1st Armored Division, thanking the archbishop for coming so far to visit and administer the sacraments.

"This is like a missionary diocese," said Archbishop O'Brien. "The bishop goes out to a parish to confirm three or four young people in a rural town. Every diocese must evangelize, but the potential we have is extraordinary."

Archbishop O'Brien is responsible for overseeing the pastoral care of 1.5 million Catholics: members of the armed forces and their dependents, U.S. government employees living abroad, and those being treated in the United States at hospitals run by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"We have 250,000 young adults in uniform," he said. "We need to go where they are."

Yet the Archdiocese for the Military Services is hurting for chaplains. Archbishop O'Brien said more than 25 percent of people in the military are Catholic, yet only 7 percent of the chaplains are Catholic priests.

The archdiocese has 320 Catholic priests, but needs 800, he said.

At each stop in early April, Archbishop O'Brien prayed for vocations and pointedly suggested to unmarried soldiers that they consider becoming priests.

Thirteen percent of all seminarians, he said, come either from military families or have served in the military.

Many of the values fostered by the military are needed in the priesthood as well: "integrity, self-sacrifice, loyalty, fraternity — you can build on that background," he said.

Celebrating the chrism Mass in Heidelberg, Germany, April 3, the archbishop told the congregation, "Yet another Mass of Chrism finds our priest-chaplains still fewer in number and with ever greater demands upon them.

"Iraq and Afghanistan continue to take their toll of lives, American military and innocent civilians," he said. "And military families at home wait and pray and sacrifice for safe returns and peaceful results."

A noble profession

Archbishop O'Brien spent Easter afternoon at the U.S. military hospital at Landstuhl, visiting the injured and the staff.

"I was deeply impressed with the personnel," he said.

They work long hours, with great dedication, under enormous pressure to stabilize the wounded so they can be flown home for treatment, he said.

Wherever Archbishop O'Brien goes, he prays for vocations, tries to recruit priests, pressures the military to provide more priests — even if it means contracting local priests — prays for the injured and dead, and lets those serving in the military know that he sees their service as a vocation.

"When I speak to young people in the military," he told the soldiers at Friedberg, "I often hear them wondering if there is a conflict between their military duty and their Christian faith.

"I don't see it that way. Yours is a noble profession," he said. "You are willing to give up your lives not just for your friends, but for strangers, and sometimes it is unappreciated."

"Not every military action is correct," the archbishop told the men and women in their light khaki uniforms and heavy tan boots. "But your military service is an act of charity."

The archbishop encouraged them to imagine themselves in the parable of the good Samaritan, but not at the moment when all but the Samaritan pass by the man who had been beaten.

Rather, he said, think about what happened 20 minutes earlier, when the man was being attacked: Is it virtuous to help only if you wait until he is injured?

A Christian has an obligation "to do what is necessary and only what is necessary to stop the violence," he said.

In an interview later, Archbishop O'Brien said, "It is our job to help them make the connection between their faith and the sacrifices they are making for very generous motives."

CNS PHOTO BY CINDY WOODEN

Capt. Patrick Van Kirk and son Michael, wife Theresa, and son James talk with Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services April 11 outside the chapel on the U.S. Army base in Friedberg, Germany. The archbishop celebrated Mass for Van Kirk and other soldiers who had returned from Iraq in late February and early March.

2007
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress
TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

Mark your calendar now
for the third
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress –
Charlotte Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

Visit the Web site
www.GoEucharist.com
often for the latest updated information about programs and speakers, as well as opportunities to volunteer.

Diocesan Women's
RETREAT

Friday, May 11 (7pm) to Saturday, May 12 (5pm)

Is God Calling YOU to...

Explore this opportunity to deepen
* your relationship with Christ?
* your personal prayer life?
* your understanding of today's religious life?

This retreat is open to ALL women age 18 and older who
* may be interested in service in community, or
* may be interested in helping promote vocations

Presentations will be made by nationally-known retreat leader Carmen Torres, SHJC, and will be in both Spanish and English. Also, there will be time for questions and answers from representatives of various religious communities, as well as time for prayer and personal reflection. You will find more details at www.charlottediocese.org.

St. Francis Springs
Prayer Center
Stoneville, NC
(north of Greensboro)

Cost: $10 covers all room, board and program

Register today!
Call (704)370-3213
or email: mtwarren@charlottediocese.org

Priests train in South Carolina to be military chaplains

CHAPLAINS, *from page 1*

approximately 130 students in late March at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, near Columbia.

Father Rosario, a native of the Philippines, and three other priests were enrolled in the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course, the initial three-month course to become chaplains. They graduated April 5. Five other priests, already chaplains, are taking the Chaplain Captain Career Course, or C-4.

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Father John Baptist Gabriel does sit-ups during training at Fort Jackson, S.C., March 27. Father Gabriel was one of four Catholic priests who completed training to become Army chaplains.

Catholic priests are a minority in the ranks of Army chaplains, even though it is estimated that one in four soldiers in the Army is Catholic, said Oblate Father David Kenehan, an Army colonel who serves as deputy commandant at the chaplain school.

Priests who become military chaplains are also soldiers. Their lives include daily and weekly Mass, prayer and other elements of a civilian priest's life.

But they dress in regulation camouflage battle-dress uniforms. They study military regulations and procedures, wake up early to go on five-mile marches, learn how to put on a gas mask in less than nine seconds, and rappel off a 60-foot wooden structure known as Victory Tower.

This training is essential because many of these priests and their fellow chaplains will be deployed to combat areas during their careers. It also bonds them with those they serve.

"It's important for the soldiers to see the chaplains doing the same things they do," Father Kenehan said.

The shortage of Catholic priests in the Army resembles in many ways the shortage of priests in the civilian world. With an increasing shortage of priests in the United States, more dioceses are relying on missionary priests from overseas.

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

1st Lt. Matt Guncheon (right), a chaplain candidate, gives a homily during training for a "field service" that was part of the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, S.C., March 27. 1st Lt. Scott Dennis (left), who is a chaplain, later played his guitar as soldiers sang Christian songs at the service.

Of the nine priests in training at the chaplain school, all but one were foreign-born. They came from the Philippines, India, Poland, Kenya and Nigeria.

"The pressing need for priests in the Army prompted me to do this," said Father John Baptist Gabriel, a priest of the Diocese of Neyyattinkara, India.

"The kids who are facing combat really need support from priests at this time in their lives," he said.

After training

Once they complete chaplain training, Catholic priests are usually assigned to serve as chaplains for a division. As chaplains, they minister to soldiers from all denominations, not just Catholics.

Often, the priests say, they are called on to do much more than their regular chaplain duties. They might log hundreds of miles in the air flying from base to base in Iraq, for instance, to offer Mass for Catholic soldiers.

"You're used a lot over there — at one point when I was over, there were only two Catholic priests who covered the whole of Baghdad," said Father Christopher Opara, a Nigerian-born chaplain in the C-4 program who completed a deployment to Iraq in November.

Priests who want to serve as chaplains must first receive approval from their bishops, and can be recalled at almost any time if a serious need arises in their home diocese. This rarely happens when they are deployed on active duty in a combat zone, like Iraq, Father Kenehan said, but it is a possibility they face when serving in other areas.

Newly ordained Catholic priests, unlike most other new clergy who become chaplains, also must serve in a parish for three years before they can become full-time chaplains.

This requirement is not a problem for most of the chaplain candidates at Fort Jackson.

Father Fausto Kaverenge, born in Kenya, has been a priest for 16 years. Father Maciej Napieralski, a native of Poland and first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, was ordained in 1983 and spent the past seven years serving the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska.

After graduation, the four priests received their assignments: Father Rosario, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga.; Father Kaverenge, Germany; Father Gabriel, Fort Hood, Texas; and Father Napieralski, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Living the mission

"We need more chaplains in the U.S. Army and we need more priests," Father Napieralski said. "I wish those who think about the priesthood would also think about this as a possibility."

Priests who have already completed one or two tours in combat areas in the Middle East say the issues soldiers face these days are daunting, especially strained marriages and family ties because of long, multiple deployments.

Add this to the daily stress of combat, homesickness and the pain of losing friends and fellow soldiers, and the work of the Catholic priest as chaplain becomes even more vital, they say.

"Being in combat helps you to know more the value of life," said Father Isaac Opara, another Nigerian in the C-4 class who was deployed to Afghanistan.

"What gave me joy over there was knowing I was living the mission of bringing the Gospel to everyone," he added.

"Catholic soldiers especially need their priests because it takes a priest to make sure they get the spiritual attention they need," he said.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

Visions in Faith

Sunday, June 17 –
Wednesday, June 20

Father Sparks is a Paulist priest who writes and teaches ethics and pastors at Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Hall in Berkeley, California. He successfully bridges practical pastoral needs with serious theological reflection.

For more information, contact The Oratory.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

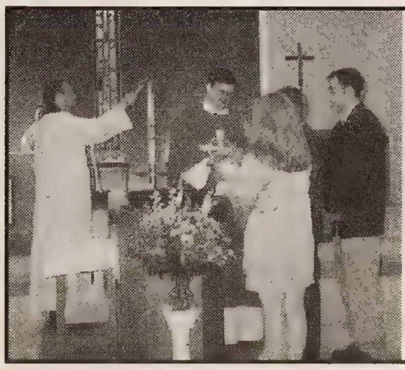
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com



Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Books find religious themes in American craze for sports, fitness

REVIEWED BY MITCH FINLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the United States, the connections between religion and organized sports [illegible], according to author William Baker, both complex and uneasy.

Yet, at the same time, there is no doubt that the two are well nigh inseparable in the American mind.

"Religion and sport especially are joined, at the altar of commercial interest," Baker writes in "Playing With God: Religion and Modern Sport."

"As sports promoters seek publicity and lively attendance at their events, and as churches seek wholesome activities and a podium for their message, their marriage seems made in heaven," he writes.

While evangelical churches in recent years introduced "Faith Nights" at minor league baseball games — "featuring various combinations of gospel pop music, handouts of Bibles and bobble-head biblical figures, colorful Veggie Tales cartoon characters, and inspirational testimonies from local sports heroes" — clearly this is but one of the more recent manifestations of how religion and sports often go hand in hand.

What do most Americans think of when they hear "Notre Dame"? And why is basketball huge on the campuses of more than a few Catholic universities?

Author Baker takes the reader on a fascinating and informative trek through the history of the intimacy between religion and sports in America, and he even includes a chapter on Athletes for Allah.

"The long arc of modern sport's interaction with religion can best be viewed as a dance," Baker concludes, "in which the terms of engagement have changed over time." But never has the dance been anything but popular.

Tom Hafer, author of "Faith & Fitness: Diet and Exercise for a Better World," is a registered physical therapist and certified athletic trainer who also holds a master's degree in religion from the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

In this book, Hafer prods the reader to think of physical fitness and diet in more holistic terms, indeed, in the context of one's faith relationship with God.

He declares that his book "should convince you that the rabbit trails we chase to improve our looks, our wealth and our position all distract us from the faith to provide us with the fulfilling life of a servant. ... Together we can respond to God's call to be good stewards of our own health, our neighbors' health and the health of our planet."

Catholic readers should not be surprised, however, to discover in Hafer's book a classical Protestant outlook that he himself may not have been entirely aware of.

He seems to take for granted that human nature is pretty darn seriously corrupt, and this requires us to do battle with it — here in terms related to nutrition and exercise.

"When we consider our desire for better health or weight loss," Hafer writes, "let us clear our minds of old ideas and struggles, start at the cross of Jesus — hungry, thirsty, open and broken — and go from there."

"It is only by God's grace that we are made whole," Hafer concludes — loudly echoing classical Lutheran theology.

At the same time, his book admirably brings a global perspective to his discussion: "When we are disciplined with our overabundance while concerning ourselves with the poor, a redistribution of resources occurs throughout our global community. ... In this new paradigm shift, wellness is no longer self-centered, but centered on Christ and the least of these, our neighbors."

A Catholic author would have been more inclined to begin with the presupposition that human nature, while seriously flawed, is above all the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and most basically good.

Catholic readers will still find an abundance of wisdom and healthful advice on the topics of nutrition and exercise.

Finley is staff writer for the Inland Register, newspaper of the Diocese of Spokane, Wash.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations

Let us help you with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we all celebrate their continued growth in our faith.

Come visit our Cornelius store or our upcoming scheduled parish visit:

St. Matthew School – May 11-18 – 7:30-4pm weekdays
(If you'd like us to bring our store to your parish, please call for information.)

We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience with the closing of our Monroe Road store. Please call our Cornelius location and we will make every effort to provide all of your religious gift needs. Our new Charlotte location will be unveiled very soon and we believe you'll be pleased with the convenience and location.

God bless you during our celebration of this holiest of Holy Seasons.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 13, 2007

May 13, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
2) Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
3) Gospel: John 14:23-29

Peace to be found on walk with God

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I came into the church 33 years ago, my pastor, whether in the pulpit or in the church library where he presented the faith to inquirers like me, gave insight into Catholicism with firmness and gentleness and good humor.

He welcomed me and rest of the inquiry class with open arms. Like the apostles in the Acts reading for today who refused to set impossibly high standards for new converts who sought to follow Christ, my pastor outlined the teachings of the church with clarity and kindness.

John's Gospel seems to map the same territory, showing us that the hand of God on his people demonstrates this same loving contrast.

With great promise Jesus says, "Anyone who loves me will be true to my word and my Father will love him; we will come to him and make our dwelling place with him."

But there is a definitively firm limit to this offer of God's indwelling with us in the words immediately following: "He who does not love me does not keep my words."

A little further on, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to instruct us and to give us peace. We should pay particular attention to what Jesus tells us here.

The disciples' feet have been washed; Judas has departed to carry out his betrayal; Peter's denial has been predicted.

We stand poised on the brink, and Jesus delivers his final instructions to those who will build his church.

"Peace is my farewell to you," he tells them and us, "my peace is my gift to you. I do not give it to you as the world gives peace. Do not be distressed or fearful."

Then he tells them he will go to the Father, giving them the one key insight that will help them see that his crucifixion will lead onward in God's plan to his resurrection and his continuing presence with both them and us.

When I came into the church three decades ago, gradually moving out of years of doubt as a young adult, coming into the light of Christ through my involvement in both the charismatic renewal and the institutional church, I found that the sense of loneliness that had haunted me for years left me.

I'm sure that came as a result of entering into communion with those who had inherited Jesus' promise of peace.

Questions:

Where have you found peace in your own walk with God? Could prayer, Scripture study or reconciliation with someone help you recapture that peace?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 6-12

Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Easter), Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-35; **Monday,** Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26; **Tuesday,** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday,** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday (Bl. Damien of Moloka'i),** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday,** Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, St. Pancras)** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 13-19

Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, John 14:23-29; **Monday (St. Matthias),** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Tuesday (St. Isidore),** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22--18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (Ascension Thursday),** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53; **Friday (St. John I),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday,** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Australian company to offer digital services for World Youth Day

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Australia's largest telecommunications company, Telstra, announced it will provide phone and digital communications services to the 300,000 extra people expected in Sydney for World Youth Day 2008.

Solomon Trujillo, an American businessman and Telstra Australia's chief operating officer, told a conference of Catholic officials in Melbourne in mid-April that his company had reached an agreement with World Youth Day coordinators to offer an array of "real-time" communications services to the event.

Trujillo said the deal will enable organizers to "explore innovative ways to use technology to broadcast the event to young people around the world. We intend to make World Youth Day shine by using our world-leading next generation infrastructure."

The coverage will include cellphone messaging, Web casts and Web logs (blogs) "so that more young people around the world can access and share this very special event," said Trujillo.

The partnership with World Youth Day, said Trujillo, will demonstrate "the scale and scope of next-generation networks to spread the Gospel message among its brethren through the missions of the church."

With 70 million blogs on the Internet, Trujillo said, "Imagine the blog readership hungry for personal Catholic-specific experiences."

What's The Road Like Ahead?

The road we have to travel is different for each of us. The only certainty is that we all must end the journey some day.

If you take the time to prepare for that journey's end now, your family, favorite parish, school and diocesan ministry will be supported. A will is an essential part of that overall plan for your life's journey.

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Travel with other Catholics departing October 29, 2007

Hawaii

*4 Islands – 15 Days: from $1428**

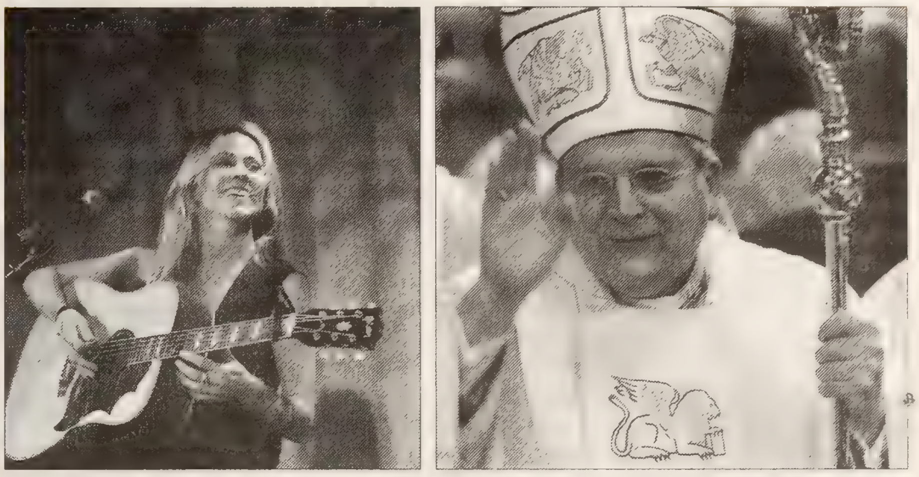
Includes taxes & inter-island flights!

Join other Roman Catholics on the most affordable two-week, four-island fully escorted Hawaiian vacation you'll ever find. Your group will fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo, and three nights in Kona. Sightseeing on every island includes: A Honolulu city tour with Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial, the Wailua riverboat cruise, Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina, a Hilo orchid garden and Rainbow Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! *Your price, from only $1428 (per person, double occupancy) includes baggage handling, hotels, taxes, all flights between the islands, and escorted sightseeing on every island. Add $800 for round trip airfare from Charlotte. ***'Your Man' Tours*** specializes in Hawaii and has had its own office in Honolulu since 1967 offering weekly departures to Hawaii on this vacation package. This price is so low because travelers buy wholesale, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Friends and family are welcome! Space is limited for this October 29 departure and reservations with a $100 deposit are now due.

For information, reservations & brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

Singer has nothing to crow about



CNS PHOTO BY MARIO ANZUONI, REUTERS PHOTO BY GREG TARCZYNSKI

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis announced April 25 he has withdrawn his support for an upcoming benefit for a Catholic hospital because it features singer Sheryl Crow (left), an outspoken supporter of keeping abortion legal.

Archbishop pulls support for hospital benefit over Crow's stands

BY JENNIFER BRINKER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Saying that it sent a "contradictory message" for a Catholic institution to raise funds by featuring a musician who supports abortion and embryonic stem-cell research, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis announced April 25 that he had withdrawn his support for an upcoming benefit for SSM Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center.

Rock musician Sheryl Crow, a native of Kennett, Mo., has been an outspoken supporter of keeping abortion legal. She also supported Amendment 2, a Missouri initiative passed last fall that constitutionally protects human cloning and embryonic stem-cell research.

Crow was scheduled to perform at the annual Bob Costas Benefit April 28 at the Fabulous Fox theater in St. Louis. Sportscaster Costas and comedian Billy Crystal also were to participate in the benefit, with tickets ranging in price from $35 to $100.

At an April 25 press conference at the archdiocesan offices, Archbishop Burke said Crow's connection to the benefit event was "an affront to the identity and mission of the medical center, dedicated as it is to the service of life and Christ's healing mission."

"When there is a significant risk that others could be led to evil, as the one responsible for the spiritual and moral well-being of the faithful entrusted to my pastoral care, I am obliged in justice to act," the archbishop added.

"Only after the board of governors of the Cardinal Glennon Children's Foundation informed me it would not address the issue did it become necessary that I carry out my pastoral responsibility to clarify the matter," he said.

The archbishop said he also had submitted his resignation earlier in the week as chairman of the foundation's board of governors, and requested the foundation amend its bylaws to release him as a member of the board and that his name be removed from any materials promoting the benefit.

Archbishop Burke said his concern with the benefit has no association with the "goodness of the apostolate which the medical center is carrying out."

He added that the church is not condemning anyone over the matter.

"It grieves me very much to have to take the action, because I have such high regard for Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center," he said. "It's not a question of my support of the children's medical center and its apostolate."

Last fall, Crow was featured in a television advertisement that supported Amendment 2, the stem-cell initiative. She also has been a public advocate of keeping abortion legal and continues to speak on behalf of legislation in support of abortion and embryonic stem-cell research.

"When, for economic gain, a Catholic institution associates itself with such a high-profile proponent of the destruction of innocent lives, members of the church and other people of good will have the right to be confirmed in their commitment to the Gospel of life," Archbishop Burke said at the news conference.

He said his role as a church leader and the gravity of the situation required him to resign from the board and speak publicly on the issue.

"If I, as archbishop of St. Louis, were simply to let this pass, it would give people the impression that as long as the purpose is to raise money, you can associate with people, even feature people, who are public proponents of the killing of unborn children and embryonic human life," the archbishop said.

"It is bad when any of the flock leads another one into confusion or leads them astray," he added. "But it's especially harmful when it's the shepherd of the flock himself — either through silence or through some action — who causes people to go into error."

A Glennon foundation spokesman told Catholic News Service that there had been no requests for ticket refunds as of April 26.

"We are looking forward to a great event for a great cause," the spokesman said.

Youths explore faith, friendship at annual DYC

DYC, *from page 1*

the weekend of events, music and workshops, which included topics on global warming, vocations, relationships, mission trips, prayer and "discovering one's purpose in God's plan."

Assisted by a team of adult advisors, the council put in long hours to ensure a weekend of interaction, reflection and call to action among the participants.

"It's good to see them so active in the church and practicing the faith," said John Stasko, a youth advisor for the conference.

"These youths aren't the church of tomorrow. They are the church of today," said Deacon Tom Rasmussen, one of the conference presenters and permanent deacon at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory.

"A primary thing I do is plant a seed of faith, nurture that seed and see it bear fruit. When something's important, you want to share it," he said.

Many teens enjoyed the opportunity to share their faith with others their age.

"It's an amazing experience to be here with other teens," said 15-year-old Cassandra Reiher. "In the last couple of years, I've gotten more passionate in my faith."

"It's been tough to be a Catholic youth — people have a lot of wrong ideas about being a Catholic, like thinking we worship Mary," said 18-year-old Tim Wagner, who attended his third conference and will be entering college in the fall.

"It's hard to keep my faith with all the peer pressure. Here (at the conference), people are willing to share their belief in God," he said. "I want to share my faith through community service, represent our church, our faith."

Collin Orton attended several diocesan youth conferences as a teen. Now 20, he returned as an adult mentor for the youths.

"I want to set an example. The best part is meeting all the teens, and the wonderful people who share the same ideals," he said.

While some teens come to the conference to socialize, said Orton, they are achieving another purpose as well.

"You come seeking a better understanding of the hard questions. The classes ask the real questions, the ones people are afraid to ask," he said.

"I hope the youths get the sense that God loves them no matter what, and he expects much of them, but he gives them the grace to do it," said Peg Ruble, associate director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The church also expects much of them, and needs much from them," she said. "The kids bring life and energy. They are loving... and embrace the message, the people and the church."

Paul Kotlowski, director of youth ministry for the diocese, hoped the teens left the conference with a closer relationship with Jesus and a willingness to surrender their lives to God.

"We witness the depth of faith and sincerity in the young church. There is an innocence, curiosity and love for God," he said. "The conference offers a deeper knowledge of the faith and spiritual communion with the risen Christ."

At the closing ceremony on Sunday, April 29, four awards were presented.

The Pope John Paul II Award, for ordained men exemplifying love for the youth of the church, was presented to Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee.

The Bishop Michael J. Begley Award, for youths involved in social justice and outreach, was presented to Sarah Werner, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church.

The Bishop William G. Curlin Award, for an individual or group expemplifying outstanding pastoral care, was presented to Sarah Cahoon, a parishioner of St. James the Greater Church in Concord.

The St. Timothy Award, for a youth exemplifying outstanding discipleship, was presented to Timothy Wagner, a parishioner of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte.

Recognition was also given to adults who have served in youth ministry for five, 10 and 15 or more years.

COURTESY PHOTO

Sarah Werner, a parishioner of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, receives the Bishop Michael J. Begley Award from Paul Kotlowski, director of diocesan youth ministry, during the 30th annual Diocesan Youth Conference in Ridgecrest April 29.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Collin Orton, an adult mentor for the conference, attended several conferences as a teenager. "I want to set an example. The best part is meeting all the teens, and the wonderful people who share the same ideals," he said.

Dynamic Parish Seeking Director of Faith Formation

St. Aloysius in Hickory, NC is seeking director of Faith Formation. The position will be open July 1. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a Bachelor's Degree in theology or similar discipline or have the equivalent experience. Send resume & references to: Search Committee c/o St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 2nd St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601 or staloysius@charter.net

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S *name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!
or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PLANT SERVICES SUPERVISOR: Hands-on supervision and maintenance for day-to-day operations of school buildings and grounds. Oversees operations of heating/AC equipment in maintaining a safe work environment for personnel and equipment. Experience in planning, organizing and prioritizing projects. Competent oral and written communication skills with basic proficiency in computer technology. Effective interpersonal skills and leadership abilities. Degree with supervisory and related experience preferred; experience will be considered. Competitive benefits package. Send resume and salary history to: BMCHS, Attn. Business Office, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South, Kernersville, NC 27284. Deadline for receipt of applications is 5/15/07. EOE.

FOR RENT

LAKE LURE VACATION CABIN: Beautiful mountain setting inside Lake Lure city limits. New, spotless, spacious, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wrap-around deck. Spectacular views! Close to all area activities. Relax for weekend, week or more. Reasonable. Military discount. No Pets. 828-299-3714

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Around the world in 80 minutes

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte culminated its second Multicultural Week, which was held April 23-27, with a daylong festival including a "Parade of Continents," an international food market and exhibits representing 40 countries.

Each grade level was assigned a continent and then created an exhibit for the nations on their continent. Exhibits included information about the history, geography and culture of the countries.

On Friday morning, April 27, the multipurpose room was converted into an international market, where foods from around the world were offered for sale. Students were given play money with which to purchase items.

Many students dressed in native or historical costumes representing the countries they studied.

Following the Parade of Continents in the multipurpose room, students manned their exhibits and answered questions from Linda Cherry, superintendent for diocesan Catholic schools; Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent; and Alisa Joseph, vice president and African-American segment leader for Wachovia Bank, who served as the judges for the parade and exhibits.

"Diversity is present in all of our diocesan schools, but the Multicultural Festival highlights the uniqueness of Our Lady of the Assumption School," said Cherry.

"Many of the students who presented information were actually from those countries. The sharing of the children's heritage, culture, food and traditions will be remembered by all," she said.

Teacher Amber Luckey's third-grade class was named Multicultural Festival winner by the judges for their exhibit and presentation in the Parade of Continents.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Fourth-grade students at Our Lady of the Assumption School in Charlotte represent Africa during the "Parade of Continents" April 27, part of a weeklong festival celebrating "Learning through Diversity."

Excellence in science

CHARLOTTE — Will Larsen and Maria Shea, students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, won the Second Place Award of Excellence at the 20th State Science Fair of North Carolina, held at Meredith College in Raleigh March 24.

The fair provides the opportunity for third- through 12th-grade students interested in science and technology to compete for college scholarships, awards, honor programs and other prizes.

Will and Maria's project, "Phantastic pH Effects on Water," won the excellence award — along with a $24 U.S. Savings Bond — from the North Carolina American Water Works Association and Water Environment Association, a volunteer association dedicated to providing water and wastewater education, training and service to protect public health and the environment.

Will and Maria were thrilled with their success and extremely grateful to everyone at school who made it possible for them to participate in this year's fair.

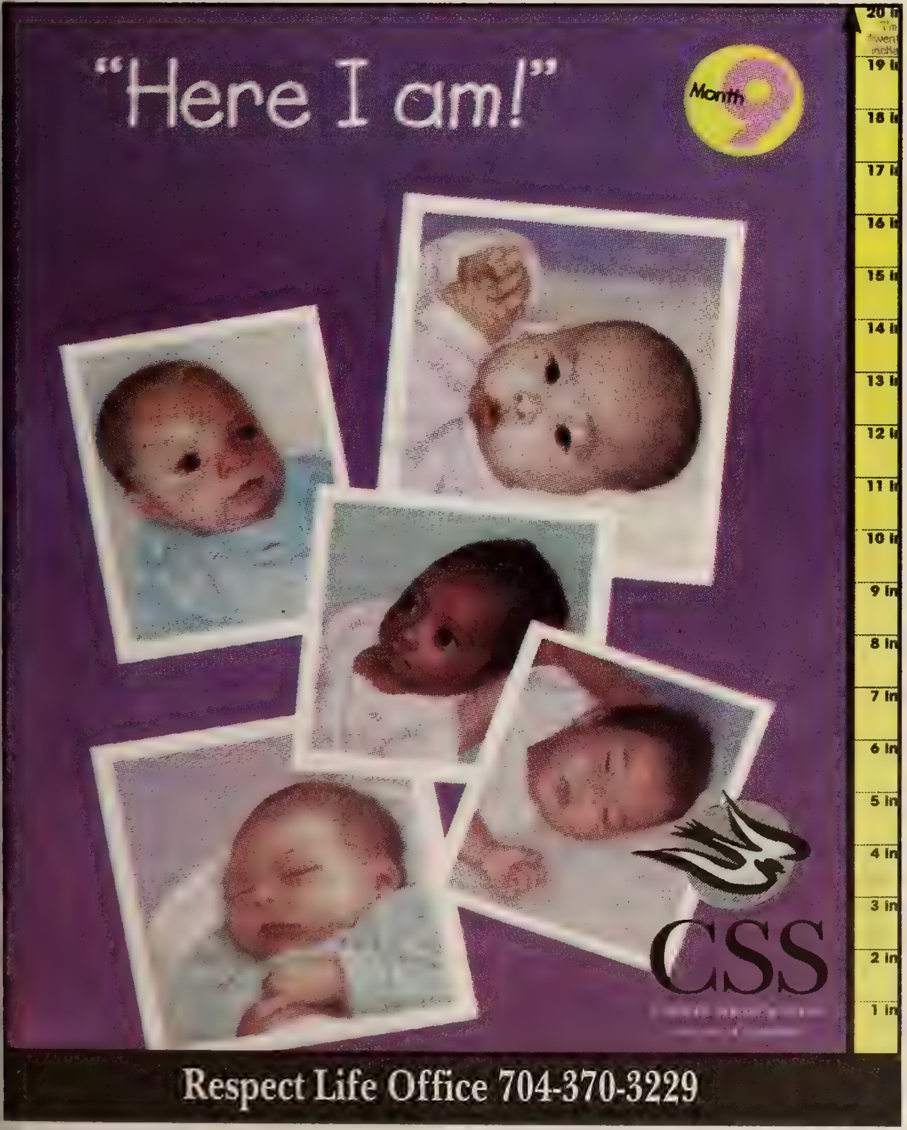
COURTESY PHOTO

Will Larsen and Maria Shea, students at St. Patrick School in Charlotte, are pictured during the State Science Fair at Meredith College in Raleigh March 24.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church



Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Tires and common good

We are connected by virtue of common human nautre

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

I lecture occasionally on Catholic social teaching and its applicability to everyday life. The two most prominent features in this body of doctrine are the principles of human dignity and the common good.

The first insists that we are human beings, not human doings. We have intrinsic value and are worthy of respect because we are human, not because we're wise, wealthy, healthy or good-looking.

People like hearing this principle, even though they sometimes permit non-essentials such as race, poverty or sexual orientation to blind them to the dignity they should respect in others.

The principle of the common good is not so readily received. I have found that Catholic audiences often need help in wrapping their minds around this notion.

Moreover, they sometimes have difficulty in connecting the notion of individual human dignity with the idea of the common good.

In the "Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World," Vatican Council II described the common good as "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment."

So the common good is not the sum of all individual goods, nor is it a utilitarian concept of greatest good for the greatest number of people.

It involves rather an acknowledgment of the basic human dignity of all people and a commitment to work for the promotion of conditions in society that encourage the development of each person's human potential.

This idea is related to the principle of solidarity, the notion that we are connected to one another by virtue of our common human nature. The principle of solidarity functions as a moral category that leads to choices that will promote and protect the common good.

In a question-and-answer period following a lecture I gave to a Catholic adult education group, one of the participants faulted the American bishops for their liberal views on immigration policy.

That prompted me to think of an image I find useful in explaining the common good — the old-fashioned inner tube and rubber tire.

The wholeness and roundness of the tire suggests the oneness of society. The inner tube's vulnerability to wear and tear — the potential for a blowout that can flatten the entire tire — serves to remind that it is in the interest of the whole tire that attention be paid to a small section in need of a plug or patch.

Promotion of the common good not only protects the weak, but it works for the ultimate good of all others in society, not just the poor and vulnerable.

But what about those not yet part of our society, the refugees and migrants who want in but face barriers to entry?

First we have to avoid the trap of putting national boundaries around the concept of the common good. It embraces human nature anywhere; it transcends citizenship.

But the common good also requires respect for national as well as individual rights and, therefore, looks to orderly progress in the flow of immigration while attending to the causes and effects of problems that propel people out of their native lands who would stay or return if conditions improved.

We can become a better national tire through immigration; our national history demonstrates that. History also teaches that we will be a stronger tire to the extent that we attend to all points of vulnerability.

Sorry? No one's listening

Secular media should have focused on Imus apology, not public opinion

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

The tragedy of Virginia Tech has moved into a solitary grieving stage and the media, thank goodness, has not been invited.

And so, over the past few days, the pundits and talk show commentators have been backtracking to the Don Imus story, which was in full bloom when it and most other news was brushed aside by the events in Blacksburg, Va.

Imus is the gravel-voiced, opinionated grandfather of "shock-jockery" who was picked off by media sniper fire. The ammunition was his idiotic remarks about the Rutgers women's basketball players.

The media provided the gun and badgered the rest of us to pull the trigger on a man who was begging for forgiveness.

Sadly, the leaders of the "pull the trigger" chorus were a pair of Christian ministers, the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson. Perhaps the pair skipped the forgiveness class at seminary — they were calling for Imus' firing within hours of his comments.

As Christians we are called to forgiveness, not once or twice, but as Christ put it, "seven times seventy" (Mt. 18:22). Clearly Imus' situation was one where forgiveness could be employed. Why? Because he asked for it — repeatedly.

Even though he was repeating a phrase found regularly in popular hip-hop music, Imus took full responsibility for his words. Given a chance, he most likely would have used the bully pulpit of his microphone in his atonement and a great deal of healing may have come from his rash remarks.

But for the sake of a headline that read "Imus, you're fired!", that kind of reconciliation has been cancelled.

In the secular world of media hype, forgiveness must be boring because it doesn't get much play. Would the world have been a more dangerous place if Don Imus were allowed to serve his two-week suspension rather than lose his job?

Justice would be better served if his sophomoric observations were the basis for a discussion on race relations, the double-standard over the use of certain words and the inflated role that celebrities play in our society. These are subjects that this distracted, over-stimulated country desperately needs to talk about.

In 1972 Pope Paul VI said, "If you want peace, work for justice." The lack of justice in the court of public opinion that Imus faced is obvious. The question for the followers of Christ in the media age is, how can we work for peace through justice?

Here are a few guidelines:

1) Be an advocate for forgiveness. We Christians are not called to swim in the tempting, ultra-clear and illusory waters of self-righteousness. Accepting an apology generally means forgetting about the underlying transgression. This isn't easy or much fun.

2) Know the difference between fact and opinion. Facts are few; opinions are like belly-buttons: everyone has one. Bloggers, are you listening?

3) Gather your facts from different sources. Despite what they may want you to believe, both Fox News and The New York Times have biases.

4) Before being drawn into the media debate, ask yourself how you'd feel if a perfect stranger were talking about you as if you were a criminal, worthy of public ridicule.

I don't believe the "media snipers" will ever lay down their weapons to pick flowers. Someone is always being lined up in the crosshairs of public opinion.

If we allow this to continue, each of us will have no one to blame and no one to seek a reprieve from when the target is painted on our own foreheads.

David Hains is director of communications for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org. A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org.

Letters to the Editor

More respect needed, fewer gun restrictions

I would wager a guess that David Hains ("America, take control of yourself," April 20) never enjoyed target shooting, nor ever enjoyed looking at a collection of firearms that represented the early days of our country.

He may review recent data showing states that have concealed carry laws have dramatic drops in crimes. But simply showing a self-defense weapon is often all that is necessary to stop a crime.

I appreciate 911, but sadly before police can arrive, carnage is often visited upon folks who do not believe in the God-given right to self-defense.

I honor Mr. Hains' wish not to own or use a handgun; however, I honor our constitution and my right as an honest citizen to have one without more useless restrictions. The laws on the books now are already very strict. May I respectfully suggest that we concentrate on upgrading our schools, teaching our children right from wrong, and living our faith.

On another note, the improper use of vehicles driven under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs contributes to the crosses we see on the sides of our highways. Should we outlaw or have more restrictions on vehicle operation? Perhaps make it illegal to manufacture alcohol?

Mr. Hains, let's just teach respect to our young about the proper use and handling of firearms, vehicles, alcohol and, most of all, teach them respect for each other as God's children.

— A. Thomas Hansen
Fairview, N.C.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

When I commute, who is my community?

Pressure, distance can separate us from priorities, Christ

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

Did you know that roughly one out of every six American workers commutes more than 45 minutes — each way! — to work?

And the number of commuters who travel 90 minutes or more each way has reached 3.5 million.

In The New Yorker of April 16, Nick Paumgarten looks at the distances we travel in an article aptly subtitled "The Soul of the Commuter."

I don't wish to pick on commuters; doubtless some people spend their commutes in worthwhile ways: listening to inspirational tapes, unwinding and reading if they are on a bus or train. Some find their only chance for solitude in this daily journey.

But the idea of people spending a large part of their day in one place and the more private, familial part of their day in a place hours and miles away raises questions.

If we work long hours in the city, maybe close to the part of town where the homeless congregate, but travel 45 miles to the place where farmland is being ground up to spit out "McMansions," where is our community?

More to the point, who is our community?

Our lives are subdivided in so many ways, it is no wonder that we often feel scattered and unfocused, that community eludes us.

Thomas Merton wrote that there is "a pervasive form of contemporary violence" to which we can succumb. "The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence."

The "rush and pressure of modern life" — we don't have to have a long commute to identify with what this condition. My own commute is very short, six minutes to the parish where I work part time; that is, if it's not too icy, if the four traffic lights cooperate and the moose stay off the road.

But still, often I feel pressure and find myself unfocused.

Ask any modern mother about feeling overwhelmed, and you'll hear the litany: chef, chauffeur, cleaning lady, tax preparer, homework expert, diaper changer. The list goes on.

A couple of generations ago, there was more centeredness to this: A mom was wrapped in the community of family within the cocoon of neighborhood.

Now we add to motherhood the pressures of employment, whether because it's a good choice or an economic necessity. Our apron strings become cell phones.

Then shift to volunteer mode. Should you help with Scouts tonight or write that letter to save Darfur? Can you say "no" to that parish committee? Have you taken your turn in the classroom lately?

I recently heard a homilist say that if we feel our lives are scattered and unfocused it's because our lives are not centered in Christ.

No doubt this is true. While many lead lives in which we sincerely seek to center ourselves in Christ, we succumb nonetheless to the "violence" of which Merton speaks. Sometimes we're so busy precisely because we're trying to do what we think Christ would have us do.

Again, Merton: "To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence."

Maybe we should let our prayer life be the guide, the measure of whether we are succumbing to the pressure and the distance — physical or metaphysical — which take us from community and Christ.

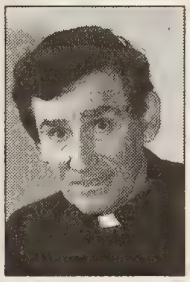
Is our prayer focused? Peaceful? Do we give adequate time to prayer?

Answer "no," and maybe we need to re-examine our commitments.

Only temperance will keep our world sound

Nature, way of life must be balanced

The Human Side



FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

On 7th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, D.C., stands the Temperance Fountain, one of a series of fountains designed and distributed nationally in the 1880s by a wealthy dentist from San Francisco.

Henry D. Cogswell, a crusader in the temperance movement, believed the fountains' cool drinking water would keep people from drinking too much alcohol.

At the center of the Temperance Fountain entwined dolphins spew water that is a symbol of the purity of life.

For most people, temperance means refraining from overeating and excessive drinking. When we study its essence, however, we learn that temperance primarily advocates preserving the balance and order God endowed us with.

If we overeat or drink in excess, we are said to be inordinate — out of balance. Temperance not only pertains to keeping our personal life in order, but also maintaining a balance in all of life.

One of the greatest challenges of this millennium is to keep our balance. For example, consider the balancing act needed to fuel our automobiles.

To keep our cars running, we now rely more on ethanol. This is causing farmers to plant corn in place of wheat and other grains.

On the positive side, the production of corn has become much more profitable. But less wheat means higher bread prices, and less corn for animal feed means cattle ranchers and dairy farmers will now pay more for it, making milk and meat more expensive.

This is only one example of how difficult it is to maintain balance.

Another example is that if we legislate against big industries' polluting gases, we risk them going out of business. Then we would face an increase in unemployment.

For every step forward in maintaining a wholesome life we risk taking two steps backward. This holds especially true in the field of medicine. We may take medicine that gets rid of one problem while creating others.

How to maintain balance and order in our new millennium is the question of the moment. An even more important question is: How do we create a new type of leadership steeped in temperance?

Such a new type of leadership would require leaders who are acutely aware of how delicately balanced life is and who are willing to reverence the way nature and our way of life must be balanced.

Today's leaders must be educated in the fine points of balancing laws that govern nature, the economy and industry. Their knowledge of a simple thing such as the role bees play in our life, for example, is critical.

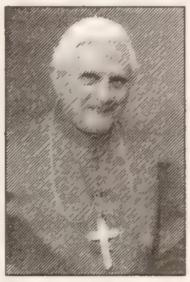
Reports of the disappearance of bees are causing deep concern because of the function bees fulfill in pollinating fruit trees. The sudden disappearance of bees is a serious reminder of how imperative they are in keeping our food supply balanced.

Politicians who make sound laws must also follow Aristotle's dictum when serving their constituents: "The high-minded man must care more for what is right than for what people think."

Getting it right so that balance and order are maintained is imperative to the life of this planet!

Pope says only true way to know God is to love him

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The only true way to know God is to love him and enter into a relationship with him through prayer and reading the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Just as between people, one really knows another deeply only if there is love, if one opens his heart," so it is with God, the pope said May 2 at his weekly general audience.

The pope continued the previous week's discussion about the teaching of Origen of Alexandria. According to Origen's teaching, the pope said, "understanding the Scriptures requires, even more than study, intimacy with Christ and prayer."

"Origen is convinced that the privileged path to knowing God is love and that there cannot be an authentic knowledge of Christ without being in love with him," the pope said.

The pope said Origen emphasized his idea by pointing to the meaning sometimes given to the verb "to know" in Hebrew, as this verb is used to express the act of human love. For example, in Genesis we read, "Adam knew Eve, his wife, who conceived." In this way, it is suggested that a union in love leads to the most authentic knowledge.

"Just as the man and woman are two in one flesh, so God and the believer become two in one spirit," the pope said.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last week we looked at the life and writings of Origen of Alexandria. Today, I would like to consider two significant themes in his work.

Origen's teaching on scripture greatly influenced the Church's rich tradition of lectio divina. Through the prayerful and faith-filled reading of the scriptures, we are drawn in love to mystical union with God.

Just as a man and a woman become "one flesh" in marriage, so — in prayer — the church and each of her members become one in the Spirit with the divine Bridegroom.

Regarding the church, Origen teaches us the importance of the priesthood of all the faithful. As a member of this common priesthood, every believer is called to put on "priestly attire" by living a pure and virtuous life.

Loving intimacy with God through prayer and the offering of an upright and moral life — these are two of Origen's most important lessons for us; these are the ways we keep the "gaze of our hearts" fixed on the "Wisdom and Truth who is Jesus Christ."

Healthy habits

Women religious gather to mark 40th anniversary of Omaha bone study

BY JACLYN TWIDELL
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

OMAHA, Neb. — By the end of the first eight-day session of the Omaha Nun Study in 1967, Mercy Sister Rosalina Wilkinson was sick of chocolate bars.

She had eaten one chocolate bar each day.

"I only picked the chocolate bar because it was on the list they gave me and I thought it sounded good," Sister Wilkinson said. "Boy was that a mistake."

Sister Wilkinson was one of 190 nuns from six motherhouses who agreed to participate in a Creighton University study on calcium intake and women's bone health, now known simply as the Omaha Nun Study.

Participating nuns were from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Servants of Mary, School Sisters of St. Francis, Notre Dame Sisters, Sisters of Mercy and Benedictine Sisters.

More than 30 of the nuns involved in the study were on hand April 25 to help celebrate the study's 40th anniversary.

"As a good Catholic lad, I have said 'thank you' to various sisters over the years for my education, my faith and my vocation," Jesuit Father John Schlegel, Creighton University president, told the women.

"Now as I stand here, I would like to thank you for my mother's health. She is 90 years old and she has learned a lot from your study and her bones are very solid," he said.

The reception, held at the Creighton University Medical Center, recognized the nuns for their contributions to women's bone health.

"I would like to reiterate the impact you had," Dr. Robert Heaney, study director and designer, told the nuns.

"I don't think you realize this, but the intake recommendations for calcium were based on the figures you people provided not to me, not to Creighton, but to the women of America," he said.

The staff from Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center — past and present — also attended the event.

When the project was started in February 1967, the nuns — then between the ages of 35 and 45 — spent eight days and nine nights at the Creighton center's metabolism unit every five years.

They chose their menu for a day, but that menu was repeated each of the eight days.

The diets were designed to match — within 5 percent — their usual food intake in terms of calories, protein, calcium and phosphorus.

"Before we arrived at the hospital we had to tell them what we usually ate," said Sister Iris Deprez, a Servant of Mary. "We were sick of our choices by the end of that eighth day."

The food selection was not the only thing the researchers were watching.

"They monitored everything," Mercy Sister Claudia Robinson said. "Each meal was measured down to the exact number of ounces."

"We learned quickly to ask for an extra piece of bread each meal to lap up all the extra food on our plates. It was that or lick the plate clean," she added.

From daily blood draws to urine collection, every step of the process was meticulously recorded to identify factors that influenced how the women's bodies absorbed calcium, utilized it and excreted it.

CNS PHOTO BY JACLYN TWIDWELL, CATHOLIC VOIC

Benedictine Sister Cecilia Polt marks the 40th anniversary of the Omaha Nun Study April 25 wit a milk mustache provided by the American Dair Association/Dairy Council of Nebraska at Creightor University Medical Center in Omaha.

"The project, because of the number of participants and the length of the study, literally wrote the book on the operation of calcium economy in midlife women," Heaney said.

The Omaha Nun Study also helped establish Creighton University as an international leader in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, said Dr. Robert Recker, current director of Creighton's Osteoporosis Research Center.

The project received continuous federal funding from 1967 until 1995, and was one of the longest-running, continually supported projects in the history of the National Institutes of Health.

Among the findings resulting from the Creighton research: Healthy midlife women require 1,200 milligrams of calcium daily and calcium absorption is influenced by body size, vitamin D and estrogen levels, race, age and other nutrient interactions.

Although the eight-day inpatient studies ended, the nuns, now in their 70s and 80s, continue to return to Creighton for calcium absorption measurements and bone-density scans.

"It is a great feeling to know that we helped other women," said Sister Robinson. "I also have learned to be conscious of bone health and I understand that we all need to encourage other women."

"When we were doing the study, we did not know that we were helping anyone," said Sister Wilkinson. "But I am sure glad we did it."

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!
or ckfoerick@charlottediocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Thanks, Mom, For The Beautiful Gift of Life

To mothers on this day of honor, we thank you for your courageous love in giving us life ... and to those birth mothers who lovingly choose adoption for their children and those who give the love of their hearts to adopted children, we say to all, "Happy Mother's Day!"

We love you and give you our thanks every day of our lives.

Respect Life Office 704-370-3229

CSS

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Parish Profile
Our Lady of the Mountains a spiritual home in Highlands
| PAGE 16

MAY 11, 2007
SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
VOLUME 16 Nº 29

Benedict in Brazil

Pope says he wants to help reinforce Christian values, counter threats

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Arriving in Brazil on his first papal trip to Latin America, Pope Benedict XVI said he wanted to help reinforce Christian values and counter new threats to the poor, the abandoned and the unborn.

"I am well aware that the soul of this people, as of all Latin America, safeguards values that are radically Christian, which will never be eradicated," the pope said May 9.

The pope addressed several hundred civil and church dignitaries at an airport

See BRAZIL, page 7

'Exempliary soldiers'

Pope thanks Swiss Guards for dedicated, loyal service

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI thanked the Swiss Guards for their dedicated and loyal service of watching over the Vatican and keeping popes safe.

The Swiss Guard's 500 years of service to the church in

See SWISS, page 7

Strangers in a strange new land

COURTESY PHOTO

Khadija Mohamed, a refugee from Somalia, looks up from her work in her English as a Second Language class in Charlotte.

Refugee forum in Charlotte highlights world crisis

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

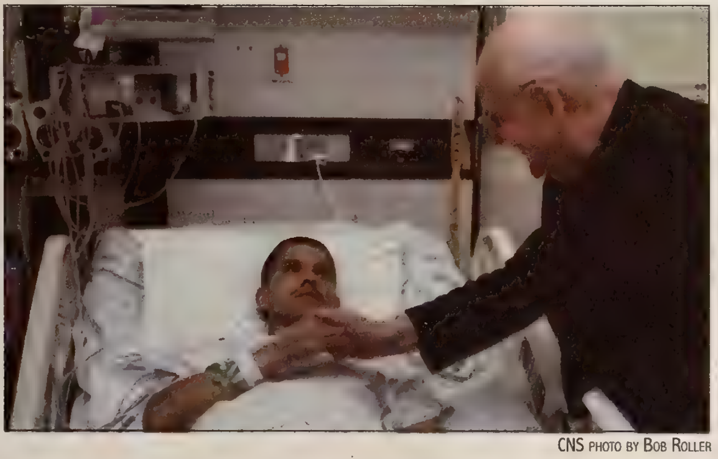
CHARLOTTE — Imagine fleeing the only home you've ever know, with no idea if you will ever see it again. Or walking 15 days and nights through the desert without food or water.

Imagine watching as your husband is shot to death in front of you. Or living for years in squalid, unsanitary conditions in a refugee camp.

Unfortunately for 12 million refugees and 21 million internally displaced persons around the world, these aren't horror stories they've heard, but their own stories — their own lives.

Five former refugees shared their stories of persecution, fear, hunger —

See REFUGEE, page 5



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Father Patrick Kenny, an Irish-born priest of the Diocese of Auckland, New Zealand, comforts U.S. Army Sgt. Juan Roldan at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington April 17. Father Kenny, who is a chaplain at Walter Reed, was visiting the soldier from Paterson, N.J., who lost both his legs in an explosion in Iraq.

Holy healing

Walter Reed chaplain who tends to war wounded finds number growing

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Father Patrick Kenny, like many priests, finds that the number of priests able to collaborate with him in his ministry is shrinking, and that the flock is growing.

Father Kenny's flock is at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, which came under national scrutiny in late winter after The Washington Post exposed severe shortcomings in outpatient care and myriad red tape at the 113-acre facility.

The Irish-born priest, now 72, has been a chaplain at Walter Reed for 27 years of his 47 years of priestly ministry.

It all started as a way for

See CHAPLAIN, page 9

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Around the Diocese
Vows to Secular Carmelites; Knights events
| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Curriculum guide studied; Vatican photographers
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
Honoring women at home; Faith influencing life
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

RISING FROM THE RUBBLE

CNS PHOTO BY DAVE KAUP, REUTERS

An American flag hangs in the rubble May 6 in Greensburg, Kan., after a devastating tornado ripped through the area the evening of May 4. The tornado, rated an F5 and the most powerful to hit the U.S. in eight years, demolished every business on the main street. All the churches, including St. Joseph Catholic Church, also were destroyed. At least 12 people died, and at least 50 people were injured, some critically, authorities said.

Pastor seeks to console scattered flock after devastating tornado

DODGE CITY, Kan. (CNS) — With his church destroyed by a powerful tornado and his parishioners "scattered to the four winds," Father Gregory LeBlanc, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Greensburg, spent part of May 6 visiting the displaced in local shelters.

"It was so good to visit with a number of you Sunday in the shelters," Father LeBlanc said in a parish bulletin posted on the Web site of the Diocese of Dodge City.

"I am at a loss as we look at what needs to be done now and what needs to be done in the future. God bless us and keep us together even as we are scattered about," he wrote.

Tim Wenzl, media liaison for the Dodge City Diocese, said St. Joseph Church was destroyed in the May 4 tornado, with only a memorial bell and a statue of St. Joseph left standing in an exterior niche of a wall.

But all 160 parishioners have been accounted for and no one was killed, he added.

Another Catholic church, St. Peter and Paul in North Ellinwood, lost its steeple and has a large hole in its roof, Wenzl said. The church, which was built in a rural area and predates the Second Vatican Council, had been closed but was being maintained as a heritage site, he added.

Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore of Dodge City asked for prayers for the people of Greensburg and other towns devastated by the May 4 tornado, which the National Weather Service classified as an F5 storm, with winds exceeding 200 mph.

"In addition to our prayerful support, I know that we want to be of whatever material assistance we can be," the bishop said in a May 7 statement. "Catholic Social Service-Catholic Charities for Southwest Kansas plays a distinctive role among community resources in responding to these crises."

Bishop Gilmore asked each parish in the diocese to hold a special collection or send funds from its general treasury to assist in the recovery efforts.

"Even as we are grateful that all parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, Greensburg, have been located, we mourn the loss of those who have died this past weekend and pray for the repose of their souls and for the comfort of their loved ones," the bishop said.

At least 12 people died in the tornado. Greensburg, a town of about 1,500 people, was about 95 percent destroyed, according to City Administrator Steve Hewitt.

Father LeBlanc, who also is pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Pratt and lived at the Pratt parish, planned to return to Greensburg sometime May 7, the first day that people were allowed in to assess their damages, Wenzl said.

The priest said eight Catholic schools were prepared to take in any students displaced by the tornado, with all fees waived.

Cardinal praises Bush pledge to veto any attack on pro-life policies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities welcomed President George W. Bush's May 3 promise to "veto any legislation that weakens current federal policies and laws on abortion."

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia also expressed gratitude May 4 for pledges by 155 members of the House of Representatives and 34 senators to uphold any such vetoes.

"These pledges help ensure that through the rest of this administration and this Congress, Americans need not fear that the federal government will pursue new ways to force them to be involved in government-funded abortions, coercive population programs abroad or the destruction of embryonic human beings," the cardinal said. "Instead, we should work together to build respect for human life at its most defenseless stages, and to support women and families facing an unintended pregnancy or caring for family members challenged by age, illness or disability."

Bush outlined his stand in identical letters May 3 to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. Current law prohibits federal funding for abortion except in cases of rape, incest or where the life of the mother is endangered.

"Recent legislative practice has ensured that taxpayer funds do not underwrite organizations that perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning," the president wrote.

Also protected under U.S. laws or policies are human embryos and the conscience rights of health care providers and entities, and taxpayer funds may not be used in "coercive or involuntary family planning programs," he added.

"I believe it is the most basic duty of government to guard the innocent," Bush said. "I will veto any legislation that weakens current federal policies and laws on abortion, or that encourages the destruction of human life at any stage."

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-Annual Rosary Rally* will be held May 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old diocesan tradition will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will present *"Seeking the Heart of God"* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Thursdays, May 24 through June 28, 7-9 p.m. This lecture series deals with understanding the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Each participant will need a copy of St. Teresa's "Interior Castle." For more information, please contact Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext.4.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a free *Christian Coffeehouse* May 27, 7-9 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, or to reserve a table for six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A free adult faith formation series, *"The Church and Human Sexuality,"* will meet Tuesdays through May 22, 7:30-9 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in *The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet May 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

GREENSBORO — A *Mass and Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick* will be celebrated at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St., May 19 at 1 p.m. Anyone who is experiencing physical, mental or emotional afflictions, is of advanced age or is facing surgery is encouraged and invited to receive this sacrament. For more information, call Maureen Cavanaugh at (336) 274-6520 ext 30.

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will host a luncheon May 23 at the Cardinal Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will feature a performance by the Scottish Country Dancers. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., invites everyone to attend the *Third Annual International Festival,*

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MAY 11, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 29

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says church must continue to reach out, face vocations crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While the church must continue to be a missionary church reaching out and giving support to younger churches, it must also face the widespread crisis of vocations, Pope Benedict XVI said.

As the church continues its missionary activities around the world, "we cannot help but see the difficulties that emerge today in this field," he said in a May 5 speech to participants of two separate missionary conferences.

The Superior Council of the Pontifical Missionary Works and the World Mission Congress "Fidei Donum" met in Rome recently to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Pope Pius XII's encyclical, "Fidei Donum" ("The Gift of Faith").

The letter highlighted the missionary needs of Africa and urged established churches to help younger churches with prayers and funding. It also called on diocesan priests, religious and laypeople to help in the missions.

Pope Benedict thanked all those who have dedicated themselves to spreading the Gospel.

Missionary work has helped make every baptized person feel part of one church and has led to "reciprocal enrichment" as cultures and communities exchange their gifts and talents, he said.

However, some of the difficulties facing the church today in continuing its missionary mandate include the declining numbers and advanced age of "clergy in the dioceses that once sent missionaries to faraway regions," the pope said.

"In this context of a widespread vocations crisis, this certainly represents a challenge that must be faced," he said.

Nonetheless, without ignoring the problems, the church must look to the future with hope and confidence, he said, "giving a renewed and more authentic identity to 'Fidei Donum' missionaries" that responds to a world that is much different from that of 50 years ago.

a non-denominational family event with food, entertainment, music, art, exhibits and games from around the world. The free event begins at 4 p.m. May 27. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at hlkwan@lexcominc.net or (336) 688-1220.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, is offering a weekly *Catholic Scripture Study*. Catholic Scripture Study is a program whose members not only learn the Scriptures, but come to a deeper understanding of their faith in a setting that builds Christian fellowship. Evening and daytime classes meet at the church, Wednesdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30-11:15 a.m. For more information, call Ann Miller at (828) 441-2205, or e-mail stalscss@charter.net.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — The *Knitting Ministry* of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., meets Monday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., to pray, learn to knit, reflect on life's lessons and reach out to others in our community. Opportunities exist for the beginner to the experienced as we knit and purl Prayer Shawls, Preemie Blankets or Squares for Survivors. Please contact Rosemary at (336) 766-2315 or Carmel (336) 766-0650 for more information.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pope to women religious: To bring hope, first renew your spirituality

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Renewing their own spirituality and carefully studying the needs of others, women religious will be able to live the Gospel message and bring hope to the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope, meeting May 7 with almost 800 superiors of women's congregations, asked the religious to follow the biblical example of the prophets, who "first listen and contemplate and then speak, allowing themselves to be totally permeated by that love for God, which fears nothing and is stronger even than death."

The International Union of Superiors General was holding its plenary meeting in Rome. The participating superiors represent almost 600,000 sisters working in 85 countries around the world.

The theme of the plenary was "Challenged to weave a new spirituality, which generates hope and life for all."

During the May 6-10 plenary, the women were to focus specifically on helping other women, migrants, safeguarding the earth, working with the laity and interreligious dialogue.

Pope Benedict told them that prayer and prophetic action are "the 'threads' with which the Lord urges you, dear religious, to weave the fabric of your service to the church," giving witness to Gospel values "courageously incarnated in the contemporary reality, especially where there is human and spiritual poverty."

Some of the focus areas, he said, are new for many religious congregations, and the best way to "travel unexplored missionary and spiritual paths" is to maintain a solid grounding in prayer and contemplation.

An authentic prophet, he said, "does not worry so much about doing works, which are undoubtedly important, but not essential. The prophet tries above all to be a witness to the love of God, trying to live it among the realities of the world."

Pope Benedict told the superiors their first concern must be to help the members of their congregations to keep their eyes focused on Christ and to place themselves at the service of the Gospel.

He also encouraged them to share their gifts and talents with others — priests, laypeople and especially families — "who are committed to the one mission of the church, which is building the kingdom of God."

Swing in their step

CNS PHOTO BY PAULO WHITAKER, REUTERS

Recovering drug addicts rehearse a dance routine that they will present to Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the Fazenda da Esperanca (Farm of Hope) drug rehabilitation center in Guaratingueta, Brazil, May 3. The pope will visit the Franciscan-run center during his May 9-13 trip to Brazil.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 12 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Philip Church, Statesville

May 12 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Elizabeth of the Hill Country Church, Boone

May 13 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Lucien Church, Spruce Pine

May 14 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mary Church, Shelby

May 16 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Monroe

May 18 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Peter Church, Charlotte

May 19 — 2 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

May 20 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

May 21 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

May 22 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission Meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Honoring stewards

COURTESY PHOTO

Deacon Mike Stout and parishioners serve pasta at a dinner concluding the stewardship renewal program at St. Barnabas Church in Arden April 21.

Dinner recognizes stewardship ministries, people

ARDEN — An Italian dinner was held for all parishioners of St. Barnabas Church in Arden April 21.

More than 300 parishioners attended the dinner, concluding the parish's sixth annual stewardship renewal program. The program began in January with "treasure renewal" forms being sent to all parishioners in conjunction with each parishioner's 2006 statement of giving, which could be used for tax purposes.

The time and talent portions of the stewardship renewal began in March with mailings detailing the ministries available to parishioners. Lay speakers followed and a ministry fair concluded this renewal. The time and talent renewal program spanned a period of five weeks.

The second annual dinner was held to recognize all who are a part of stewardship ministries and was open to all parishioners.

"The parish enjoys making stewardship a way of life in their church and community," said Ken Marino, stewardship committee chairperson.

Father Dean Cesa and Deacons Art Kingsley and Mike Stout lead the parish of 750 families.

Vocations, family explored at Catholic Family Expo

Conference features speakers, prayer

BELMONT — Approximately 300 people attended the first Catholic Family Expo in the Diocese of Charlotte, held at Belmont Abbey College April 13-15. The expo, themed "Formation for Vocations," featured speakers, breakout talks, exhibitors, Mass and prayer.

"Our faith will bring us happiness as individuals and as families as we learn, love and live the vocation God calls us to," said Tim and Miki Hill, co-presidents of Catholic Family Expo, in a written welcome letter to expo participants.

"And this is the vocation we are all called to — to love God and love our neighbor," they wrote. "Every vocation stems from this first and primary vocation to love."

Catholic Family Expo was founded 16 years ago as the National Association of Catholic Home Educators, but was broadened to include all Catholic families, regardless of their educational choices.

According to its Web site, the organization's mission is the help the faithful cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus, instill a sense of social responsibility and assist parents impart these goals to their children.

Through the expos held in different cities, it provides a "comfortable and affordable setting for people to hear and experience something new about life in Christ."

Gregory and Christine Williams, parishioners of St. James the Greater Church in Concord, helped organize the expo at Belmont Abbey College.

"We've gone to conferences elsewhere, and we felt this area would welcome and embrace this kind of conference," said Christine Williams.

Topics at "Formation for Vocations" included vocations, family and education.

Among the dozens of speakers were Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, and Dr. Martha Shuping, a Winston-Salem-area psychiatrist, on pro-life issues; Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College, on self-esteem; Ray Guarendi, an author and psychologist, on being a strong parent and Catholicism; and Gail Buckley, founder and executive director of Catholic Scripture Study, on "Giving God the Reins."

Williams said she hoped participants felt "refreshed and renewed in their spirit and able to live out their vocation to the world."

"The conference was a wonderful experience," she said.

Another Catholic Family Expo is scheduled in the Diocese of Charlotte for June 2008.

On the journey

Woman makes promises to Secular Discalced Carmelite community

ASHEVILLE — The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites recently advanced one of its members during its Lenten Day of Reflection.

Mary Ann Poli made her temporary promises to the superiors and community of the Flower of Carmel Community in Asheville during its Lenten Day of Reflection in Asheville March 10.

Poli, a parishioner of and youth minister at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, promised a life of evangelical perfection in the spirit of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty and obedience and in the spirit of the beatitudes for the next three years.

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites is an order of lay people and diocesan priests who embrace a calling to strive for Christian perfection in the world according to the spirit and ideals of the Order of Discalced Carmelites.

Following in the way of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, Secular Carmelites endeavor to make their lives as grace-filled and fruitful as possible in every way for the Catholic Church and the world.

Poli's temporary promises mark the midpoint in her journey to becoming a full Secular Carmelite.

The journey began with a six-month period of visitation with the community before becoming an aspirant for one year — she then received a scapular, which is the ceremonial habit of the secular order.

At the end of three years, she may be invited by the community to make her promises permanent.

Discalced Carmelite Father Anthony Haglof, prior of the Discalced Carmelite hermitage in Hinton, W.Va., and spiritual assistant for Flower of Carmel Community, celebrated Mass and officiated at the March 10 temporary promises ceremony in the home of Jim and Loretta Potts.

Elizabeth Pantas, the community's formation director, accepted Poli's promises on behalf of the community.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, visit www.ocdswashprov.org.

For more information on the Flower of Carmel Community, call Elizabeth Pantas, director of formation, at (828) 628-4621, or Ella Reid, president, at (828) 667-3903.

COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Ann Poli (left), a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, is pictured with Discaled Carmelite Father Haglof, spiritual assistant for Flower of Carmel Community, and Elizabeth Pantas, community president. Poli made temporary promises to the community March 10.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Refugee forum in Charlotte highlights world crisis

Photo by Karen A. Evans

David Thon, a refugee from Sudan, answers questions during "Refugees Among Us: The New Americans" at the Levine Jewish Community Center in Charlotte May 6 as Woc Hwing Y from Vietnam and Khadija Muya from Somalia look on. The forum, co-hosted by Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, offered refugees an opportunity to share their stories and shed light on the plight of the world's 33 million refugees and internally displaced persons.

REFUGEE, *from page 1*

and ultimately, hope and gratitude — during "Refugees Among Us: The New Americans" presented by Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office at the Levine Jewish Community Center in Charlotte May 6.

Hosted by the Diocese of Charlotte's Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services in collaboration with the Levine Jewish Community Center (JCC), the program highlighted the plight of refugees in their own words.

Various organizations, including the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace of CSS, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Forest Hill Church's Sacks of Hope and Crisis Assistance Ministries were also on hand to offer information and opportunities for advocates, donors and volunteers.

The panelists, all of whom have been in the United States less than 10 years, represented Ukraine, Somalia, Vietnam, Liberia and Sudan.

Hawa Massaquoi, a Christian native of Bambo, Liberia, told the 160 audience members how she awoke in 1990 to the sounds of people shouting in the streets.

"Everyone was ordered out of their houses by soldiers — they said 'get out, or we will burn your houses,'" Massaquoi said.

A bloody civil war had erupted in Liberia in December 1989, escalating with the assassination of President Samuel Doe Sept. 10, 1990.

Massaquoi's husband was killed by soldiers while she stood by helplessly.

"Our country was quite good until this nightmare war came," she said. "It tore our country to pieces."

Massaquoi and her children fled Liberia, and she spent the next 16 years in refugee camps in Ivory Coast and Ghana. On Dec. 5, 2006, she was able to join her daughter in Charlotte, but her four other children, between 19 and 33 years of age, remain in a refugee camp in Ghana.

She desperately wants her children to come to the United States, but the program which allowed her to immigrate closed before her children and two grandchildren could be approved for refugee status.

Massaquoi hasn't been able to find a job yet. Her daughter, Yatta Wuor, is supporting her mother and her family members in Ghana. The Ghanaian government does not permit refugees to hold jobs, and camp residents must still pay for rent, utilities, water, food and other necessities.

"These are stories we hear everyday in our office," said Cira Ponce, director of the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office. "There are so many refugees all over the world who need our help and our prayers."

New hope in a new home

Only 16 of the 192 United Nations member states currently accept refugees. In 2005, there were 53,813 refugees admitted to the United States for resettlement.

> "There are so many refugees ... who need our help and our prayers."
>
> — Cira Ponce

Each year, the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office helps about 350 refugees adjust to their new lives in the United States.

Refugees, most of whom speak no English when they arrive, are met at the airport by a case manager and provided with a furnished apartment and a week's worth of "culturally appropriate" food, said Mary Jane Bruton, community relations coordinator for the Refugee Resettlement Office.

The refugees take intensive English as a Second Language classes and, once their English is satisfactory, the refugee office provides employment services, matching them with potential employers.

"What refugees need most are employers willing to hire them and volunteers to serve as mentors or 'American friends,'" Bruton said.

"Refugees make good, dependable employees," she said. "They have a high work ethic, are conscientious and loyal. They really want to work."

Refugees are often employed in the areas of woodworking, warehouse distribution and 10 key data entry, Bruton said.

The idea for the refugee forum came after CSS and JCC co-sponsored a screening of the documentary "Lost Boys of Sudan" in January to a standing-room-only audience of more than 400 people at the Levine Jewish Community Center in Charlotte.

"We had lots of interest in refugees — how they get here, what their lives are like, and so on," Bruton said. "People really wanted to help, and CSS wanted to provide an opportunity for that."

Most refugees prefer to return home as soon as circumstances permit, generally when a conflict has ended, a degree of stability has been restored and basic infrastructure is being rebuilt, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In reality, few have the opportunity to do so. The majority find new hope and new lives in the United States.

Massaquoi nevertheless continues to hope.

"I would like to go back and rebuild my country," she said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services, call (704) 370-3283 or visit www.cssnc.org.

5 simple ways you can help refugees

LEARN: Educate yourself and others on the human rights situations that cause people to flee, and learn about critical assistance programs that sustain displaced populations and help them to rebuild their communities.
Visit Refugees International at www.refintl.org.

ADVOCATE: Write your elected official or a letter to the editor and let them know that you 1) support legislation to help the uprooted, and 2) oppose efforts to treat refugees as terrorists.
Visit United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org/mrs

VOLUNTEER: Mentor or tutor a newly arrived refugee.
Visit Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte at www.cssnc.org or call (704) 370-3283.

DONATE: Give money to an international agency that provides aid to refugees.
Visit: www.refintl.org.

GIVE: Household goods and job opportunities to a local agency helping refugees to start new lives in the U.S.
Visit www.cssnc.org or call (704) 370-3283.

Courtesy Photo

Halima Mnongerwa holds her son Mohamud Abdalla as she tries blowing a bubble-gum bubble during a break from her English as a Second Language class. Mnongerwa, a native of Somalia, was assisted by Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office when she resettled in Charlotte.

Q&A

What is the difference between an immigrant and a refugee?

An immigrant is a foreign-born individual who voluntarily leaves his/her country of origin and has been admitted to reside permanently in the U.S. as a Lawful Permanent Resident.

According to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

The key difference then, is that an immigrant chooses to leave his/her country of origin. A refugee, on the other hand, is compelled to seek asylum in another country.

How many uprooted people are there throughout the world?

According to recent estimates from the U.S. Committee for Refugees, there are 12 million refugees and asylum seekers throughout the world, and 21 million internally displaced persons in need of protection and assistance. In 2005, more than 3 million people were uprooted from their homes and or/countries.

How many refugees does the U.S. accept for resettlement each year?

In 2005, there were 53,813 refugees admitted to the U.S. for resettlement. The yearly cap was 70,000 for 2006 and is set by the president in consultation with Congress and the State Department.

How many refugees have been resettled in Charlotte?

Since 1975, Catholic Social Services has resettled 9,500 refugees in the Charlotte metro area. Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society North Carolina has resettled an additional 1,000 people. In 2006, CSS resettled 331 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, the former Soviet Union, Sudan, Liberia, Cuba, Somalia, Iran and Congo. HIAS-N.C. resettled Hmong and Meskhetian Turks, in addition to the above nationalities.

Remembering loved ones

COURTESY PHOTO

Sixty people enjoy the inaugural Widows and Widowers Dinner at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro March 29. The full-menu dinner, hosted and served by Knights of Columbus Council 13236 in Greensboro, was to honor the wives of deceased knights as well as surviving spouses at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

Knights collect funds for mentally challenged

COURTESY PHOTO

Grand Knight Joe Ference (center) presents a check to Vicky Pressly in Madison County. Ference and other members of Knights of Columbus Council 12233 raised more than $7,500 for Mt. Opportunity and the North Carolina state's Knights office through Operation LAMB. Also pictured are Knight Jim Halula, Elaine English, Knight Vincent Salomone, Knight Harry Hamelink (back) and Knight Larry Thompson.

BURNSVILLE — Knights of Columbus Council 12233 recently raised $7,525 and donated $5,832 to agencies working with the mentally challenged in Yancey, Madison and Mitchell counties.

Members of the council come from three small Catholic churches in western North Carolina: Sacred Heart Mission in Burnsville, St. Lucien Church in Spruce Pine and St. Andrew Church in Mars Hill.

The funds were distributed locally, proportionately based upon the collections received at the sites where members from the specific agencies assisted with collections. In Yancey County, Mt. Opportunity received $1,192 and Residential House received $1,917.

Mt. Opportunity in Madison County received $1,001 and $1,721 in Mitchell County. The remaining funds were donated to the North Carolina state Knights office for statewide assistance for activities for the mentally challenged, especially Special Olympics.

According to Grand Knight Joe Ference, the funds were raised through Operation LAMB collections. LAMB (Least Among My Brethren) is taken from the Gospel of Matthew 25:40: "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Knights of Columbus councils conduct this program throughout the United States to help the mentally challenged. Contributions were collected during the annual "Tootsie Roll Campaign" held on alternating weekend August through December.

"We couldn't begin something of this nature without the support of the area's citizens," said Harry Hamelink, campaign director. "We are grateful to all who helped make this event so successful."

There are more than 12,100 Knights of Columbus in North Carolina. Organized into councils, their charitable efforts stretch from Franklin in the west to kill devil hills in the east. According to 2004 statistics, the Operation LAMB program of North Carolina has raised more than $13 million since its inception in 1973. Since donations cover basic overhead costs, every penny raised from the tootsie roll campaign goes directly to this special cause.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

For faithful service

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte, presents a certificate of appreciation from Bishop Peter J. Jugis to Gertrude Kim for her 26 years of service as a volunteer parish catechetical leader, catechist, translator and pastoral liaison at St. John Lee Korean Church in Charlotte May 6.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

COME JOIN US FOR
St. Ann's
Las Vegas Night

Saturday, June 2 6:30 - 10:30 pm

BLACK JACK ▪ POKER
ROULETTE ▪ MUSIC
LIGHT SNACKS ▪ DJ

St. Ann's Catholic Church
3635 Park Road, Charlotte
(corner of Hillside Avenue)

Tickets $5
- available at door

(704) 523-4641

$10 for 20 chips
$20 for 50 chips

Pope thanks Swiss Guards for dedicated, loyal service

SWISS, *from page 1*

CNS PHOTO BY MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Rome reflects "a long history of loyalty and generous service always offered with dedication, at times to the point of heroically sacrificing one's life," he said.

The pope's comments came May 5 during a special audience with Swiss Guards and 38 new recruits.

New soldiers are sworn in during a ceremony at the Vatican every May 6 to commemorate the day 150 Swiss Guards died saving Pope Clement VII's life during the sack of Rome May 6, 1527.

Each recruit took an oath to "faithfully, loyally and honorably" serve the pope with all his strength and to sacrifice his life, if necessary, to defend the pontiff.

To serve in the Swiss Guard, soldiers must be male Swiss citizens, Catholic and at least 5 feet 8 inches tall. They must have an impeccable reputation, be under age 30, unmarried when they begin their service and have served in the Swiss Army.

It was in June 1505 when Pope Julius II first wrote to the Swiss confederation, asking for a contingent of Swiss soldiers who would protect the pope and his palace. The first 150 Swiss soldiers arrived Jan. 22, 1506, at the gates of Rome.

In 2006, half a millennium since the Swiss Guard's arrival, a contingent of former guards took part in a 439-miles trek from Switzerland to Rome to pay tribute to the first 150 soldiers to answer Pope Julius' call.

Pope Benedict said May 5 that the guards' dedication has "rightly earned them the esteem and trust of all pontiffs" who have always been able to count on their "help, support, and protection."

"Thank you, dear friends, for your quiet, but efficient presence next to the figure of the pope; thank you for your professionalism and also for the love with which you carry out your mission," he said.

He told the guards to remember that in addition to being "exemplary soldiers" they are also called to be "good Christians."

"The Lord is calling you to holiness," he said, and urged them to live a life of simplicity, solidarity and prayer.

Come and join us for a Spiritual Retreat!

"Be Not Afraid"
Accepting God's Love,
Healing, Forgiveness and Blessings

July 13-15
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte
www.4sjnc.org

Speakers

Ned Dougherty - author of The Fast Lane to Heaven, a celestial encounter that changed his life (www.fastlanetoheaven.com)

Rev. Russell Ortega, OSA - pastor of St. John Neumann and retreat spiritual director

Rev. Deogratis Rwegasira, A.J. - St. Bernard Church, Easton, Pa; Missionary of South Africa

Dr. Cris Villapando – Diocesan Director of Faith Formation Program; instructor of moral theology for lay ministry programs

Darcy M. Tabotabo, MD – Catholic lay minister for apologetics; professor of ophthalmology; servant of the Lord

Bill Milligan – parishioner of St. John Neumann; husband, father, grandfather, soldier, teacher, coach, lay minister and businessman

Ferdinand Roccanti – Catholic lay evangelist; poor, unable to read, becomes a millionaire, gives it all away; has double vision and becomes a spiritual artist

Flory Achong – orphaned on streets of Costa Rica, now blessed with spiritual gifts

Cost for all 3 days: $35 (snacks daily, Sat. night dinner)
Registration deadline: June 15

Info: Stephanie Alder: 704-365-2209 or Beth Manning: 704-365-6601

Pope wants to reinforce Christian values, counter threats

BRAZIL, *from page 1*

welcoming ceremony outside Sao Paulo, where his plane touched down after a 12-hour flight from Rome.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva greeted the pope warmly as he descended from the aircraft.

In their brief remarks at the airport, the pontiff and the Brazilian president highlighted the importance of family, the challenges facing young people, and the Catholic Church's contribution to social programs in Latin America's most Catholic and most populous country.

Da Silva told the pope that the country needs spiritual and moral leadership "to face the challenges of this new millennium."

Saying that "the presence of the Catholic Church has been fundamental in Brazil, contributing to the country's spiritual, moral and social life," the president mentioned the church's collaboration in social efforts, especially the government's program to fight hunger.

Noting that his administration has "paid special attention to our youth, especially those who are poorest and most in need," da Silva said it was important to ensure the country's young people "a future that is dignified in every material and spiritual dimension."

The pope said he had come with an essentially religious message that reflected the goals of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, which he was to open May 13.

The pope said he expected the conference to strengthen the subcontinent's Christian identity "through the promotion of respect for life from the moment of conception until natural death as an integral requirement of human nature."

"It will also make the promotion of the human person the axis of solidarity, especially for the poor and abandoned," he said.

The pope emphasized that the majority Catholic populations of Latin America must make a particular contribution for the common good if the region is to solve its problems and build a future of peace and hope.

That means strengthening the family as "the basic cell of society" and promoting the values present in every level of society, especially among the indigenous peoples, he said.

The pope's reference to the unborn was significant in Brazil, where there has been increasingly political pressure to make abortion legal. Officials say clandestine abortions are practiced widely in the country.

On the plane carrying the pope, his entourage and about 70 journalists, the pope spoke warmly about Brazil and said he was happy to return to Latin America, where he had visited several times as a cardinal.

Answering reporters' questions, he said that while he was aware of the immense social and economic problems in the region, he also was acquainted with the rich qualities of the people.

After greeting the Brazilian cardinals, Pope Benedict boarded a helicopter for the short flight to the Campo de Marte Airport where he received a key to the city before boarding the popemobile for the trip to St. Benedict Monastery, where he was to spend the night.

Spending two and a half days in Sao Paulo, the pope was to meet with the Brazilian president in Bandeirantes Palace as well as with representatives of other Christian churches and other religions in St. Benedict Monastery.

He was to meet with young people in Paulo Machado de Carvalho stadium before canonizing a Brazilian Franciscan, Blessed Antonio Galvao, during his May 9-13 visit.

Then he moves to the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady Aparecida, where he will inaugurate the bishops' conference, celebrating Mass and delivering a major speech to participants of the May 13-31 meeting.

The trip turns a spotlight on Latin America, a geographical area that has had little attention from this pope to date, but where 43 percent of the world's Catholics live.

It also broadens the horizons of the pope's two-year pontificate, taking him outside Europe, where four of his previous five trips have occurred.

Contributing to this story was Barbara J. Fraser in Sao Paulo.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations
Let us help you with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we all celebrate their continued growth in our faith.
Come visit our Cornelius store or our upcoming scheduled parish visit:
St. Matthew School – May 11-18 – 7:30-4pm weekdays
(If you'd like us to bring our store to your parish, please call for information.)
We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience with the closing of our Monroe Road store. Please call our Cornelius location and we will make every effort to provide all of your religious gift needs. Our new Charlotte location will be unveiled very soon and we believe you'll be pleased with the convenience and location.
God bless you during our celebration of this holiest of Holy Seasons.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

The wounded warriors

IED wounds account for large share of Walter Reed patients' injuries

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Editor's Note: This article contains descriptions of war wounds.

> "I don't remember much. I think I'll be here for a while."
>
> — Sgt. Juan Roldan

WASHINGTON—Along with all the other military jargon and abbreviations, a relatively new term keeps bubbling up to the surface at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, as well as in popular parlance: IED.

It's short for improvised explosive device. IEDs account for a large share of the wounds sustained by U.S. soldiers in Iraq — and for a large share of the patients at Walter Reed, many of whom have lost limbs because of the devices.

The patient information sheets at Walter Reed aren't always accurate, but they include identification of patients by religion. Father Patrick Kenny, the only full-time Catholic chaplain at Walter Reed, uses them to greet, comfort and bless the Catholic patients there.

Sgt. Juan Roldan was with his infantry unit when one of the devices exploded. The injuries he sustained required that both his legs be amputated above the knee.

"I don't remember much," Roldan said softly as his mother stayed by the foot of his bed. "I think I'll be here for a while."

"He'll be walking — soon," Father Kenny said, providing positive reinforcement to Roldan after extending a blessing to the soldier.

Spc. Vincent Ramirez was sitting in a hospital corridor in his wheelchair when Father Kenny spied him and gave him a blessing. Ramirez was awaiting therapy; he had lost one leg to an IED.

Pvt. Adrian Garcia of El Paso, Texas, was with his parents in his hospital room when the priest dropped in. Garcia lost both legs above the knees because of an IED. Father Kenny murmured a blessing to both Garcia and his parents.

Spc. Chastie Matthews of Dycusburg, Ky., too, is a victim of one of the devices. When he spoke with a Catholic News Service reporter in mid-April, he had been at Walter Reed for three weeks. How much longer would he stay before he could go back home?

"Nine months, it may be," he replied.

He and other soldiers from his unit were in a jeep when they hit an IED.

"I'd seen the wire and we really didn't know how to avoid it," Matthews recalled.

The other soldiers in the jeep were also injured — one, Matthews said, had burns over 38 percent of his body — but "I got the worst of it."

Matthews, too, lost both his legs.

Spc. Ulises Lopez of Phoenix was in relatively better shape. He got his injuries from armor-piercing munitions, but he lost no limbs, and was slated to stay at Walter Reed only a few days.

His two sisters, Elvira and Adelina, flew in from Phoenix to stay with him until he was released.

Spc. Jesus Bustamante of Tucson, Ariz., was hit by a sniper. While the bullet eventually lodged in his hip, it did extensive internal damage before it found its resting place. Father Kenny consoled him before giving him a blessing.

"He's a great man, a great man. He's come a long way," the priest said.

"I've got a long way to go still," Bustamante interjected.

The care of many

Despite Walter Reed's slogan, "We Provide Warrior Care" — which is prominently displayed at the main hospital entrance and throughout the complex — not every patient at Walter Reed is a casualty of war.

The hospital also treats active-duty personnel with maladies that afflict them as they would civilians, the children of active-duty military personnel, and retirees from the armed forces.

Col. Chuck Callahan, Walter Reed's deputy commander, was waiting for surgery when Father Kenny stopped in, accompanied by a reporter and a photographer from Catholic News Service.

"Can I tell them of the time you almost stabbed me?" Callahan asked the priest with a laugh. "He tried to shake my hand while a pen was still in it."

In the pediatrics ward, 5-month-old Laura McCoyd, whose parents both served in the Marines, was ready to check out after having gotten over some breathing difficulties. Dad Kevin and mom Janet McCoyd had the books "Our Daily Bread' and "The Children's Living Bible" on a table at Laura's bedside.

The infant slept through Father Kenny's blessing.

Endless hope

Then there was 23-year-old Pfc. Casimir Werda of the Detroit suburb of Novi, Mich., who was blinded in a March 14 attack while serving in Iraq. His mother, Flo, was at his side while he sat in a chair, strumming the lyrics to Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Simple Man" on a guitar that was autographed for him by Fleetwood Mac chanteuse Stevie Nicks.

Werda is working on improving his guitar-playing skills while the Walter Reed medical staff is working to improve his health.

"Maybe someday he'll get his eyesight back," Father Kenny said.

"That's what we're hoping," Flo Werda replied.

And these were just Father Kenny's morning rounds prior to his noontime weekday Mass, with an improvised invocation for a critical care nurse sandwiched in between.

The priest still had many more people to see as part of his typical 12-hour workday.

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

Father Patrick Kenny greets U.S. Army Spc. Vincent Ramirez during his daily rounds as chaplain at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington April 17. Father Kenny stopped to visit with Ramirez who was awaiting therapy; he had lost a leg in an explosion while serving in Iraq.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

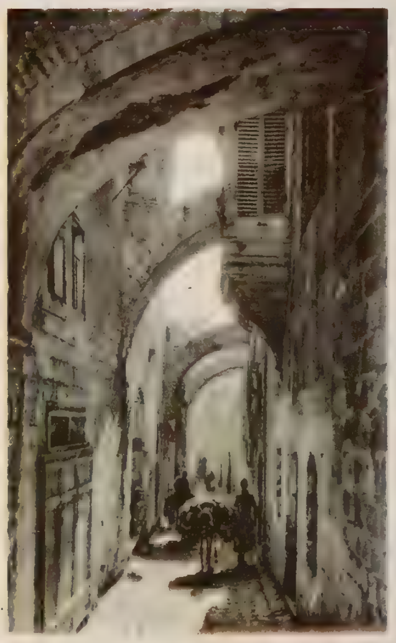
Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO



THE HOLY LAND

November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capemaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Domition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare,** most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Walter Reed chaplain who tends war wounded sees numbers growing

CHAPLAIN, *from page 1*

"It's quite a challenge."

— Father Patrick Kenny

him to make a little money while he was in Washington pursuing studies at The Catholic University of America.

Father Kenny had mainly served in parish and university ministry for 20 years as a priest of the Diocese of Auckland, New Zealand, which had given him the OK to go to the United States for further education.

But New Zealand's immigration laws, according to Father Kenny, stated that upon returning to the country after getting this extra education, he could stay in New Zealand only two more years. So he asked permission to remain in the United States, and Father Kenny's bishop agreed.

Back then, the priest said, there were six or seven priests in the Walter Reed chaplaincy. These days, he is the only full-time priest at the hospital, which has seen a sharp uptick in patients because of the number of active military personnel wounded in the Iraq War.

Father Kenny rents a small apartment about two blocks east of Walter Reed. But more often than not, he sleeps overnight in the Catholic chaplain's office inside Walter Reed's inpatient facility.

Ongoing challenges

Affable would be too mild a word to describe Father Kenny, who awakes at 5 a.m. most mornings to begin what is typically a 12-hour day — at least — visiting patients, talking with Walter Reed staff, celebrating Mass, administering the sacraments and giving a blessing to anybody who asks for one.

He's on his feet a lot — "today I'm wearing Nikes," Father Kenny told a Catholic News Service reporter as he waited for an elevator to take him to another ward inside the hospital.

But a frown never creased his face as he shuffled along the corridors making his rounds.

After 27 years there, Father Kenny has outlasted the tenure of the military commanders who run Walter Reed, and many of its workers as well.

When President George W. Bush signed a bill two years ago implementing the recommendations of the federal Base Realignment and Closing commission — which had recommended that Walter Reed be closed — many workers left well before the facility's scheduled closure in 2011.

The recent headlines over patient care and living conditions brought higher tensions, and lower morale, to Walter Reed. While some in Washington have argued to keep it open, others are clamoring for the hospital to be closed ahead of schedule, contending that the dysfunction that exists is beyond repair.

There are also the weekly protests and counterprotests every Friday night. The original protesters, an anti-war group, are now dwarfed by a larger assemblage supporting U.S. war policy in Iraq; their members occupy all four corners of the intersection at Walter Reed's main entrance, while the anti-war group now congregates at a small recessed area a half-block south.

If Father Kenny comes close to feeling dismay about anything, it's with the influx of patients to Walter Reed.

"It's quite a challenge," he said.

Restless spirit

Father Kenny's not a military chaplain. He wears his black clerical suit with white collar tab, while Walter Reed's other chaplains wear a green camouflage uniform with a cross on the right arm to signify their chaplain status.

"It helps sometimes" to not have military status, Father Kenny confided. "I can speak freely, speak my mind" to the military personnel stationed at Walter Reed.

CNS PHOTOS BY BOB ROLLER

Above: Father Patrick Kenny greets Kevin and Janet McCoyd in the pediatrics ward of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington April 17. Father Kenny stopped in to check on the former U.S. Marine's 5-month-old daughter, Laura, who was having breathing difficulties. Below: Father Kenny is greeted by nursing assistant Colleen Cozine April 17 at Walter Reed.

"I suppose if I were a military chaplain, I'd have to mind protocol and rank," he said.

Even if he had ever wanted to be a military chaplain, he couldn't. He's still an Irish citizen.

"I never dreamed I'd be staying this long," he said.

Two days after Father Kenny led a CNS reporter and photographer on his rounds, he flew to his native Ireland for a month to visit one of his three sisters. It was, he said, his first vacation in three years. The priest is from Maynooth in County Kildare.

But he'll be back once his vacation is over. He may move more slowly now than he did when he first took up his ministry at Walter Reed, but he has no plans of stopping.

"I haven't been sick a day in my life," Father Kenny said.

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Pilgrimages to
EWTN
and Shrine of
the Most Blessed Sacrament

June 19-21
with Fr. John Starczewski of
Our Lady of Grace Church
Greensboro

AND

July 31-Aug 2
with Fr. James Stuhrenberg of
St. Mark Church
Huntersville

Pick ups: Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte, Huntersville

Call Patti Dameron
(336)413-8127

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Bishops study draft of guide for high school religious curriculum

BY JERRY FILTEAU
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. bishops are studying a draft curriculum guide for Catholic high school religion courses across the country.

Prepared by the Committee on Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the draft sets the framework for six core semesters, plus five elective courses, from which schools may choose two — preferably in the senior year or one each in the junior and senior years.

The curriculum framework, developed at the request of publishers of catechetical materials, is intended as a guide for those publishers and for diocesan offices and Catholic high schools to help them develop their own curriculum guidelines and evaluate religion textbooks for use in their schools.

"It is planned that this curriculum framework will also be adapted to shape catechetical instruction for high school age young people in parish religious education and youth ministry programs," said Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, chairman of the Committee on Catechesis.

He added, however, that the committee recognizes that "not all the points in the curriculum framework can be fully developed" in texts and materials for such out-of-school catechetical programs.

The bishops have been asked to study the draft and submit comments and suggestions for revision by July 1 so that a revised draft can be prepared for final consideration and a vote when the bishops hold their general meeting in Baltimore this November.

Archbishop Wuerl invited the bishops to involve members of their diocesan staffs, school administrators and teachers in the consultation if they wish to do so. But each diocese should collate such responses into a single submission back to the committee, he said.

"I'm very pleased this guide will be presented to the bishops in November," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"There's no question that it will be extremely helpful to publishers and dioceses, and be very valuable for all responsible for fashioning and forming curricula that are reflective of church teaching," he said.

A challenge faced by religion teachers, said Father Hawker, is how to present the content.

The right blend of method and content is needed "get the content across in a way that is palatable while at the same time being accurate and a total reflection of the church," said Father Hawker.

According to the framework, the first semester of the core curriculum should treat the revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, giving students an introductory understanding of the Bible and its meaning for Christians, with special emphasis on the Gospels.

The curriculum's second semester is about Jesus Christ, Son of God. The third, on Jesus' mission in the world, focuses on the paschal mystery of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection for the redemption of humanity.

The fourth semester is about the church and the fifth is about the sacraments as privileged encounters with Christ. The sixth, about life in Christ, covers topics such as vocation, sin, virtue, grace and the commandments.

The elective courses in the draft framework curriculum are titled "Scripture," "History of the Catholic Church," "Living as a Disciple of Jesus Christ in Society," "Living the Call of Jesus" and "Ecumenical and Interfaith Issues." Within each semester the framework presents an outline of topics to be covered, citing Scripture and Catechism of the Catholic Church references where relevant.

The introduction to the curriculum framework says it is "strongly recommended" that publishers and school and catechetical programs follow the framework's sequence of core semesters because it "reflects a systematic point of view in which each course builds on a foundation laid by those which precede it."

Some national uniformity in sequence is also desirable because of the mobility of society, it says.

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 20, 2007

May 20, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 97:1-2, 6-7, 9
2) Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20
3) Gospel: John 17:20-26

Greatest anticipation is that of God's gifts to us

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

One golden Saturday morning it was my lot to monitor a film crew's use of our parish office space. While I waited for the crew's arrival, I stared at the beautiful morning unfolding outside in the parking lot and in a grassy area nearby.

With the arrival of each car I wondered, "Is this part of the crew?" Car after car indeed was filled with a "crew." However, these people were not the crew I was anticipating.

Out of each vehicle spilled children with one or both parents and an occasional grandparent. Today was the long-awaited First Eucharist Preparation Day. I soon became the unofficial greeter.

One young person informed me that the next Saturday, when he would receive the Eucharist for the first time, would be "the best day of all."

Nearly every child brought a gift to the event. When I asked about them, I was proudly told that the bags were full of toiletry items for people who were sick. The spirit of anticipation and joy that seemed to animate each group was contagious.

Members of the camera crew began to arrive. During introductions someone asked, "Are you always this happy when you have to work on a Saturday morning?"

"I had some help this morning!" I replied.

The gorgeous day, the children and their families, meeting the film crew, watching their creativity and attending Saturday evening Mass all became a part of a gift called Saturday.

Most of us would agree that one of God's great gifts to humanity is Scripture. In fact, some passages or books in the Bible seem to literally knock us over with a great, "Aha!"

John's Gospel is one of those books. The entire 17th chapter is a prayer of Jesus.

Today's Gospel comes from the closing verses of Chapter 17. When this prayer is ended Jesus will go to the garden, but not before he has included in his prayer those who are yet to come.

Questions:

When have you prayed in anticipation of an event yet to happen or an unknown person to enter your life? How has this affected the way this event or person becomes a gift to you?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 13-19
Sunday (Sixth Sunday of Easter), Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, John 14:23-29; **Monday (St. Matthias),** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Tuesday (St. Isidore),** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22–18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (Ascension Thursday),** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53; **Friday (St. John I),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday,** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 20-26
Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26; **Monday,** Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday (St. Rita of Cascia),** Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday,** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday (St. Gregory VII, St. Bede, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi),** Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday (St. Philip Neri),** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25.

Mary's Garden
TRADITIONAL CATHOLIC BOOKS & GIFTS
We're a small store with a large inventory – over 6,000 items in stock.

Our First Communion & Confirmation items include:
1st Communion Sets and Mass Books in English & Spanish
11 Styles of Veils for Girls plus purses, Rosary Bracelets, & more
Boys' Ties in White, Navy, Red, & Black
Cards, Invitations, Bibles, Crosses, Crucifixes, Candles, & more

Gifts for Baptisms, Weddings, Anniversaries, Graduations, Memorials, etc.

Phone: 704 823 7244 Toll Free: 866 823 7244
Location:
3816 S. New Hope Rd
Suite 27
Gastonia, NC 28056
Hours:
Tuesday to Friday 10 AM to 6 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM

Happy Mother's Day

from Pennybyrn at Maryfield!

You've earned it: a rare opportunity to embrace life as never before, free from chores or concerns about the future, in a beautiful retirement community with premier services and amenities. Surrounded by good friends and healthy choices, you can stay active, involved and in control.

Now under construction in High Point, Pennybyrn at Maryfield will have everything you want or need, as well as a plan for tomorrow…what a wonderful gift for you, and your family!

Call (336) 886-4103 or toll-free (866) 627-9343.

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC 27260

www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants
of the Mother of God

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NP/CNHMom

'Vatican Click'

Unlike pesky paparazzi, pope's photographers snap coolly, with class

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — They are not pushy or pesky; rather, the pope's own paparazzi are the epitome of discretion and class.

Vatican photographers stand out from other media shutterbugs, not just because they're always dressed in ironed dark suits and ties, but because, coolly clicking away, they are the ones standing right next to the pope.

The papal photographers are also the only ones allowed to shadow the pontiff almost everywhere he goes, even during more private moments — be they special audiences inside the Vatican with heads of state or an intimate luncheon with cardinals or bishops.

According to the head of the Vatican's photo service, Salesian Father Giuseppe Colombara, the job of the four official papal photographers is to create a visual record of the pope's activities and important Vatican events.

With the click of a shutter, photographers immortalize an "unrepeatable masterpiece of an instant," he said.

For the past 30 years, papal photographers have captured and preserved thousands of unforgettable scenes as varied as Pope John Paul II collapsing into the arms of his aide after being hit by a bullet in 1981 to him trying on U2 singer Bono's sunglasses during a 1999 meeting with the Irish rock star.

These photos and more are on display April 25-May 27 at a special exhibit at the Braccio Carlo Magno, a hall next to St. Peter's Basilica, to celebrate the photo service's 30th anniversary and the second anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's election.

Called "Vatican Click," the exhibit showcases 382 photos from the more than 5 million housed in the Vatican's photo archives.

The exhibit also shows early black-and-white shots of life in and around the Vatican during the 1930s-1960s: Ethiopian seminarians leaping in a rare Roman snowfall, and Italian dictator Benito Mussolini watching workmen build the Via della Conciliazione, the wide boulevard leading to St. Peter's Square.

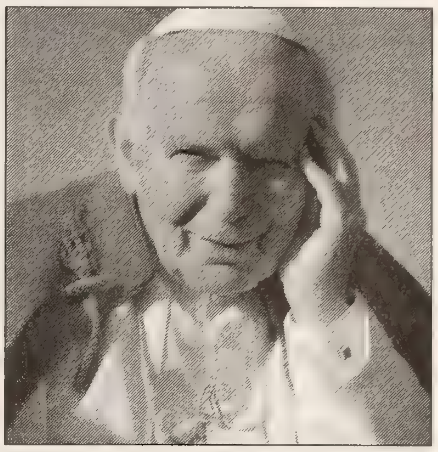
Picture perfect

Before the Vatican photo service was established, the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, hired professional photographers "from the outside" to take papal pictures, Father Colombara told Catholic News Service.

Then in 1977, the newspaper's editor in chief decided the paper should hire its own photojournalists who would work exclusively and specifically on covering the Vatican and the pope. The timing was providential as just one year later, the most media-friendly pope in modern times, Pope John Paul, was elected.

Father Colombara said the late pope was a natural.

"He had an extraordinary sensibility. He just knew, felt when a photographer was near and instinctively, almost automatically, would smile," move or turn in a way that was perfect for a picture, he said.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

This L'Osservatore Romano photo showing Pope John Paul II at a Nov. 24, 1999, general audience is the most requested photo from the Vatican photo service's archives.

A close, though professional, rapport grew easily over the years between Pope John Paul and the Vatican photographers, said the Salesian priest. But the shooting and snapping ease hit a speed bump in 2005 after the election of Pope Benedict, who was not used to having bulbs flash and shutters click at his every move.

However, Pope Benedict is much more comfortable now with his personal paparazzi, Father Colombara said, and has often directly expressed to the photographers his appreciation for their hard work. Pope Benedict is also the first pope to have granted the Vatican's television and photography crews wide permission to film him in his private apartments, showing "without mystery, without secrets that the day in the life of a pope is made up of a lot of work and simplicity," he said.

'Image is everything'

Father Colombara said the best pictures of any pope are the ones in which he "radiates human warmth" and when his fatherly face "points to the very meaning of (his) mission: the person of Jesus."

While pictures of Pope John Paul at Jerusalem's Western Wall or Pope Benedict in a Turkish mosque have important historical value, sometimes it's the simpler shots of a pope hugging a child or praying the rosary that have a greater, more emotional impact on the viewer.

"A beautiful photo, a beautiful image offers an entryway, the first step of evangelization," Father Colombara said.

When a picture of a pope expresses "love, welcoming, understanding, acceptance," it can "make the church loved very, very much and be very appreciated by almost everyone," whatever their faith belief may be, he said.

Just as the church hired great painters and sculptors to depict the beauty and mystery of God and the Gospels, it also has employed the power of the photograph, which can be highly effective in a world where "the image is everything," he said.

Basilica benefits from Eagle Scout project

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Nicholas Glum and his fellow Scouts have been hard at work around the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

Nicholas, 16, helped to refurbish the interior and exterior of the basilica April 21 as part of his Eagle Scout project. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in the Boy Scouts.

Nicholas, a Life Scout — a rank earned by fulfilling leadership positions, service hours and merit badges — with Troop 77 and parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, could not find any service projects to be performed at his parish.

He contacted Bud Hansbury, maintenance operations manager at the basilica, who had two projects for Nicholas to do.

One involved refinishing the pews and floors, the other was building a handicap ramp outside the basilica.

In addition, Nicholas decided to plant two dogwood trees.

"The dogwood is the tree of the Sacred Heart, and I am devoted to the Sacred Heart," said Nicholas.

"The trees will be a backdrop for the Sacred Heart statue instead of the view of the red garage," he said.

Other Troop 77 members and family assisted Nicholas with his two-fold project.

PHOTO BY CAROLE McGROTTY

Members of Boy Scout Troop 77 prepare to plant dogwood trees outside the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville as part of an Eagle Scout project April 21.

Director of Preschool

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Monroe seeks an energetic self-starter with strong administrative/teaching skills and experience. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic and available immediately. Bi-lingual in English/Spanish preferred. Please send resume to: Rev. James W. Cassidy, OSA, Our Lady of Lourdes, 725 Deese Street, Monroe, NC 28112. (Salary negotiable and commensurate with experience)

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

Diocese of Richmond—Director for the Hispanic Apostolate

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a Director for the Hispanic Apostolate. The selected individual will collaborate with parishes and diocesan offices in the evangelization, formation and training of Hispanics. The Director also collaborates with the Office for Black Catholics and the Asian Community in order to assess and meet the needs of the community. Additional information regarding this opportunity is located on the diocesan website (www.richmonddiocese.org). Position is open until filled. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to dmahanes@richmonddiocese.org, or mail to D.G. Mahanes, Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 811 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220.

Confirmation Coordinator

St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville, NC is currently looking for a Confirmation Coordinator. This is a part-time position of 25 hours a week. An ideal candidate for this position would be a college graduate with a minimum of two years of experience working in education within a parish or school setting. The candidate should have strong organizational, communication and computer skills as well as exhibit a high threshold of energy and enthusiasm for youth and our Catholic faith. A strong catechetical background is preferred; a successful candidate must be willing to pursue further education through the diocesan certification program and/or an accredited Catholic college or university program. Resumes and inquiries can be forwarded to dsmith18@bellsouth.net.

Dynamic Parish Seeking Director of Faith Formation

St. Aloysius in Hickory, NC is seeking director of Faith Formation. The position will be open July 1. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a Bachelor's Degree in theology or similar discipline or have the equivalent experience. Send resume & references to: Search Committee c/o St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 2nd St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601 or staloysius@charter.net

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PLANT SERVICES SUPERVISOR: Hands-on supervision and maintenance for day-to-day operations of school buildings and grounds. Oversees operations of heating/AC equipment in maintaining a safe work environment for personnel and equipment. Experience in planning, organizing and prioritizing projects. Competent oral and written communication skills with basic proficiency in computer technology. Effective interpersonal skills and leadership abilities. Degree with supervisory and related experience preferred; experience will be considered. Competitive benefits package. Send resume and salary history to: BMCHS, Attn. Business Office, 1725 NC Hwy 66 South, Kernersville, NC 27284. Deadline for receipt of applications is 5/15/07. EOE.

FOR RENT

CONDO: Myrtle Beach. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Available weeks of: 5/26, 6/9, 7/28. (336) 924-2842.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Book battalion

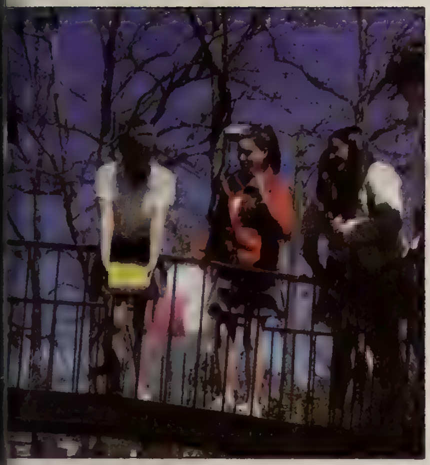
Courtesy Photo

ictured is the Battle of the Books team at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, which won first lace in its district during the state Battle of the Books competition at Canterbury School March 8. The tudents competed with teams from several schools, including St. Pius X School in Greensboro.

he sixth- and seventh-grade team at Our Lady of Grace School is comprised of Alex Bruno, Brady Byrne, onah Carmichael, Jorge Cortes, Michaela Dimoff, Gilbert Kolosieke, Katelyn Merendino, Marie Petrangeli, ndrew Saintsing, Adam Schexnayder, John Scott and Brian Sowinski. Doris Melson, school librarian, is aculty sponsor and assisted with coaching by parents.

attle of the Books is sponsored by the North Carolina School Library Media Association for students grades six, seven and eight from eligible public, private and charter schools across the state. The ompetition provides a fun, challenging way to motivate middle school students to read books from a wide ariety of genres.

ur Lady of Grace School hosted the regional competition at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro arch 29.



Courtesy Photo

Egg-citing results

Eighth-graders at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro prepare to drop eggs during the annual class Egg Drop March 8. Students prepared protective egg carriers—including egg cartons, bubble wrap and peanut butter—that would keep their raw eggs from cracking during a drop of about 15 feet. Most of the students were successful in their efforts. Pictured are eighth-graders Brooke Diachenko, Caroline Cheek, Sofia Milan and Alex Justice.

Rocking the schoolhouse

Courtesy Photo

ictured are middle school students at St. Pius X School in Greensboro who performed SchoolHouse Rock ive Jr. at the school for the public March 29-31. The performances were the fourth annual production or the middle school drama program under the direction of teacher Tracy Shaw.

This was the school's first musical and most successful production ever," said Jean Navarro, school dmissions coordinator.

he musical is based on the Emmy Award-winning Saturday morning educational cartoon series.

Mind meld

Courtesy Photo

Pictured are eight students from the fourth and fifth grades at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, who performed an Odyssey of the Mind skit entitled "Around the World in Eight Minutes."

Odyssey of the Mind is an international program open to students in kindergarten through college that provides an opportunity to develop creative solutions to varying problems. Teams—which compete within their division at regional, state, national and international levels—work collaboratively without any outside assistance and limited guidance from their coaches.

The skit by the Our Lady of Grace School team follows the adventures of "Sarge" and his friends as they travel to Antarctica, Japan and an up-until-now undiscovered location called Makeeyak. The students developed all elements of the skit, including plot, characters, dialogue and costumes.

Because more students were interested in participating on the school's first Odyssey of the Mind team than rules allow, the students were scheduled to present their skit at the school's annual talent show in May instead of entering it in competition.

The team includes Andrea Balzano, Erin Egan, Michael Ellis, David Markun, Bobby Mason, Mary Rose Stepnowski, Ben Trainor and Noah Williams. Also pictured is honorary team member Zachary Trainor.

Award-winning artistry

Pictured is Caitlyn Carmean, an eighth-grader at St. Pius X School in Greensboro, who took third place in the dance category at the 2007 Artistry Awards show sponsored by the Greensboro Youth Council at the Carolina Theatre March 24.

Artistry Awards is a performing and fine arts competition for students, ages 13-19, attending public, private or home schools within Guilford County. Categories include drama, instrumental, dance, vocal performance, visual art, print art and creative writing.

Caitlyn was selected as a finalist in the vocal and dance categories during auditions in February. Having placed third in the dance category, she received a plaque and $50.

Courtesy Photo

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Graduation thoughts: Do we honor women at home and at work?

Rules, attitudes should be changed to accommodate sacrifices

Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST

It's graduation time and in most places as many women as men will be handed college degrees.

In a survey of close to 62,000 people, fashion magazine Elle suggests that men and women are becoming a lot alike in the workplace. Men and women are similarly talented and competitive as well as equally honest.

But there is an essential difference: Women are twice as likely as men to interrupt the business day to take care of a child.

Do we as a culture facilitate the additional and vital role women continue to play as primary caregiver?

It's doubtful. This seems decidedly shortsighted in a world that knows well that a stable home life is essential — for the civic good, the health of children and their education, even the redirection of violent personalities a la Virginia Tech.

Twenty-six years ago, Pope John Paul II published a thoughtful reflection called "The Christian Family in the Modern World." In this apostolic exhortation, "Familiaris Consortio," the pope wrote: "The mentality which honors women more for their work outside the home than for their work within the family must be overcome."

The phraseology gives priority to family.

The survey in Elle and the government's own Bureau of Labor Statistics reveal that close to half the workforce (46 percent) is female, with 75 percent of women working full time.

Thirty-eight percent of employed women are in highly demanding management and professional positions, from lawyers to business executives to pharmacists and human resource directors.

These folks deserve a little special attention.

For a while, a few companies talked of flextime and job sharing, but increasingly this is more illusion than reality.

Why?

The Conference Board Review attributes it to demands for increased corporate performance (profits) and the advent of new technology (cell-phones, laptops and Blackberries) that raise the expectation that one will be in the office — at least virtually — at all times.

These increased demands are made on men and women who are fathers and mothers. But if somebody's mom is going to work in the next office, we say, "Well, she better be putting in the same time as the next guy" finding new clients, closing deals and making sales.

Our sense of equality is premised on scorekeeping. We tend to ignore the papal admonition to honor women who simultaneously fulfill commitments to office and home.

And if we are honest, some men and even some women who chose not to raise children might actually resent making allowances for those contributing to the dual communities of work and family.

How might we change things?

First off, ask chief executives to take a closer look at reality. Top executives with ample resources for full-time childcare may be unwittingly blind.

Second, we might press all those folks running for president to creatively think how the laws might be rewritten to favor the economic compensation of those who are working and nurturing family at the same time.

Family tax-code allowances and credits used to do this, but they have effectively disappeared.

Third, we can adjust our own attitudes. We can recognize that the daughters we are sending to college and graduate school yearn for "life to the full," in the business and family sense, and incredibly often manage to do reasonably well.

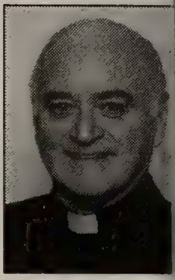
In 2007, the papal instruction may warrant a respectful update. Neither women nor men should be honored more for their work outside the home, but then again, women alone should not have to keep demonstrating against an unbending culture how extraordinary love can accomplish both.

Resolving family conflicts

Plan of action, listening help find solutions

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



Conflict is normal, and family conflicts are commonplace.

Each person has differing needs, and when one person's needs are not being met there is usually a lot of frustration which leads to arguments.

The way we assert our needs is at the basis of all human conflict.

To minimize conflicts, try to understand the real needs of others. That requires listening. When two or more people interact without listening, the results usually lead to fireworks.

We all have attitudes which govern our behavior. For instance, someone might say:

—"I am the father, you are the mother; I have the right to decide the family priorities, therefore my rights come first."

—"I am an adult, you are a child; I have a right to meet my needs, but you do not have a right to meet yours."

—"I am the mother, you are working all day; I know what is best for all of us; I will decide whose needs must be met, and in what order."

Anyone who says any of the above stomps on the needs of others.

Some arguments are more about underlying assumptions than about the issue at hand. There are an infinite variety of conflicts arising from hidden assumptions.

Whether it is in the family, the factory or the monastery, if you are in the middle of a conflict it will help immensely if you reflect on your basic assumptions.

Are you a fighter for your rights or a compromiser? A sore loser or a problem solver?

A fighter does not trust, refuses to lose, demands proof of the other person's needs.

A compromiser is ready to give in, but in the end forfeits too much for the sake of peace.

A sore loser won't fight and simply walks away sulking.

A problem solver listens and tries to get to the root of the issue in order to reach a compromise. The problem solver knows that a conflict does not mean tha there must be a winner or a loser.

The whole art of compromise rest on the truth that win-win solutions ar possible with the help of God.

Be patient and pray. It wil take time.

Professional arbitrators are proble solvers who listen to all sides. They begi with the idea that "your right to mee your needs is equal to my right to mee my needs; and yet we all have to admi that no one has an absolute right to hav all their needs met."

(When disciplining children, parenta authority is superior to the needs o children, but it always helps whe parents listen and reason before assertin full authority).

In adult conflicts, never start out b demanding that the others give up thei right to meet personal needs. But do:

1. Define the problem clearly. Pu it in writing. Let all the parties decid exactly what needs are in conflic Listening often generates solutions.

2. Brainstorm for more solutions an share ideas; make no judgment as peopl voice their ideas. Just put all the option on the table and look at them.

3. Agree on the most creativ solutions, keeping in mind that som things cannot be compromised, such a the laws of God and legitimate authorit

4. Choose the solution that gets th most support, and then implement i Later, follow up to see that all promise are kept.

Just having a plan of action ofte diffuses the emotional heat right away.

Godspeed, and always remember t pray for peace.

Letters to the Editor

Abortion bigger tragedy than Virginia Tech

I guess it was to be expected that the tragedy at Virginia Tech ("Tragedy on Va. Tech campus") would get top billing and the big headline on the front page of the April 20 issue, while a major development in the fight against abortion ("Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act upheld") got below-the-fold attention with most of the story on page 7.

Yes, the loss of 33 lives is a tragedy and deserves the coverage it is getting, but by comparison, the abortion tragedy is killing 3,000 young lives a day. The turn of the tide in the ongoing battle to build a culture of life deserves more attention than you have given it so far.

Every single abortion results in a dead child, and a wounded mother and others. And we as a society continue to accept that 3,000 deaths per day is a fact of contemporary existence with half of our Supreme Court holding that a "procedure" (rightly called "infanticide" by some) needs to be protected.

— George Gredell
Pfafftown, N.C.

Commendation for archbishop's stance

I am heartened by the stand Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis has taken on identifying with people like Cheryl Crow to raise money ("Archbishop pulls support for hospital benefit over Crow's stands," May 4).

Nothing is worth throwing in one cards with those who give an appearanc of being good while promoting chil killing (abortion).

Thank you, Archbishop Burke for inspiring us to live by faith an conscience before God.

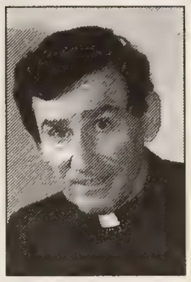
— Shea Barj
Charlott

One's Catholic heritage should influence decisions!

Law's primary aim is to unify people to counter culture of death

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



"Did Justices' Catholicism Play Part n Abortion Ruling?"

This headline in the April 30 Washington Post was followed by a quote by Goeffrey Stone, provost of he University of Chicago's law school, who felt the Catholicism of the Catholic ustices of the Supreme Court was behind he decision.

Mark Silk, a professor of religion in public life at Trinity College, was also quoted as saying, "We want people of faith, but we don't want them making decisions based on their faith."

In the 110th Congress, Catholics comprise the largest denominational group, with 155 members — 25 in he Senate and 130 in the House of Representatives. Five Catholics serve on the U.S. Supreme Court — the chief ustice and four associate justices.

Make no doubt about it! Catholics are a force in today's politics, and whenever his happens prejudice follows.

Anti-Catholic sentiment is nothing new. Philip Jenkins, an Episcopalian historian, maintains that some people who otherwise avoid offending members of racial, religious, ethnic or gender groups have no reservations about venting their hatred of Catholics.

Harvard University professor Arthur Schlesinger Sr. characterized prejudice against the Roman Catholic Church as "the deepest bias in the history of the American people."

This bias can make us defensive, even revert to name-calling. But is this the way to go? Shouldn't we demonstrate that a person of a religious moral tradition is a blessing to America?

Throughout history, Catholicism has had a rich tradition of developing moral laws aimed at ennobling the individual and civilizations. Some fear this tradition because they see it placing restrictions on their liberties. This is not true!

The word "law" means to bind together. Its primary aim is to help people become unified within themselves and with their neighbors, and to counter a culture of death.

Moral law defends against that which splinters our spirit and the spirit of unity among neighbors. It is this spirit, based on the wisdom of God, in which our Catholic justices were brought up.

They are not lacking moral guidelines for weighing good and evil, nor are they atheists. Catholic moral tradition is integral to them.

Interestingly, a frieze on the Supreme Court building symbolizes that justice requires counsel. When justices are faced with complex decisions and have conducted all the research possible to make them just, often this is not enough.

They need the counsel of a higher authority. A frieze inside the Supreme Court depicts Divine Inspiration standing at the shoulder of Justice — a reminder that justice needs God's input.

Today's bishops and the pope offer us moral guidelines. However, the ultimate authority our Catholic justices rely on is found in an age-old Catholic tradition — a tradition formed by contemplation, prayer and seeking God's wisdom, a tradition whose mission is to promote inner and neighborly unity, justice and God's love.

When 'me time' is holy, not selfish

Personal time ensures better parenting, ess stress

Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS

One the challenges of parenting is getting children not to focus solely on "me, me, me!"

Another is getting mom and dad not to concentrate only on "them, them, hem!"

Yes, there are times when a little one shares freely, but more often than not the dea of "some for me and some for you" s a concept that has to be taught. It is one hat we all know is hard to learn.

Becoming a parent helps a person earn this concept. Even if as a single person or a spouse we've tended to be a little, well, selfish, becoming a parent shifts priorities and perspectives.

The baby needs diapers. The toddler needs a new pair of shoes. The grade-schooler needs braces. There's nothing ike 20-plus years of self-sacrifice to make a parent very good at putting others first and self last.

As parents also know, it isn't just money we're talking about here: it's ime, energy, worry, prayers. Bottom ine, it's love.

The money, the energy, the worry, the prayers — they are each a manifestation of the love a parent has for that child, a love given without counting cost.

But!

At the same time, through all those years, a parent is not supposed to become an ATM or a servant. Not just for the good of the parent but for the good of the family, a mother or father needs some "me time," which can be especially so for the heads of single-parent households.

If you've ever been to the doctor for an ache or pain that your physician has diagnosed as stress-related, you may have been asked on that occasion: "So, what do you do for fun?"

Fun? Do for fun? What do I do for fun? Uh ...

It's worse than that "high school dream" where it's the end of the semester, final exam day, and you realize you haven't been to a single class or even opened the text book. This fun quiz is real!

So is the need to carve out a little time for yourself through those two-plus decades of intense parenting. The "why" is universal. The "how, when and where" will vary from family to family, couple to couple, person to person.

Not infrequently, a first step is brushing aside the initial reaction that "well, it's just not possible right now" and considering how to make it possible, even if only for 15 minutes a week at the beginning.

Need more convincing? Three reasons you need to take some "me time":

1. It will help your children be better parents because they'll see it's OK for a mom or dad to take a little break.

2. You are a child of God and your heavenly Father doesn't want you stressed out.

3. You need to save some of your strength for those upcoming grandparenting years.

On the Web, there are tips for parents.

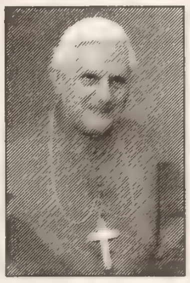
You can find more information at the Web site for the Canadian Mental Health Association. Go to www.cmha.ca, move the cursor to "Your Mental Health" in the upper bar, choose "Mental Health and the Family" and then click on "The Stress of Parenting."

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine.

Is it "Cath-lick" or "Cath-ah-lick"?

Uncle Dan

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST



Remember how, when you were a child, when you stopped and thought really hard about breathing it would screw up your breathing? The same thing with blinking your eyes?

Well, I have something similar to share with you that will, at least for the moment maybe, take your mind off your eyelids and lungs. OK, ready?

How do you say "Catholic"? I mean, how should "Catholic" be pronounced? Is it two syllables or three?

To digress a second, you can probably guess this has to do with the war in Iraq.

Seriously.

It is Marilyn's fault. At last Sunday's doughnuts after Mass, she started grousing about the name of that poor, besieged nation.

"On the radio this morning," she said, "I heard Iraq pronounced at least three ways, maybe four."

She asked, "OK, is it ear-rack, or is it eye-rack or is it uhr-rack?"

Then Marilyn did it all over again and changed the emphasis on Iraq's second syllable to the first. We had all heard each of the versions on radio or TV.

"All I know," said her husband, Bud, "is that if you call my friend Tony an eye-talian rather than an eh-talian, he gets all bent out of shape. He says, 'Hey, square-head, what is the name of the country — eye-taly or eh-taly?'"

"Soooo," I ventured, "you are saying Iraq should be pronounced eh-rack and not eye-rack because your friend Tony is Italian."

Bud nodded solemnly. "Someone has to make a decision."

"Sounds like a Catholic kind of thing to me," Marilyn laughed. That's what started the trouble. She pronounced it "Cath-lick."

"Cath-lick?" Marilyn asked, raising her eyebrows.

Betty smiled. "I know, Bud would say Cath-eye-lick, but Cath-lick is how I was brought up."

"What about Cath-oh-lick?" I stepped in.

"Don't you mean Cath-ah-lick?" Marilyn suggested.

"Or," noted Bud, "if you are from Boston it could be Kaaaiith-a-lick."

About that time Msgr. O'Kneel wandered by the table. We presented our Catholic conundrum to him.

He smiled politely, rocked back on his heels and looked up at the ceiling tiles. Finally he said, "Does this make anyone think about the road to Emmaus?"

Marilyn squinted her eyes. "Is it Em-may-us, or Em-mouse, or EM-aiy-ous?" she asked.

"Tomato, potato," he replied wisely and strolled away.

We all looked at one another, waiting to see who blinked or breathed first.

Our Lady of the Mountains a spiritual home in Highlands

HIGHLANDS—The mission church called Our Lady of the Mountains was founded more than 60 years ago to serve the increasing numbers of Catholics in North Carolina's westernmost counties.

For the past decade, Our Lady of the Mountains has been in the midst of another burst of growth, especially with large increases of summer residents.

Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh purchased the present property for Our Lady of the Mountains Mission in July 1945. Before the church was built five years later, local Catholics gathered with priests from Waynesville for Masses in a playhouse theater in Highlands.

In 1954, Father Charles O'Connor, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, extended his ministry to Catholics in Highlands. From that time until 1972, Our Lady of the Mountains Mission was staffed by diocesan clergy from Brevard.

Additions to the church building marked the mid-1960s and a small apartment was added to the structure in 1972.

That year, ministerial responsibilities for Highlands shifted from Brevard to Franklin. Glenmary Father Michael Langell, then-pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, served the two communities for a decade before diocesan priests were assigned to the Franklin parish in 1982.

During Father Langell's pastorate in Highlands, the church patio and basement parish hall were constructed.

In December 1986, Father John Hoover became administrator of Our Lady of the Mountains, a development which carried parish status for the Highlands church. At that time, St. Jude Church in Sapphire Valley was placed under Highlands' pastoral care.

The church building was renovated in 1987, and a rectory was constructed the following year. As the parish grew, especially during the summers, the need for more worship space became a pressing reality. In October 1989, the addition of a two-story wing was completed, providing another 100 seats in the church and parish hall.

When the Our Lady of the Mountains parish celebrated the 40th anniversary of their church's construction in 1990, a bell and tower were added to the church grounds.

Father Joseph Ayathuadam served as administrator in Highlands for a short period of time in 1992.

Father Richard McCue, who had been named pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in 1994, served as pastor to Our Lady of the Mountains along with Father James Collins, then-parochial vicar in Franklin.

From 1994 until 1996, Father Ray Berg aided these priests in their duties in Highlands. When Father Berg retired in July 1996, Our Lady of the Mountains became again under the auspices of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

In 1998, Father William Evans was assigned as sacramental minister for Our Lady of the Mountains Mission and St. Jude Church. Shortly thereafter, Father Evans was named as the administrator of Our Lady of the Mountains Mission.

With Father Evans' retirement in June 2005, Father Tien Duong arrived in Highlands as pastoral administrator.

A variety of ministries and parish council work highlights the continued developments of the Our Lady of the Mountains community. Its members also regularly join with a number of local Christian communities for ecumenical worship services, potluck suppers, respect life gatherings and religious holiday celebrations.

An effort has been made to provide church members and visitors with opportunities for prayer and contemplation in a peaceful mountain setting, including a grotto dedicated to Mary, a meditation garden, a fishpond and a small grove of trees.

Today, the church is the spiritual home for nearly 60 families year-round, and more than double that during the summer months.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evan by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-ma kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS MISSION

Father Tien Duong

A Mission of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Franklin
315 North 5th St.
Highlands, N.C. 28741
(828) 526-2418

Vicariate: Smoky Mountain
Pastoral Administrator: Father Tien Duong
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Charles Heine
Number of Households: 60 year-round, 110 additional seasonally

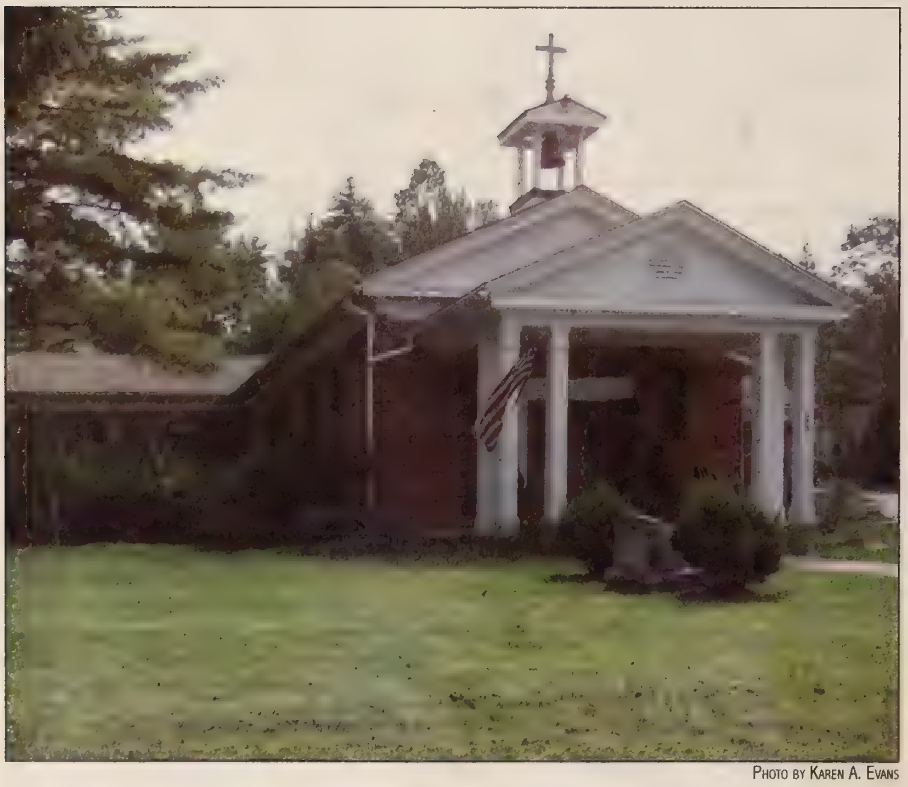


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Our Lady of the Mountains Mission in Highlands is the spiritual homes for more than 60 families year-round, and double that number during the summer months.

NO RISK to hold space — FULL refund before July 31st

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN and the PANAMA CANAL

January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** - parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** - water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** - off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** - experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** - tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets - so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today - FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

MAY 18, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 30

Perspectives

David Hains recalls rise, fall of Rev. Falwell; Tony Magliano offers deep thoughts for Memorial Day

| PAGES 14-15

Abstinence before marriage

N.C. bishops ask N.C. assembly to table proposed sex education bill

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishops Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte and Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh are calling on the North Carolina General Assembly to shelve a bill providing expanded sex education in public schools.

In a May 11 letter to Speaker of the House Joseph Hackney, the bishops expressed their "grave concern" regarding House Bill 879, "Modify School Health Education Program."

The bill, if passed, would replace the current "abstinence until marriage"

See BILL, page 7

Exploring the 'continent of hope'

CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI is greeted by a dancer during a meeting with young people at Paulo Machado de Carvalho stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 10. Some 40,000 enthusiastic young people crowded the stadium and welcomed the pope with song, dance and prayers.

Pope tells Latin Americans to meet challenges by focusing on Jesus

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

APARECIDA, Brazil — On a five-day visit to Latin America, Pope Benedict XVI identified a host of social and religious challenges and said the church should respond by focusing more clearly on the person of Jesus Christ.

"This is the faith that has made America the 'continent of hope.' Not a political ideology, not a social movement, not an economic system: faith in the God who is love — who took flesh, died and rose in Jesus Christ," the pope said on the final day of his May 9-13 visit to Brazil.

It was a comment echoed in many of his encounters, which included a rally with young

See BRAZIL, page 8

Fighting back with faith

Symptoms, causes of domestic violence explored

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HICKORY — "Then came the angry words … the verbal tearing apart … Next came the beatings … unrelenting violence … unceasing pain. I shouldn't stay, but this is my husband … promised forever. He says I deserve it … maybe I do … I feel so alone … doesn't God hear me when I cry out silently as I lie in bed each night?"

See VIOLENCE, page 5

Special buddies

Bishop McGuinness students participate in Special Olympics, assist athletes

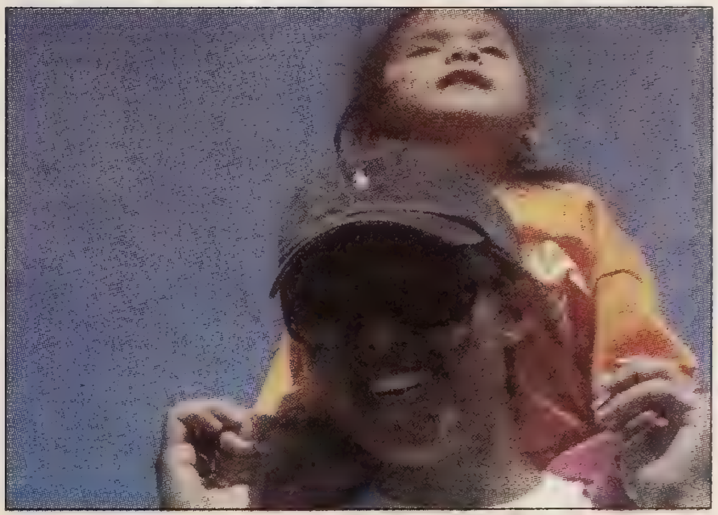
KERNERSVILLE — Catholic high school students are helping make a difference in the lives of some special athletes.

A group of 100 students from Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School helped out at the Special Olympics Spring Games, held at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem April 25.

Bishop McGuinness has participated in the annual event for several years, as well as assisted Special Olympics Forsyth County in other events throughout the year with volunteer and staff support.

Special Olympics Forsyth County, a subprogram of Special Olympics North Carolina, provides athletic competition and training for more than 1,400 youths and

See BUDDIES, page 13



COURTESY PHOTO

Melissa Plunkett, a senior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville, is pictured with her Special Olympics buddy in Winston-Salem April 25.

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
UNC #*

Around the Diocese

Catholics assist many; first Communions celebrations

| PAGES 4, 6

Culture Watch

Pope's new book; 'tsunami of pornography'; 'Shrek' 3

| PAGES 10-11

Symbols of hope

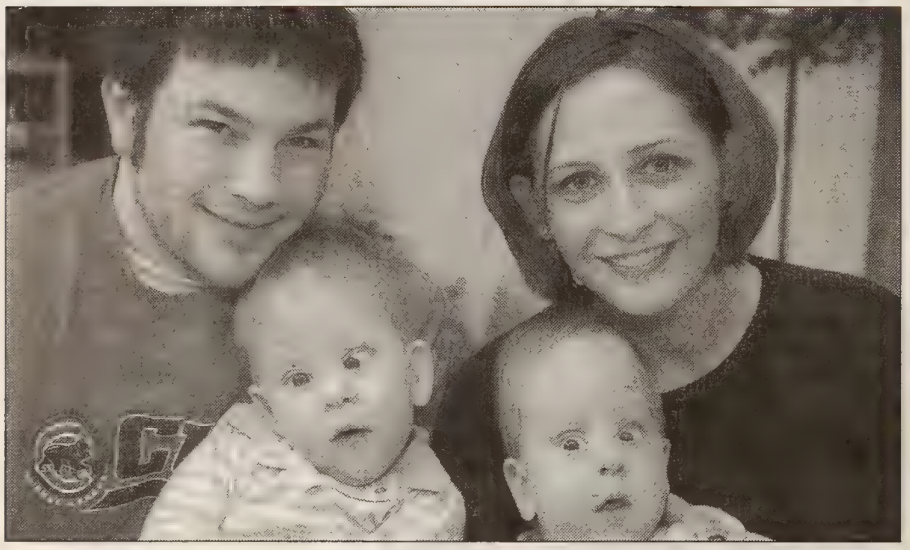
Tornado-ravaged town getting back on its feet

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

JOINED IN FAITH



CNS PHOTO BY SAM LUCERO, CATHOLIC HERALD)

Ryan Shaw, seen holding son Mateo, and Angie, with son McHale, are back home in Sheboygan, Wis., following the babies' recovery from surgery to separate them last fall after they were born conjoined in May 2006. The couple said faith led them through the 19-hour surgery and through this first year of their sons' lives.

Faith helps couple with twins born conjoined, separated by surgery

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (CNS) — The last year has been an emotional one for Angie and Ryan Shaw following the birth of their twin sons. But the young couple agrees they couldn't have made it without the support of family and friends, and their Catholic faith.

The babies were born conjoined and required surgical separation to save their lives. And they face more medical treatment — they also were born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

When doctors explained what a prenatal screening and ultrasound had shown, "we were told we still had opportunities to terminate the pregnancy," said Ryan. "But that wasn't an option for us. It's not for us to play God just because of potential problems."

The names they chose for their boys, Mateo Asher and McHale Twain, reveal much about the parents and the journey on which they embarked in welcoming their babies. Mateo and McHale mean "gift of God;" Mateo reflects Angie's Spanish heritage and McHale, Ryan's Irish background. Asher means "to be blessed," while Twain means "to be cut in two."

The couple learned they were expecting conjoined twins during Angie's 18th week of pregnancy. A routine screening indicated the possibility of spina bifida, a birth defect characterized by an incomplete closure of the spinal column.

A follow-up ultrasound revealed not one, but two babies. Then the doctor explained the twins had hydrocephalus, a buildup of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain occurring because the spinal defect prevents normal drainage of fluids.

Angie and Ryan both come from Catholic families.

"I think this type of situation," said Angie, "can either bring you closer to God, or push you away. After a lot of prayer, we felt safer leaving the boys' fate to God."

The doctors said the twins could have severe disabilities that could shorten their lives. The last male conjoined twins in the United States to survive surgical separation were back in 1957. And because the boys also had spina bifida, the parents were told their sons had just a 5 percent chance of survival.

The other unknown was the quality of life the boys would experience if they survived. For Angie and Ryan, however, the decision was not what was easiest for them as parents, but what was best for their boys.

"We figured one way or another, it would work out if we put the boys first," Angie said.

"It's been amazing to see what's good in people," said Ryan, referring to all the help the couple has received.

"When you watch the news, you can lose perspective about the world. ... But when you go through an experience as we have, you see so much good in people, and so many people willing to help," he said.

In return they want to share their experience with other parents, especially those expecting conjoined twins or a child with spina bifida.

"We've been there, and we can tell parents the other side, about the amazing happiness children can bring you," said Angie.

CORRECTION

In the May 11 issue, a photo of Pope Benedict XVI accidentally ran with a column by CNS Columnist Dan Morris. The Catholic News & Herald regrets the error.

Climate change an ethical, environmental issue, U.N. nuncio says

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Global warming is not just an environmental issue but must be seen in "ethical, economic, social and political terms as well," Archbishop Celestino Migliore told a gathering of high-ranking development officials at the United Nations May 10.

The Vatican nuncio warned that global warming and energy shortages could have a disproportionate effect on the world's poor.

"The consequences ... will impact first and foremost the poorest and weakest who, even if they are among the least responsible for global warming, are the most vulnerable because they have limited resources or live in areas at greater risk," he said. "Many of the most vulnerable societies, already facing energy problems, rely upon agriculture, the very sector most likely to suffer from climatic shifts."

Archbishop Migliore spoke during the 15th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the U.N. Economic and Social Council May 9-11.

Also addressing the commission were high-ranking officials of the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Health Organization, International Energy Agency and other international bodies, as well as senior government officials of more than two dozen nations.

"Ultimately ... we have a grave and far-reaching responsibility to ourselves and to future generations for the actions we are due to take here," Archbishop Migliore said.

Abdalla Salem el-Badri, secretary-general of OPEC, told the U.N. session that energy demand is projected to increase more than 50 percent by 2030.

A "global, long-term energy strategy" must be "capable of satisfying legitimate short- and medium-term energy requirements ... protecting human health and the environment, and establishing precise commitments to address the question of climate change," Archbishop Migliore said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* will meet May 27 at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. We'll begin with the Franciscan Crown rosary in the chapel at 1 p.m. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

CANDLER — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate the *Mass dedicating of the new St. Joan of Arc Church*, 768 Asbury Rd., May 30 at 5 p.m. All are welcome to the dedication Mass and the following celebration. For more information, call the office at (828)670-0050.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-annual Rosary Rally* will be held May 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old tradition will include recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will present *"Seeking the Heart of God"* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Thursdays, May 24 through June 28, 7-9 p.m. This lecture series deals with understanding the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Each participant will need a copy of St. Teresa's "Interior Castle." For more information, please contact Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext.4.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide young adults in their 20s and 30s with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will be held May 29 and June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Fuel Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center. These interactive events will explore the issues and challenges that Catholic young adults face in the 21st century. For more information, contact Catrina at (704) 533-2124 or c_l_conway@hotmail.com or visit www.compass-catholic.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a free *Christian Coffeehouse* May 27, 7-9 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, or to reserve a table for six or more, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213.

CHARLOTTE — The next *Blood Give-In Sunday* at St. Matthew Church is June 10, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in the family room of the Parish Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Donors will be required to provide identification, such as a driver's license or Red Cross blood donor card. Sign up table is in the narthex May 26-27 and June 2-3. Appointments are encouraged and will be honored. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be taken as time permits. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before of shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr., Charlotte, N.C., 28206, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

MAY 18, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 30

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official: Nations must disarm to stop spread of nukes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If the world is to help stop the spread of nuclear weapons, nations must take positive steps toward nuclear disarmament, a Vatican official said.

Nuclear disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation "are interdependent and mutually reinforcing," said Msgr. Michael Banach, representative to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

"Responsible implementation" of international agreements concerning nuclear weapons represents a crucial step "in the fight against nuclear terrorism" and promoting "a culture of life," peace and human development, he said May 1 in Vienna, Austria, during the April 30-May 11 proceedings of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

The Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty became effective in 1970 in an effort to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology as well as ensure nuclear energy would be used for peaceful purposes.

Msgr. Banach urged countries to help create "a climate of confidence and real cooperation" in international efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, and said it was necessary to set aside individual interests and work for "collective security" which, in the end, helps guarantee the security of individual nations.

If the treaty is to be effective, he said, provisions must help the international community verify compliance as well as track and control fissile and radioactive materials.

Countries stockpiling nuclear weapons include the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. India, Pakistan and North Korea have carried out nuclear tests. Israel is suspected of having a nuclear arms arsenal, while Iran has been accused of pursuing uranium enrichment for weapons use.

Pope OKs stricter norms for mandatory feast days in church calendar

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has approved stricter guidelines for determining which saints will be remembered with mandatory feast days.

The General Roman Calendar, the universal schedule of holy days and feast days for the Latin rite of the Catholic Church, is so packed that more selectivity is needed, according to new norms and a commentary published in the official bulletin of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

The pope determines who makes the universal calendar based on recommendations from the congregation, the commentary said. And, according to the new norms published in the bulletin in mid-May, those recommendations will be more difficult to obtain.

"A saint can be inserted in the general calendar because of the significant and universal importance of his or her spiritual message and effectiveness as an example for a broad category of members of the church," said the norms, approved by Pope Benedict in December.

Special consideration will be given to saints from countries not already represented in the general calendar and from underrepresented categories, such as laypeople, married couples and parents, the norms said.

In addition, the norms said, 10 years should have passed since the canonization ceremony to ensure ongoing, widespread devotion.

The process for adding a candidate, it said, should begin with a two-thirds favorable vote from the bishops' conference where the saint was born, lived or died.

"The numerous beatifications and canonizations celebrated in the past few years by the supreme pontiff have underlined concretely the multiple manifestations of holiness in the church," the commentary said.

But, it said, hundreds of new saints also has meant greater competition for the limited free dates on the universal calendar, dates used to remember saints with a local importance and to keep the tradition of remembering Mary on Saturdays not already dedicated to an obligatory feast.

In his more than 26-year pontificate, Pope John Paul II proclaimed more than 480 saints; by comparison, all of his predecessors between 1594 and 1978 canonized a combined total of 302 saints.

Pope Benedict XVI added his 10th saint to the church's rolls when he presided over a canonization May 11 in Brazil.

The year does not have enough days to include all the saints in the universal calendar, particularly when Sundays and holy days are subtracted.

The congregation's commentary said, "it will be difficult in the future to make further additions if certain criteria are not rigorously applied."

information, call (704) 344-0934.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — An adult faith formation series, *"The Church and Human Sexuality,"* will meet Tuesdays through May 22, 7:30-9 p.m., at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St. Topics will include the theology of creation and of the body, the sacrament and sacramentality of marriage, the sexuality of single life, the church and homosexuality and God is love. Presentations are based on and include Scripture, the lives of the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the writings and teachings of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. No fees or pre-registration needed. For more information, call Dennis Teall-Fleming at (704) 825-9600, ext. 26 or e-mail teallfleming@yahoo.com.

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will host a luncheon May 23 at the Cardinal Country Club beginning at 11:30 a.m. The program will feature a performance by the Scottish Country Dancers. For more information, call Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HIGH POINT — Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., invites everyone to attend the *Third Annual International Festival*, a non-denominational family event with food, entertainment, music, art, exhibits and games from around the world. The free event begins at 4 p.m. May 27. For more information, contact Larry Kwan at hlkwan@lexcominc.net or (336) 688-1220.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *Eucharistic Adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336)940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

May 19 — 2 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Mark Church, Huntersville

May 20 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte

May 21 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

May 26 — 10 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

May 26 — 2 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

May 27 — 12:30 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

May 30 — 5 p.m.
Dedication of St. Joan of Arc Church
Asheville

June 1 — 11 a.m.
Jubilee Mass for Priests
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Faith at Fatima

CNS PHOTO BY NACHO DOCE, REUTERS

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is carried May 13 through a crowd of pilgrims at the shrine built in her honor in central Portugal. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims joined in celebrations marking the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin Mary to three shepherd children. Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, received the first of several visions of Mary May 13, 1917.

For May crownings in the Diocese of Charlotte, see page 4.

ATTENTION READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is beginning its bi-weekly publishing schedule for June, July and August. As such, there will be no issue next Friday, May 25. Our next issue will be Friday, June 1.

Honoring Mary

Courtesy Photo

Eighth-grader Nick Hopkins assists second-grader Emily Gamble as she places a crown of flowers on a statue of Mary outside St. Michael School in Gastonia May 14. The crowning was part of the school's annual May procession.

After Mass in St. Michael Church, Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor, and the second-graders — dressed in their first Communion clothes — led the school in the procession to the statue for the crowning. Pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade took part in the songs and prayers.

The month of May is devoted to Mary and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning and praying the rosary.

Courtesy Photo

Madeline Wise, a fifth-grader at St. Ann School in Charlotte, followed by Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of St. Ann Church, and flanked by students in their first Communion attire, leads the school's annual May procession into the church May 15. Madeline, assisted by fifth-grader Jessica Fielder, was selected to crown a statue of Mary in the church during Mass celebrated by Father O'Rourke.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S *name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Celebrating Communion

Courtesy Photo

Father Walter Williams, pastor of St. Mary Mother of God Church in Sylva, is pictured with communicants who made their first Communion at the church May 6. Pictured with Father Williams are Daniela Berenice, Acosta Diego Armando Acosta, Benjamin Eliaz, Elizabeth Ann McElroy, Emma Grace Raleigh, Luke Sipler, Matthew Klaus, Philippe Toedt, Lorena Yanez, Eliseo Puebla, Rocio Puebla and Nancy Puebla.

Courtesy Photo

Father Tien Duong, pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Highlands, is pictured with communicants during their first Communion celebration at the church May 6. Pictured with Father Duong is (from left) Bailey Ann-Marie Lica, Emily Erin Crowe, Eden Elizabeth Ingate and James Francis Walsh.

docPod

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org

Symptoms, causes of domestic violence explored

VIOLENCE, *from page 1*

Words from a battered wife begin "When I call for help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women," which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) published in 2002.

"How interesting that our bishops would begin their pastoral letter to us with the voice of a woman," Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle said during his presentation, "Domestic Violence: Does Faith Formation Have an Answer?" at the Catholic Conference Center May 10.

The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Faith Formation sponsored the program, attended by 25 parish catechetical leaders and others involved in faith formation.

Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, Father Doyle is chairman of the Haywood County Domestic Violence Task Force and a board member of REACH of Haywood County, a nonprofit agency addressing issues of advocacy and counseling for domestic-violence victims.

Faith formation has part of the answer, Father Doyle said, but it's a collaborative answer in conjunction with churches, as well as agencies that work to stop domestic violence.

TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FaithTrust lists four basic types of domestic violence:

— Physical assault: Including shoving, pushing, restraining, hitting, or kicking. Physical assaults may occur frequently or infrequently, but in many cases they tend to escalate in severity and frequency over time.

— Sexual assault: Any time one partner forces sexual acts which are unwanted or declined by the other partner.

— Psychological assault: Includes isolation from family and friends, forced financial dependence, verbal and emotional abuse, threats, intimidation, and control over where the partner can go and what she can do.

— Attacks against property and pets: Destruction of property which may include household objects or treasured objects belonging to the victim, hitting the walls, or abusing or killing beloved pets.

The Catholic Church hasn't always engaged this issue. In fact, he said, "This is the first time I've been invited to a Catholic-sponsored event on this topic."

"I've been ordained 12 years and this is the first (Catholic Church) organized class I've ever heard of (on domestic violence)," said Deacon Frederick Scarletto of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

Domestic violence crosses all economic, education and social strata, and all religious denominations. It used to be called "battered women syndrome" but is now referred to as "domestic violence" because victims include men, children, elderly parents and parents of teenagers.

However, according to the FaithTrust Institute, which focuses on ending sexual and domestic violence, "statistics show that 95 percent of domestic violence victims are women."

"Domestic violence is a pattern of violent and coercive behavior exercised by one adult in an intimate relationship over another," FaithTrust notes. "It is not 'marital conflict,' 'mutual abuse,' 'a lovers' quarrel,' or 'a private family matter.' It may consist of repeated severe beatings, or more subtle forms of abuse, including threats and control."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines marriage as "a covenant or partnership for life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and for the procreation and upbringing of the children. When validly contracted between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament."

Types of violence

FaithTrust lists four basic types of domestic violence: physical assault, sexual assault, psychological assault, and attacks against property and pets.

But why stay in such a relationship? Because the abuser promises — repeatedly — never to do it again.

Or, one or more of these: The victim fears being on her own and making a new life for herself, doesn't want her children to be without a father, has no place to go, lacks financial resources or job skills, doesn't know where to seek help, or is embarrassed to admit she's in a bad marriage.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Augustinian Father Francis J. Doyle chats with Doni Juarez of Good Shepherd Church in King during "Domestic Violence: Does Faith Formation Have an Answer?" at the Catholic Conference Center May 10.

Power and control

Leaving is dangerous. A woman leaves seven to nine times making the final break, but when she does make that break she's 75 percent more likely to be killed by her abuser than if she had remained in the relationship.

"When she makes the break, she's in the greatest danger she's ever been in," Father Doyle said. "Domestic violence is about power and control. When she takes control of her life, he's lost control and his reaction is even more violent."

Then there are religious beliefs. Friends or clergy may tell a woman that the abuse is "your cross in life," "God's will," or punishment for a past sin.

"The first thing some pastors (ask the victim) is, 'What did you do wrong?'" Father Doyle said.

The bishops disagree: "As pastors of the Catholic Church in the United States, we state as clearly and strongly as we can that violence against women, inside and outside the home is never justified. Violence in any form — physical, sexual, psychological or verbal — is sinful; often it is a crime as well."

Abusive husbands sometimes use Bible texts, such as Ephesians 5:22, "Wives should be subordinate to their husbands ...," to justify abuse. However, as the bishops point out, "the passage (v. 21–33) refers to the mutual submission of husband and wife out of love for Christ."

They also "emphasize that no person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage. Some abused women believe that church teaching on the permanence of marriage requires them to stay in an abusive relationship. They may hesitate to seek a separation or divorce. They may fear that they cannot remarry in the church.

"Violence and abuse, not divorce, break up a marriage. We encourage abused persons who have divorced to investigate the possibility of seeking an annulment," say the bishops. "An annulment ... can frequently open the door to healing."

Education and counseling

More education about domestic violence is needed among Catholics clergy and laity, Father Doyle said.

"One of the reasons I got involved is because you don't hear about the Catholic Church getting involved in this issue," he said. "This topic was never touched on in my seminary education. There's not a priest in this diocese who's had seminary training on this. Our whole emphasis has been on keeping couples together. It can result in the death of one of the partners."

The bishops, and those involved in working with domestic-violence victims, state that safety of the victim and her children is paramount.

Then, as the bishops note, "In dealing with people who abuse, church ministers need to hold them accountable for their behavior. They can support the person as he seeks specialized counseling to change his abusive behavior. Couple counseling is not appropriate and can endanger the victim's safety."

The reason is that the abuser can retaliate against his partner with worse abuse because of what she said in the counseling session.

And Father Doyle said, "Until (Catholic abusers) hear a Roman Catholic priest say this behavior is a crime, they're not going to take responsibility."

Restoration of the relationship is possible only if the abuser permanently stops all abuse. If that doesn't happen, the victim can be helped to "mourn the loss of the relationship," the bishops state.

It is important to listen to a woman and believe her when she says she's being abused. There are also signs.

"You may never have suspected that this church-going, first-pew family, that it's a whole different scene at home," Father Doyle said. "A child is falling asleep in class (because) he's been up all night and he's been terrified not only from seeing a gun pulled on his mother but from trying to protect her."

If a woman wears long sleeves and long pants in hot weather, or sunglasses when the sun isn't shining, or seems submissive around her husband, she may be an abuse victim.

Churches can help in a number of ways, including helping victims find safe shelters and counseling, taking up monthly collections for shelters, addressing domestic violence during marriage preparation and praying for victms during Mass.

When he does this, Father Doyle said, "Invariably a woman will come up to me after Mass and say she's been in that situation in the past and will offer to help."

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:

- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Dinner, dancing help raise funds for Latino Family Center

HIGH POINT — The Latino Family Center of Catholic Social Services in High Point recently held a dinner-dance to raise funds for summer camp opportunities for Hispanic youths in the area.

A hundred people attended the May 4 event, held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, which provided Latin food and lessons in Latin dance steps.

A second event, the 5K Race to Embrace in June, will also raise funds for summer activities.

The Latino Family Center provides programs and services to help local Hispanics intgrate into the community as full participants in and contributors to society, according to Tania Hoeller, program director.

The center provides a Family Literacy Program for families at the parish, in which parents learn English and the children do their homework. Staff provide translation, information and referral assistance, and outreach according to need.

Programs for boys and girls help the youths develop leadership skills and live free of drugs, smoking and sexual activity.

The summer camps include language- and math-skill building, art enrichment and music. St. Mary Episcopal Church and the Theater Arts Gallery in High Point are assisting the center with these enrichment activities.

Courtesy Photo by Ann Kilkelly

Greensboro-area dance teachers Elizabeth and Scott Tomlin demonstrate Latin steps to kick off the evening of dancing at the Latino Family Center's dinner dance, held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point May 4.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of June

Rev. Msgr. Richard Allen	*2005*
Rev. Guy E. Morse	*2000*
Rev. Msgr. Roueche	*2000*

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Helping hands in Henderson County

Courtesy Photo

Bruce Harris (left), Operation LAMB director, and Grand Knight Neil Boland (center) of Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council 7184 in Hendersonville present a check to Jane Griggs and Superintendent Stephen Page of Henderson County Public Schools.

The Knights council distributed more than $11,000 funds collected during the 2006 Operation LAMB campaign to area organizations that work with the mentally challenged.

Knights of Columbus councils conduct Operation LAMB (Least Among My Brethren, taken from the Gospel of Matthew) throughout the United States to help the mentally challenged. Contributions were collected through the annual "Tootsie Roll Campaign", held August through December.

There are more than 12,100 Knights of Columbus in North Carolina.

Come and join us for a Spiritual Retreat!

"Be Not Afraid"

Accepting God's Love,
Healing, Forgiveness and Blessings

July 13-15
Friday (register 8-9am) through Sunday
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte

Speakers

Ned Dougherty - author of The Fast Lane, a celestial encounter that changed his life (www.fastlanetoheaven.com)

Rev. Russell Ortega, OSA - pastor of St. John Neumann and retreat spiritual director

Rev. Deogratis Rwegasira, A.J. - St. Bernard Church, Easton, Pa; Missionary of South Africa

Dr. Cris Villapando – Diocesan Director of Faith Formation Program; instructor of moral theology for lay ministry programs

Darcy M. Tabotabo, MD – Catholic lay minister for apologetics; professor of ophthalmology; servant of the Lord

Bill Milligan – parishioner of St. John Neumann; husband, father, grandfather, soldier, teacher, coach, lay minister and businessman

Ferdinand Roccanti – Catholic lay evangelist; poor, unable to read, becomes a millionaire, gives it all away; has double vision and becomes a spiritual artist

Flor Achong – orphaned on streets of Costa Rica, now blessed with spiritual gifts

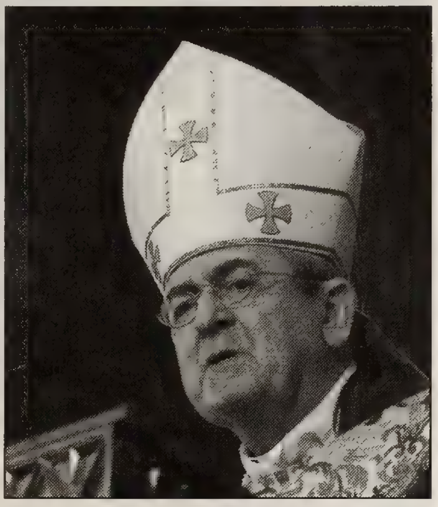
Cost for all 3 days: $35 (snacks daily, Sat. night dinner)
Registration deadline: June 15

Info: Stephanie Alder: 704-365-2209 or Beth Manning: 704-779-0257

Avoid 'compromised' message in sex education, cardinal says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities urged two congressional committees to maintain current funding levels for abstinence education and said programs that promote "safe sex" and contraception offer young people a "compromised" message.

In a May 9 letter to members of the House and Senate Appropriations committees, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said the more than 500 abstinence programs currently in place in the U.S. "form character and educate our youth about the decisions they face, empowering them to make healthy choices that do not jeopardize their health and future."



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia recently urged two congressional committees to maintain current funding levels for abstinence education.

But for every $1 the federal government spends on abstinence education through the Adolescent Family Life Act, Title V of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Community-Based Abstinence Education Program, it spends $12 on "'safe sex' and contraceptive programs," he said.

"While programs incorporating the latter emphasis are sometimes called 'comprehensive' sex education, they are more accurately described as compromised education: The abstinence message is mentioned but then undermined with the false message that premature sexual experimentation does no real harm if steps are taken to avoid pregnancy," Cardinal Rigali wrote.

If the federal government makes "that 'comprehensive' or internally divided approach" the norm in U.S. sex education, "the result will not be to expand diversity and pluralism in this field but to eliminate it," the cardinal said.

"Catholic schools and other organizations truly dedicated to the message of personal responsibility and abstinence before marriage will be unable to participate in government programs," he added. "America's young people would be the real victims of this misguided approach."

The cardinal's letter was sent as the House and Senate committees were beginning discussions of appropriations bills for fiscal 2008.

N.C. bishops hope to table proposed bill

BILL, from page 1

curriculum with an abstinence-based, comprehensive sexuality education curriculum.

"We wish to go on record strongly opposing this bill and want you to know that we will do everything in our power to activate the Roman Catholics of our state to lobby their legislators to oppose the passage of this bill," the bishops wrote.

"This is not an action we would take lightly," they added.

Introduced March 20, 2007, House Bill 879 would require public schools to offer comprehensive, medically accurate, non-discriminatory sexuality education in grades seven and eight and once in high school.

"The proposed bill would essentially teach that all sex between two people is equal, whether couples are married or unmarried, or of the same sex," said David Hains, communications director for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Current law states that local school districts may expand the abstinence curriculum after a public review under the auspices of the local Board of Education. Since 1995, only 10 out of 115 districts have voted to expand it.

The bill would make the health education curriculum mandatory in all school districts.

The present law, which endorses abstinence before marriage, has shown positive results in North Carolina, the bishops said in their letter.

"It covers the consequences of sexual activity by adolescents thoroughly. It allows for comprehensive sex education to be added at the level of local school districts," they wrote.

"Although we disagree with much of the materials presently contained in the curriculum for comprehensive sex education allowed in our state, we believe the present law is vastly better than this proposed bill," they said.

The letter, signed by Bishops Jugis and Burbidge, was delivered to Hackney and to the 52 members who comprise House committee on education.

> "We will do everything in our power to activate the Roman Catholics of our state ... to oppose the passage of this bill."
>
> — Bishops Peter J. Jugis and Michael F. Burbidge

Bishops get draft of guidelines for education in chaste living

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Education for chastity is more than a call to abstinence," says a draft document being studied by the U.S. Catholic bishops in preparation for a vote this fall.

Sent out to the bishops at the end of April, the draft is titled "Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living: Guidelines for Curriculum Design and Publication."

"Parents are called to ensure that their children's education in human sexuality occurs within the context of the moral principles and truths of the church," it says.

It adds that parents are "the primary but not the exclusive educators of their children" and that the invitation to other educators "to carry out their responsibilities in the name of the parents arises from the consent and authorization of the parents."

"Education for chastity, sustained by parental example and prayer, is absolutely essential to develop authentic maturity, teach respect for the body and foster an understanding of the nuptial meaning of the body," it says.

The 14-page draft document was developed by the Committee on Catechesis of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, chaired by Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington.

In a cover letter to the bishops, Archbishop Wuerl invited them to consult with diocesan staff members or others and to submit responses from their diocese by July 1 so that the committee will have time to prepare a final draft for the bishops to consider at their November national meeting in Baltimore.

Msgr. Daniel Kutys, deputy secretary for catechesis in the USCCB Department of Education, said the committee did not go into questions of appropriate age for specific aspects of education for chaste living, leaving that to the experience of publishers. The point of the guidelines, he said, is to stress that catechetical education should be dealing with questions of faith, virtue and moral life and not involve questions of biology and other sciences except to the extent necessary.

In family life materials for younger children, he said, many catechetical programs put any physiological discussions in a parent segment.

The guidelines outline what elements of the church's teaching should be included as components of education for chaste living, starting with the scriptural account of human beings being created in God's own image and created for love.

The guidelines address the role of pastors in ensuring "that the education and formation of the young in human sexuality is in accord with the church's teaching."

Other parts of the document address the role of parents, the role of teachers and catechists and the role of publishers.

It cites some "special issues of concern," saying that "serious offenses against chastity are identified because of their prevalence in our society today and the particular dangers they pose to chaste living."

Listed among the special issues are pornography, the contraceptive mentality and practice, premarital and extramarital sex, cohabitation, sexual abuse, homosexual activity and same-sex unions.

CFC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Pilgrimages to
EWTN
and Shrine of
the Most Blessed Sacrament
June 19-21
with Fr. John Starczewski of
Our Lady of Grace Church
Greensboro
AND
July 31-Aug 2
with Fr. James Stuhrenberg of
St. Mark Church
Huntersville
Pick ups: Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Charlotte, Huntersville
Call Patti Dameron
(336)413-8127
(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:
Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains
Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Pope tells Latin Americans to meet challenges by focusing on Jesus

BRAZIL, *from page 1*

people, the canonization of the first Brazilian-born saint, and the inauguration of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The pope cited inroads by secularism, threats against the family and the institution of marriage, and an erosion of traditional Latin America values and said that in response the church needs to put greater emphasis on the religious education of its own members.

One big reason the evangelical sects have attracted Catholics, he told Brazilian bishops, is that many Catholics are insufficiently evangelized and their faith is weak, confused and easily shaken.

In a country where televangelists have had great success with simplistic religious messages, the pope did not hold out any easy solutions.

Instead, he said, the church should conduct "a methodical evangelization aimed at personal and communal fidelity to Christ."

Firm doctrinal content is essential to faith formation, he said, and at nearly every stop he suggested wider use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

The crowds that showed up for papal events were enthusiastic but smaller than foreseen by trip planners in Brazil, the largest Catholic country in the world.

There were empty spaces at both of his outdoor Masses, and the crowds along some of his motorcade routes were sparse.

Intense itinerary

The papal trip began May 9 with an inflight press conference that prompted controversy when the pope, in response to a question, appeared to support the idea of excommunication for pro-abortion politicians.

The Vatican later released a toned-down version of the papal comments.

In Brazil, where pressures have been growing for legalized abortion, the pope mentioned protection of the unborn at several of his events, including a Sao Paulo airport welcoming ceremony attended by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The pope told the president and assembled dignitaries that he had come to help reinforce Christian values and counter new threats to the poor, the abandoned and the unborn.

"I am well aware that the soul of this people, as of all Latin America, safeguards values that are radically Christian, which will never be eradicated," he said.

On May 10, the pope joined some 40,000 young people in a Sao Paulo soccer stadium for song, dance, prayer and a lengthy papal speech that laid out arguments for Christian virtue.

He warned against sexual infidelity, drug use and unethical routes to success and told the youths to live their lives "with enthusiasm and with joy, but most of all with a sense of responsibility."

The choreographed encounter was billed as an emotional highlight of the papal visit. The pope hugged some of the young people who spoke, but looked somewhat reserved throughout the event.

Although he had no problem pronouncing his Portuguese speech, there was no spontaneous banter with the crowd.

At a Mass May 11 on a Sao Paulo airfield, the pope canonized St. Antonio Galvao, an 18th-century Franciscan known for his charitable work among the poor and sick.

The pope said the saint's dedication to God and purity should be exemplary in a modern age "so full of hedonism."

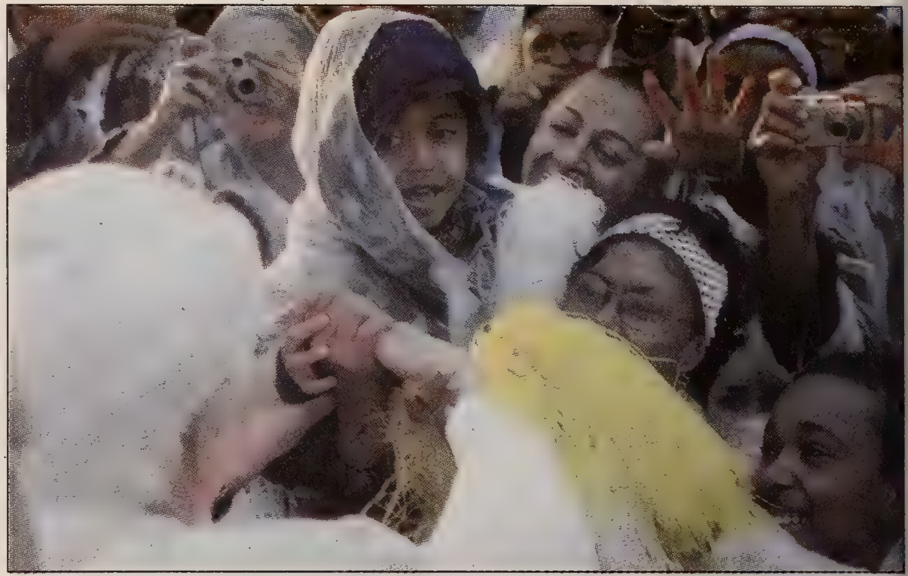
"The world needs transparent lives, clear souls, pure minds that refuse to be perceived as mere objects of pleasure. It is necessary to oppose those elements of the media that ridicule the sanctity of marriage and virginity before marriage," he said.

On May 12 the pope rode deep into the Brazilian countryside to visit Fazenda da Esperanca, or Farm of Hope, a church-run drug rehabilitation center.

After listening to emotional testimonials from recovering addicts, the pope warned drug dealers that they will face God's judgment for the human damage they have inflicted.

Compared to the first days of the trip, the pope looked more at ease on the grounds of the farm, where he was cheered by 3,000 volunteers and residents and was given a group hug by four children.

That evening, he was even more animated when he met with thousands of priests, seminarians, religious and lay movement members in the Basilica of Our Lady Aparecida, Latin America's biggest Marian shrine.



CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful as he leaves St. Benedict Monastery in Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 10.

After praying the rosary, the pope gave a spiritual pep talk that was repeatedly interrupted by applause, telling the congregation: "The church is our home. This is our home. In the Catholic Church we find all that is good."

At Mass outside the basilica the next day, the pope appeared to draw a distinction between the Catholic Church's missionary approach and the aggressive proselytizing by evangelical sects, which have flourished in Latin America.

"The church does not engage in proselytism. Instead, she grows by attraction," the pope said.

By living charity day in and day out, he said, Christians release "an irresistible power which is the power of holiness." This is the center of the missionary task, he said.

Key points to bishops

Before leaving Brazil, the pope delivered a lengthy opening address to the bishops' general conference, a speech that was greatly anticipated by the more than 260 participants.

The pope made several key points:

— The church best contributes to solving social and political problems by promoting a moral consensus on fundamental values — which must come before the construction of just social structures.

— Among Catholics, the bishops should give priority to Sunday Mass and more intense faith formation of young people and adults.

— Both Marxism and capitalism have failed to deliver on their ideological promises to build a better world, largely because they are systems divorced from individual morality.

Along with his critique of capitalism and the growing rich-poor gap, the pope warned that globalization risks creating vast monopolies and treating profit as "the supreme value."

— The evangelization of the Americas was not the "imposition of a foreign culture," and any attempt to retrieve pre-Colombian indigenous religions would be "a step backward" for Latin Americans.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

COME JOIN US FOR
St. Anns
Las Vegas Night

Saturday, June 2 6:30 - 10:30 pm

BLACK JACK • POKER
ROULETTE • MUSIC
LIGHT SNACKS • DJ

St. Ann's Catholic Church
3635 Park Road, Charlotte
(corner of Hillside Avenue)

Tickets $5
- available at door

(704) 523-4641

$10 for 20 chips
$20 for 50 chips

Brazilians' devotion to Our Lady Aparecida dates to 1717

APARECIDA, Brazil (CNS) — Even before Pope Benedict XVI arrived May 11, this city of 35,000 people in a valley about 100 miles northeast of Sao Paulo was accustomed to receiving large crowds of pilgrims.

Every Oct. 12, at least 100,000 people arrive to celebrate the feast of Our Lady Aparecida, Brazil's patroness.

Since 1717, when three local men fished an image of Mary from the Paraiba River, Aparecida has been a pilgrimage destination. More than 7 million people now annually visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady Aparecida.

Shops nearby are filled with souvenirs, including replicas of the original statue of a dark-skinned Mary wearing a dark-blue cape with gold decorations typical of South American colonial art.

The earliest sites of the devotion to Our Lady Aparecida — so named because she "appeared" to the fishermen — were small grottos or chapels built by the fishermen's families. By 1745, the statue had become known as miraculous, and a small, colonial-style church was built on a hilltop to house it.

That church, near the bus station, is often the first one that pilgrims see, but the number of pilgrims visiting every year has far outstripped its capacity.

In 1955, Brazil's bishops decided to build a larger basilica. The new structure, still under construction, was consecrated by Pope John Paul II in 1980, during his first visit to the country.

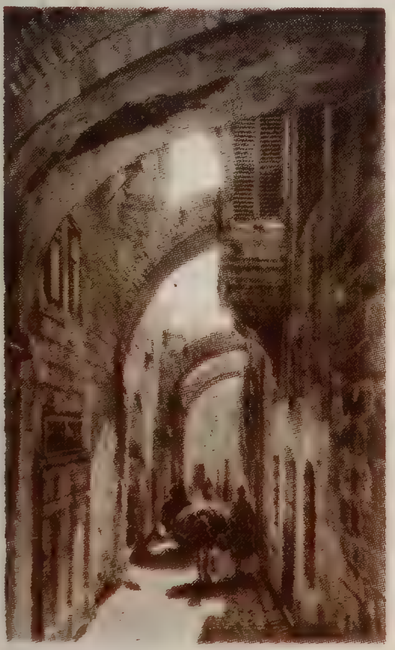
That is the basilica where Pope Benedict XVI prayed the rosary with Brazilian priests and religious May 12 and which served as the backdrop for the outdoor Mass he celebrated May 13 to open a meeting of Latin American and Caribbean bishops.

The devotion to Our Lady Aparecida is widespread throughout Brazil, and "Aparecida" is a common name for girls. More than 330 Brazilian parishes and five cathedrals are also dedicated to Our Lady Aparecida.

CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady Aparecida in Aparecida, Brazil, May 13. A crowd of about 150,000 attended the service.

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO



THE HOLY LAND

November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Harvesting hope in Brazil

Pope tells addicts that drug dealers will face God's judgment

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GUARATINGUETA, Brazil — In a meeting with recovering Brazilian drug addicts, Pope Benedict XVI said drug dealers will face God's judgment for the damage they have inflicted on individuals and society.

The pope made the remarks during a visit May 12 to Fazenda da Esperanca, or Farm of Hope, a church-run drug rehabilitation center in rural Brazil.

After listening to emotional testimonials from young men and women who have struggled to break free of drug and alcohol dependency, the pope urged those helped by the center to become "ambassadors of hope" to other addicts.

The pope said the statistics on drug abuse in Brazil were alarming and that the rest of Latin America is not far behind.

"I therefore urge the drug dealers to reflect on the grave harm they are inflicting on countless young people and on adults from every level of society," he said.

"God will call you to account for your deeds. Human dignity cannot be trampled upon in this way," he said.

The pope spoke from a thatch-roofed platform to about 3,000 people who gathered on the grounds of the 40-acre farm, where residents grow vegetables and raise livestock.

The pontiff arrived after a long drive deep into the heart of the southern Brazil countryside, where rich valleys alternated with wooded hills. Farmsteads along the route decorated their driveways in yellow and white, the Vatican colors.

The Farm of Hope was founded in 1983 by a German Franciscan, Father Hans Stapel. Today, it is a movement with 33 centers around the world, helping drug addicts, unwed mothers, homeless and young people infected with HIV.

The main center near the Brazilian city of Guaratingueta ministers to about 100 addicts. Many of them arrive there after trying and failing with other rehab treatments.

Filipe Kenji Diniz, a 27-year-old from Curitiba who sat near the papal stage, said he tried for 12 years to kick his drug habit, which began with alcohol and ended with crack cocaine. He entered three hospital programs and took substitute chemicals, but it did not work, he said.

He had heard about Farm of Hope, so he decided to try it.

"Here the method was different," he said.

"I learned to talk to God — to pray. And when I talked to God, I found that I stayed very calm, and I didn't need the drugs anymore," he said.

Five men and women stood before the pope and read testimonials about their experience at the farm. Antonio Eleuterio Neto described how his drug addiction since age 12 was broken when he was offered friendship and trust and was able to discover the importance of God in his life.

CNS PHOTO BY TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI embraces a group of children during his visit to Fazenda da Esperanca (Farm of Hope) drug rehabilitation center in Guaratingueta, Brazil, May 12. The Franciscan-founded facility treats mostly those who have failed to kick their addiction in other programs.

> "God will call you to account for your deeds. Human dignity cannot be trampled upon this way."
>
> — Pope Benedict XVI

After the young man spoke, the pope gave him a hug.

Sylvia Hartwich, a 20-year German immigrant, cried when describing her struggle with drugs and anorexia, which she overcame after being approached by three members of Farm of Hope.

Today, she works as a volunteer in a German branch of the movement.

Ricardo Correa Ribeirinha, the son of a prostitute, told of his personal experiences of sniffing glue, taking cocaine and smoking crack, and of the devastation caused society by the drug trade and the violence that surrounds it.

People thought he would end up in jail or in an early grave, but he broke free after joining Farm of Hope, he said.

In his talk, Pope Benedict praised the center's approach of combining medical and psychological assistance with prayer, manual work and personal discipline. When dealing with addiction, he said, it was important to treat the soul as well as the body.

The personnel at the center, he emphasized, are carrying out a work of conversion as well as rehabilitation.

Farm of Hope says its success rate with addict rehabilitation is more than 80 percent, far better than other similar programs in Brazil.

Before leaving, the pope gave a gift of $100,000 to the center.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

'Sign of God for all humans'

With first book as pope, Benedict seeks to enrich views on Jesus

(CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI believes that a serious gap has developed between two classic and complementary ways of describing Jesus.

His new book, "Jesus of Nazareth," the first he has published since his election as pontiff two years ago, attempts to close that gap and to reclaim what he considers to be a proper understanding of Jesus.

At the outset, the pope makes it clear that this book (one of two he plans to write on the subject) reflects his own opinions which are not necessarily those of the magisterium — the church's official teaching office.

The book is solely "an expression of my personal search 'for the face of the Lord' (Ps 27:8). Everyone is free, then, to contradict me. I would only ask my readers for that initial good will without which there can be no understanding."

"Jesus of history" and "Christ of faith" have long served as parallel terms for describing Jesus, Pope Benedict writes in the foreword. The first affirms his humanity while the second asserts his divinity.

The author feels deeply that too much modern theology (a lot of it well-intentioned) has had the effect of downplaying the supernatural reality of God and the divinity of Jesus.

Over the past 50 years, the historical-critical approach to Scripture studies (while a great gift to biblical scholarship) has weakened our experience of Jesus as the core of our faith.

Much has justifiably been made of the man Jesus as moral teacher, social revolutionary, inspired religious founder, prophet and sage. But this has also blurred our encounter with Jesus as personal lord and savior who reveals God to us — a conviction that permeates the Gospels.

The scientific approach to the Scriptures was an attempt to make God more accessible and Jesus more amenable to modern Christians and non-Christians alike. But it has also led to a relativization of God and a humanization of Jesus at the expense of their ideal natures.

When the church fails to communicate the powerful "otherness" of God revealed through Jesus, the pope concludes, its highest public service is compromised.

Pope Benedict believes that there can be no true civil society or genuine moral progress apart from a right understanding of God.

For that to occur, the church needs to proclaim to the world a divine vision. Jesus Christ offers this vision. He is "the sign of God for all humans." Jesus is the one to whom all Scripture — Old and New Testaments alike — bears witness. We need to reclaim this Jesus as the word of God, revealed to us throughout the Bible.

By writing this book, the pope hopes to foster in his readers "a living relationship with Jesus."

"Jesus of Nazareth" combines pastoral and theological vigor. It demonstrates the author as a man of faith, a refined theologian and a sincere servant of God's people.

The book contains 10 spiritual/theological reflections, and deals with themes like the baptism and temptations of Jesus; his message of the "kingdom of God" presented in his Sermon on the Mount; the Lord's Prayer; and his parables. He called his disciples to accompany him and to carry on his mission.

The concluding chapters comment on images of Jesus in John's Gospel, the significance of Peter's confession and the meaning of the Transfiguration. In the concluding reflection Jesus reveals his true identity.

The content of each chapter will enrich personal meditation, homily and talk preparation and ordinary conversation. Reading this book is not unlike having its author engage you personally in a college dorm discussion, or other informal exchange.

Agreement is not so much his goal as stimulating engagement and debate.

"Jesus of Nazareth" portrays the pope as someone who cares deeply and personally about what we believe.

The author concludes on this reflective note:

"In the end, man needs just one thing; but he must first delve beyond his superficial wishes and longings in order to learn to recognize what it is that he truly needs and truly wants. He needs God."

Holst teaches religion and culture at the University of Calgary, in Canada's Alberta province.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: MAY 27, 2007

May 27, Pentecost Sunday

Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 2:1-11
   Psalm 104:1ab, 24ac,
   29bc-30, 31, 34
2) 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
3) Gospel: John 20:19-23

Joining together helps us receive wholeness of God's spirit

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

To their credit, every one of the 18 teenagers had chosen to fully engage in the experience of lectio divina — divine reading. They may have been reluctant to come on this retreat, but once there they decided to make the most of it.

Using the ancient prayer form, they listened to a reading and each shared aloud what struck them as a significant word or phrase. The process was repeated twice more with increased elucidation each go-round.

The reading they used was the first section of the Nicene Creed.

Later in the retreat they prayed lectio divina again, this time with the second section of the creed. Their responses grew more confident and heartfelt as they became more comfortable with the prayer and each other.

In the meantime, their other activities focused on their personal relationship with God and with each other as a community of faith. It was part of their preparation for the sacrament of confirmation.

Finally toward the end of the retreat they prayed lectio divina for a third time, reading the last part of the creed: "I believe in the Holy Spirit ..." When their leader said a final "Amen" at the end of their meditation, the group remained quiet for several moments.

Then one teen said, "It's really cool how we get the same words, but we all hear something a little different."

Another added, "Yeah, it's like everybody has a little piece of the puzzle."

A third person said, "You can understand a lot more when you get everyone's different perspectives."

So began a free-flowing discussion about their basic, shared belief in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Better than a teaching on the Holy Spirit, it was an experience of the Holy Spirit provided by none other than the Spirit itself.

Those young people who a few months later would receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation learned that the Spirit is given to each according to one's unique gifts for the sake of all.

Like the disciples in this week's reading from Acts, each one heard and responded to God in his or her own "language." By joining their understanding together they received the wholeness of God's Spirit.

Question:

When have you had an experience of the Holy Spirit that was deepened by your relationship with others? Describe how the "pieces of the puzzle" fit together.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 20—26
Sunday (Seventh Sunday of Easter), Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26; **Monday,** Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday (St. Rita of Cascia),** Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday,** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11, John 17:20-26; **Friday (St. Gregory VII, St. Bede, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi),** Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday (St. Philip Neri),** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 27—JUNE 2
Sunday (Pentecost), Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday,** Sirach 17:20-24, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday,** Sirach 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31; **Wednesday,** Sirach 36:1, 4-5, 10-17, Mark 10:32-45; **Thursday (Visitation of the Virgin Mary),** Zephaniah 3:14-18, Isaiah 12:2-6, Luke 1:39-56; **Friday (St. Justin),** Sirach 44:1, 9-13, Mark 11:11-26; **Saturday (St. Marcellinus and Peter),** Sirach 51:12-20, Mark 11:27-33.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES

11 Days Pilgrimage to Poland and Prague. Aug 27–Sep 6, 2007. $2950 pp. Includes 2 nights in Warsaw, 2 nights Czestrochowa, 3 nights each in Krakow & Prague. Fr. Price Oswalt from OKC

11 Days Italian Shrines. Sep 22-Oct 3, 2007. $2990 pp. Includes 2 nights each in Venice & Assisi, 3 nights each in Florence & Rome. Visit Padua, Ravenna & Siena. Fr. Krempa from Winchester, VA

12 Days Fatima & Spain. Oct 8-19, $2750 pp. Includes 3 nights each Fatima & Madrid, 2 nights Santiago de Compostela, 1 night each in Burgos & Avila. Visit Toledo. Fr. That Son from WV.

Includes air from Raleigh, Charlotte and Greensboro; daily breakfast and dinners. Call John Tagnesi at 888-544-4461.

(These are privately-sponsored trips, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

The trouble of accessibility

'Tsunami of pornography' debases human dignity, archbishop says

BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — Describing what he sees as an "electronic tsunami of pornography," Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco told a Utah-based anti-pornography organization that pornography "debases the priceless worth and dignity of each human being and (God's) gift of human sexuality."

While pornography "is not a new challenge," the archbishop told members of the Lighted Candle Society at its annual awards dinner in Salt Lake City May 8, "the explosive increase in the accessibility and availability of pornography is new and deeply troubling."

"Every computer terminal is its pipeline, and cell phones and other hand-held devices, many of them marketed to children and young people, literally deliver pornography everywhere, to anyone," he said in his keynote address.

Archbishop Niederauer was presented the Lighted Candle Society's Guardian of the Light Award two years ago for his work as president of the Utah Coalition Against Pornography, a position he held for five years as bishop of Salt Lake City before being named archbishop of San Francisco.

The archbishop, who headed the Salt Lake City Diocese from 1994 to 2005, reminded his listeners that pornography "now generates more annual income than all three major professional sports combined, and causes as well the world's fastest growing addiction."

"We have all heard the discouraging numbers," he said, noting research shows there are 68 million Internet "search engine requests for porn sites" every day, that 70 percent of men ages 18 to 24 visit porn sites each month, that "90 percent of 8- to 16-year-olds have viewed porn online," and that "the average age of a child's first exposure to pornography on the Internet is 11."

However, he said, "what should motivate us most profoundly is not the amount of pornography there is but the kind of harm it does. Pornography assaults human dignity and commodifies people and human sexuality. Porn starves the human soul in its spiritual dimension. ... The human person, an irreplaceable gift, becomes a throwaway toy."

"Every computer terminal is its pipeline ... literally deliver pornography everywhere, to anyone."

— Archbishop
George H. Niederauer

The archbishop, who chairs the U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications and is a member of the Pontifical Council on Social Communications, cautioned that pornography opponents "need constantly to explore and articulate what we are for, not merely what we are against. Deploring and pointing with alarm are valid and effective only in light of what we value and defend."

Much of the archbishop's talk also addressed the motion picture industry which, he said, "is capable of so much beauty and so much trash."

Admitting he has had "a lifelong love affair with the movies," Archbishop Niederauer criticized "the nihilism that reigns in many quarters of moviemaking" today as well as "excessive violence" and dark portrayals of life.

He called on his listeners, film critics and moviemakers themselves to be wary of being cowed by a desire to seem "supersophisticated."

"The one thing we will not be called is prudes, so we laugh nervously at the vilest sexual aberrations, nod knowingly at the blackest, sickest kind of humor, even relish a bit of violence well carried off," the archbishop said.

"Some of us want to come off as so worldly-wise that we defend any evil flashed on-screen by saying, 'Face it, the world is like that!'" he said.

"Moviegoers can't be sponges," he added. "Just as in our experiences of other media, in watching films we need to become our own best filters."

Contributing to this article was Barbara Stinson Lee in Salt Lake City.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations

Let us help you with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we all celebrate their continued growth in our faith.

Come and visit our Cornelius store. Or, if you'd like us to bring our store to your parish, please call us for arrangements.

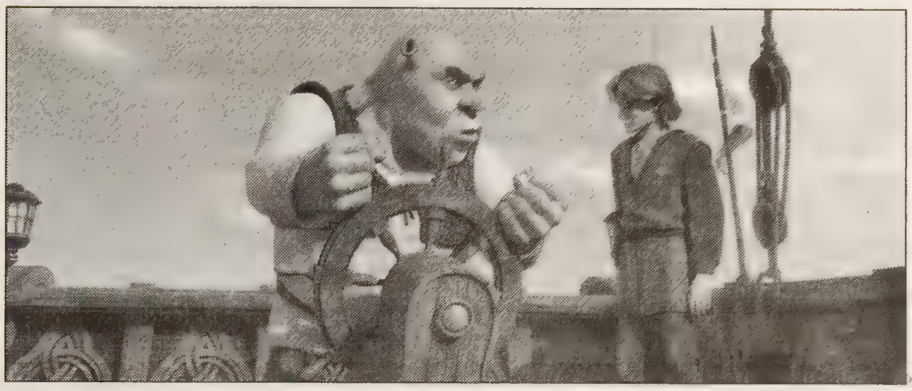
We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience with the closing of our Monroe Road store. Please call our Cornelius location and we will make every effort to provide all of your religious gift needs. Our new Charlotte location will be unveiled very soon and we believe you'll be pleased with the convenience and location.

God bless you during our celebration of this holiest of Holy Seasons.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

'Shrek' sets sail for laughs, good values



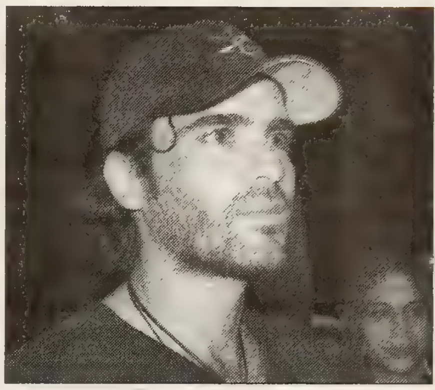
CNS PHOTO BY DREAMWORKS

Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) and Artie (voiced by Justin Timberlake) are seen in "Shrek the Third," a somewhat darker film than its two predecessors but still with plenty of laughs and a careful emphasis on good values, such as believing in yourself, sacrificing for others, eschewing violence and trusting in mankind's innate goodness. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. for children.

Pursuing art and morality

Mexican actor gives up fame to make movies that touch lives

BY DEBORAH GYAPONG
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



CNS PHOTO BY DEBORAH GYAPONG, CANADIAN CATHOLIC NEWS

Eduardo Verastegui is co-founder of Metanoia Films, which released its debut film, "Bella," last year.

OTTAWA — If the story of the rich young man from the Gospel of Matthew had a sequel updated for modern times, it might resemble the life of actor Eduardo Verastegui, a Catholic who stars in the film "Bella."

In the Gospel account, Jesus tells the young man to sell all he has and follow him, but the man goes away sorrowful.

In the modern-day sequel, Verastegui sells all he has and is prepared to give up his budding acting career to follow Jesus.

Verastegui had reached the zenith of Mexican celebrity as a soap star and singer who had toured at least 13 countries to sold-out crowds. His resume includes everything from appearing as Jennifer Lopez's love interest in a music video to the starring role in the 20th Century Fox movie "Chasing Papi" and a co-starring role in the independent film "Meet Me in Miami."

Verastegui also has been listed as one of the 50 most beautiful people in the world in the magazine People en Espanol.

But while studying English in Los Angeles, he found himself drawn to a deeper faith in Jesus through the example of his Catholic teacher, and he began to see all the reasons he had wanted to be an actor — fame, money and pleasure — as empty and vain.

He said the media portrayal of Hispanics in general demeaned both men and women, resembling nothing like the dignity and beauty of his mother and sisters in Mexico.

Verastegui said he discovered he had hurt people through his work, and the messages in his movies were "poisoning society."

"It broke my heart," he said. "I realized I had offended God" and spent "many months in tears."

Verastegui sold his possessions, wondering if God was calling him to be a priest, perhaps in the jungles of South America. His spiritual adviser, however, told him: "Hollywood is a bigger jungle."

He vowed to refuse parts unless they affirmed life and human dignity. For three years, he went without work, because all the parts offered him involved the "same negative stereotypes."

"We are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful," Verastegui said. "I wasn't born to be famous, or rich; I was born to know and love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Then in 2004 he met movie producer Leo Severino while attending daily Mass.

Severino returned to Catholicism in 1999 while reading Christian apologetics. He began attending daily Mass and found younger Christians like himself were scarce in the mostly anti-religion world of Hollywood.

Then he noticed another young man at Mass. Severino said he soon discovered, "This guy's the Brad Pitt of Mexico."

Not long after their meeting, Verastegui and Severino co-founded Metanoia Films with the intention to produce movies that could change lives and hearts. "Bella," released in 2006, is Metanoia's first film.

It won the coveted People's Choice Award at last fall's Toronto Film Festival.

Severino said the media, especially film and television, are "shaping our culture." He said the movie "Million Dollar Baby" promoted euthanasia and "Cider House Rules" glorified abortion.

"Natural Born Killers" influenced the Virginia Tech shooter, he said.

"Art and morality go hand in hand," he said, urging young people to guard their eyes and ears and their innocence. "God does not use evil means," he said.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

SENIOR ACCOUNTING POSITION

The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for a senior accounting position. Responsibilities include management of a system conversion for 75 locations; analysis of accounting and financial reporting processes; development and implementation of new solutions to address current accounting issues; and certain monthly accounting functions. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a minimum of three years' related experience with extensive experience with accounting systems. EOE.

Resume and salary history should be emailed by May 31, 2007 to sgnell@charlottediocese.org or mailed to: Controller, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC. 28203..

Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks an exceptional educational leader in curriculum design, research based instruction, professional development and accreditation. The successful candidate must possess current research knowledge, an understanding in all areas of responsibility and Catholic school leadership, exemplary communication and relational skills, and a minimum of a master's degree in education, curriculum or education administration. Additional information is available on the diocesan website, www.richmonddiocese.org. Please forward cover letter, resume and diocesan application to D.G. Mahanes, Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 811 Cathedral Place Richmond, Va. 23220 or e-mail dmahanes@richmonddiocese.org. Application deadline: May 30, 2007.

Director of Preschool

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Monroe seeks an energetic self-starter with strong administrative/teaching skills and experience. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic and available immediately. Bi-lingual in English/Spanish preferred. Please send resume to: Rev. James W. Cassidy, OSA, Our Lady of Lourdes, 725 Deese Street, Monroe, NC 28112. (Salary negotiable and commensurate with experience)

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

Confirmation Coordinator

St. Mark Catholic Church in Huntersville, NC is currently looking for a Confirmation Coordinator. This is a part-time position of 25 hours a week. An ideal candidate for this position would be a college graduate with a minimum of two years of experience working in education within a parish or school setting. The candidate should have strong organizational, communication and computer skills as well as exhibit a high threshold of energy and enthusiasm for youth and our Catholic faith. A strong catechetical background is preferred; a successful candidate must be willing to pursue further education through the diocesan certification program and/or an accredited Catholic college or university program. Resumes and inquiries can be forwarded to dsmith18@bellsouth.net.

Diocese of Richmond—Director for the Hispanic Apostolate

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a Director for the Hispanic Apostolate. The selected individual will collaborate with parishes and diocesan offices in the evangelization, formation and training of Hispanics. The Director also collaborates with the Office for Black Catholics and the Asian Community in order to assess and meet the needs of the community. Additional information regarding this opportunity is located on the diocesan website (www.richmonddiocese.org). Position is open until filled. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to dmahanes@richmonddiocese.org, or mail to D.G. Mahanes, Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 811 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an internal auditor. Responsibilities include performing internal audits at locations throughout western North Carolina; providing training for parishes, schools and financial councils; and assisting the finance office with financial projects. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field. A CPA or MBA would be a plus. They should also have a minimum of three years related experience, including two years in public accounting. EOE.

Resume and salary history should mailed by May 31, 2007 to:
CFO, Diocese of Charlotte,
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203.

Classifieds

HOUSEMATE

FREE ROOM/BOARD in Charlotte home for dependable female willing to care for 3 children (ages 9,8,7) Mon-Thurs 5pm-midnight, Sat 3:30pm-midnight while single Catholic mother works. Call Victoria 704-569-0711. JMJ

FOR RENT

LAKE LURE VACATION CABIN: Beautiful mountain setting inside Lake Lure city limits. New, spotless, spacious, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wrap-around deck. Spectacular views! Close to all area activities. Relax for weekend, week or more. Reasonable. Military discount. No Pets. 828-299-3714

CONDO: Myrtle Beach. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Available weeks of: 5/26, 6/9, 7/28. 336-924-2842.

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Asheville Catholic students compete in Declamation Contest

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Students at Asheville Catholic School celebrated National Poetry Month in April by participating in the school's annual Declamation Contest.

Three students from each class, including kindergarten students for the first time this year, were selected by their teachers to recite a poem by memory to students, faculty and parents April 26.

The Declamation Contest, which began in 1988, increases confidence in public speaking and promotes an interest in poetry. It is one of the school's many extracurricular activities, including Battle of the Books, science and math fairs and geography bees.

Before the contest, moderator and parent Julie Cogburn spoke about the difficulties of public speaking and how to overcome them.

Three judges selected final winners from each grade based on their presentation, interpretation, memorization, expression and stage presence. All students were given certificates of recognition.

First place winners were James Lopez, kindergarten; Bailey Cook, first grade; Annalise Mangone, second grade; Sarah Elizabeth Michalets, third grade; Emma Lenderman, fourth grade; Connor Dalton, fifth grade; Michael Tonner-Mintier, sixth-grade; Dylan Morris, seventh grade; and Samantha Goodman, eighth grade.

Also during the contest, outgoing parent-faculty association members received plants in gratitude for their service during the past school year.

Bishop McGuinness students participate in Special Olympics

BUDDIES, *from page 1*

adults with intellectual disabilities.

During the Spring Games, the Bishop McGuinness students worked with their athlete "buddies," accompanying them throughout the day and participating with them in various games and competitions, including alpine skiing, aquatics, basketball, bowling, floor hockey, golf, roller skating, soccer, softball and volleyball.

Melissa Plunkett, a senior at Bishop McGuinness, has participated in Special Olympics for four years.

"It is more that getting out of school. It makes you feel fortunate about what you have, and the best part of it is that every time you participate you walk away with a new friend," said Plunkett.

"We are blessed that Bishop McGuinness allows the students to participate in this event. It brings out the best in our students," said Maryann Tyrer, religion teacher and coordinator for Special Olympics at the school.

"It really is heartwarming to see them interact with the children," she said. "At first some of them participate just to receive service hours, but they keep coming back because it is such a rewarding experience."

This year, Bishop McGuiness students assisted Forsyth County Special Olympics in several other events, including basketball, swimming and bowling.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

Dynamic Parish Seeking Director of Faith Formation

St. Aloysius in Hickory, NC is seeking director of Faith Formation. The position will be open July 1. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a Bachelor's Degree in theology or similar discipline or have the equivalent experience. Send resume & references to: Search Committee c/o St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 2nd St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601 or staloysius@charter.net

Math skills benefit children's hospital

Courtesy Photo

Third-grader Joseph Mellone, pictured with teacher Lynn Ruff, was the top fundraiser in the recent Math-a-Thon at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte. The fundraiser, coordinated by Ruff, benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a pediatric treatment and research facility in Memphis, Tenn. The students collected pledges and completed math workbooks to raise a total of $11,078.45 in donations.

(Extended) family support

Alexandra Schaney
$17,000
SEVENTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS

Courtesy Photo

Third-grader Alexandra Shaney accepts a giant check from Lisa Roy (left), librarian at St. Mark School in Huntersville, and Principal Debbie Butler. The school recently held a fundraiser dinner for Alexandra, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

School assists family of student with cancer

HUNTERSVILLE — Faculty and staff at St. Mark School in Huntersville recently raised more than $17,000 to help an ill student.

The school hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser April 27 to benefit first-grader Alexandra Schaney and her family.

Alexandra is currently undergoing her second round of treatment for Neuroblastoma, the most common cancer in infancy and childhood. She and her mother travel back and forth for treatment at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

"The evening was an inspiring reminder of our school's devoted faith community," said Principal Debbie Butler.

More than 400 people came out to honor Alexandra, an adorable, bright-faced little girl with amazing energy and determination.

Alexandra has become an advocate for cancer research and awareness — she has held her own fundraisers by selling her toys to purchase new toys for a children's cancer center in Charlotte, has appeared on NBC's "The Today Show" and been a spokesperson in an ad for Ronald McDonald House.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

All weapons should be considered

Letters to the Editor

David Hains' column on gun control blew me away ("America, take control of yourself," April 20).

Mr. Hains really got it right this time when he says that this nation again needs to talk seriously about gun control. The issue, however, is bigger than controlling handguns on our streets and in our schools.

If we use the force of Scripture (you shall not kill) to argue against owning a handgun, then what do we do about our nation owning and using its vast arsenal of weapons of mass and tactical destruction?

As taxpayers and citizens, we own and sell weapons that are killing people and destroying property throughout the world every day. These weapons are much more lethal than any handguns because they have the capability of destroying the earth and all of God's people.

When are we going to use the "Catholics' trump card" of holy Scripture to talk seriously about our support of weaponry and warfare? The violence that we support at a national level eventually filters down to street level.

When we as a nation aggressively use guns to solve our problems, how can we expect our citizens to not use guns to solve their problems?

— Kenneth Schammel
Huntersville

Concerns over 'global warming'

It can't be true as to what some Catholics were saying about "global warming" in the April 28 teleconference ("To change a climate," May 4). If correct facts were checked, one would see that high CO2 levels occurred frequently in the past, and they always followed cyclic temperature spikes. They did not cause them.

Those at the teleconference did not mention that the sun has been the hottest its ever been over the past 1,000 years, that several other of our solar system's planets are seeing the same warming as Earth, that most of the people from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are bureaucrats and policymakers (and not climatologists), that the sun itself is actually a variable star, and that earth always recovers from events far worse than additional CO2.

And the actual temperature rise over the past 100 years is 0.8oC. Are we arrogant enough to believe that we, as humans, control our destiny without God?

They admit that God gave humankind the mandate to subdue and have dominion over the Earth, but all the reductions in pollutants and toxics seem to be ignored as well as moral implications. Government and private studies have shown that adherence to Kyoto would cost the United States $348 billion by 2012, and the destruction of 1.3 miliion jobs.

If any of these things come to fruition, may God have mercy on our souls.

— Kevin Roeten
Asheville

Our faith should guide our lives and our dealings with the material world. The way we interact with creation falls into that category.

However, there should not be a "Catholic way" to approach the issue of global warming. As far as I know, it is not scientifically proven and it has become a political matter that fits clearly within the agenda of a specific ideology.

Each Catholic individually can think of it freely as he or she chooses about the issue. I really do not think that this is a subject to be discussed in Catholic churches, journals or the like.

— Frank Carrillo
Charlotte

Military chaplains appreciated

Congratulations for the excellent article on priests training to be military chaplains ("Fathers on the front lines," May 4).

I was moved by their testimony. I am thankful to them for their generosity and courage. Certainly they are a key piece to help our military to sanctify its difficult work.

My gratitude to those in the military who generously risk their lives to defend all of us. They can count on my prayers.

— Marina Nunez
Winston-Salem

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

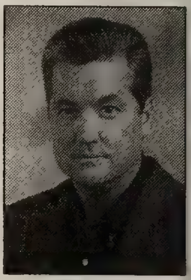
The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

A preacher passes

Remembering the rise and fall of Rev. Falwell

Catholics & the Media



DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

He stood at the podium in a ballroom that had been transformed into a press center. Rev. Jerry Falwell was about to meet the public to announce his takeover of PTL Ministries.

Falwell, who died this week at 73, spent a lot of time in the Carolinas in the late 1980s.

As a television reporter in Charlotte during that time, I frequently covered PTL and its founder, Rev. Jim Bakker. PTL, which stood for "Praise the Lord" — or depending on your viewpoint, "pass the loot" — was an evangelical television and resort empire located just over the state line in Fort Mill, S.C.

PTL and Rev. Bakker were the subjects of intrigue because even though he was a television star, Rev. Bakker was a secretive fellow who wasn't keen on snoopy reporters. He used the money he solicited in endless on-air appeals to build what is known in the religion business as "a tall steeple."

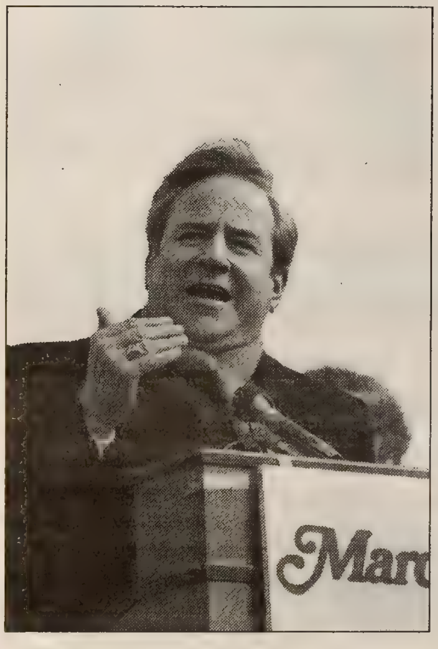
PTL included a hotel, indoor mall, campground, outdoor theater and a water park. His TV studio doubled as a church.

The immediate reason for Rev. Bakker's withdrawal from PTL in 1987 was because he admitted to having an affair with a church secretary. But it turned out Bakker had more pressing problems with a federal grand jury that was looking into his shell-game fundraising methods.

A trial jury would later send a tearful Rev. Bakker to prison for bilking millions from his followers.

Rev. Falwell came to the PTL resort as a kind of news media-anointed savior. In contrast to Rev. Bakker he lived modestly. As the founder of the Moral Majority, the political voice for fundamental Christianity in America, there seemed to be little he could not accomplish.

Rev. Bakker's spectacular fall from the pulpit was widely viewed as bad for the blossoming televangelism business.



CNS photo by Rick Reinhard

The Rev. Jerry Falwell is pictured during the 1985 March for Life in Washington. He died May 15 at Lynchburg General Hospital.

It was hoped that Rev. Falwell, who had a good track record for fundraising, could save PTL.

Rev. Falwell struck me as a resolute guy who answered the assembled reporters' questions with a refreshing lack of baloney. He was open and honest about the massive problems faced by PTL.

I recall his answer to a particular question about the possibility of Rev. Bakker somehow returning to PTL. He paused before answering, but then made it clear that there was no pastoral place for a fallen minister.

"I said to Jim, you need to hear this and you need to hear it from me, 'You aren't coming back to PTL, ever,'" said Rev. Falwell.

Rev. Bakker never returned. But despite Rev. Falwell's strong words and his publicity stunt of riding a water slide while wearing a suit to celebrate a fundraising goal, he couldn't save the corrupt ministry and PTL disappeared in the quagmire of bankruptcy.

And for his efforts, Rev. Falwell didn't get much. His own ministry/empire shrank considerably as a result of the loss of trust the collective audience demonstrated by diminished giving to the TV ministries.

Before he was a famous preacher, Rev. Falwell was a pastor who built a successful and large church in Lynchburg, Va., around his fundamentalist approach to Scripture. It is unfortunate that he gained his greatest notoriety not through his dedication as a pastor of a large flock but because of the inflammatory remarks he made when he became politically active.

In his later years, Rev. Falwell became a person who the media turned to when it was looking for an outrageous remark. He constantly berated homosexuals, made personal attacks on Bill and Hillary Clinton and declared that the Sept. 11 attacks were divine revenge for the mostly sexual ills of society.

Rev. Falwell's damnation statements won't be missed, except perhaps by some news organizations that, like the tall-steeple builders, are always on the lookout for a catchy slogan that says "pay attention to me."

Faith, be it Catholic or the Protestantism of the Christian right, means paying attention to something else.

David Hains is director of communication for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available on the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org.

Fighting 'the good fight'

Soul-searching thoughts for Memorial Day

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Instead of shopping, let's do something far more appropriate this Memorial Day.

Let's pray for those who lost their lives in battle. And let's imagine a world without war and what it would take to get there.

Why do presidents and congresses send young men and women to kill and be killed? Why do most Americans so easily accept their worn-out answers? And why can't we finally learn how to wage peace, instead of war?

For insight I turned to America's most famous anti-war veteran. For more than 45 years, Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan has been fighting the battle against war itself.

Armed with the weapons of faith, logic, dialogue and civil disobedience, Father Berrigan has been nonviolently waging — in the words of Scripture — "the good fight."

At 86, the soft-spoken Father Berrigan told me he still writes, gives retreats and regularly gets arrested.

Father Berrigan said that as a young Jesuit he met and worked with two giant Catholic figures of the 20th century: Dorothy Day and Trappist Father Thomas Merton. Their deep spiritually and uncompromising commitment to nonviolence had a lasting impact on his life.

His late brother, Josephite Father Philip Berrigan, also deeply influenced him. They were truly kindred spirits. After all, they were long known as the "Berrigan Brothers."

He said that in the mid-1960s Cardinal Francis Spellman, archbishop of New York, strongly backed American involvement in the Vietnam War. The cardinal said the Vietnam War was a just war. The Berrigan Brothers said, "No war is just."

Father Berrigan added, "I don't know how we can open the Gospel and wage war."

While Cardinal Spellman was flying to Vietnam aboard a U.S. bomber, Father Berrigan said he and his brother were protesting in front of New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral holding a banner that read "Thou Shall Not Bomb."

He said that as people passed by he and his brother handed out anti-war leaflets stained with their blood. "It is better to give blood than to take it," he added.

In true prophetic spirit, Father Berrigan has not only "talked the talk" but has "walked the walk." And he has paid a dear price for his convictions: years of imprisonment.

One of his most symbolic acts of civil disobedience was when he and eight other protesters used napalm to burn draft records in Catonsville, Md. He said they used napalm to highlight the fact that American warplanes were dropping napalm bombs on countless Vietnamese civilians.

Father Berrigan explained that napalm is made out of kerosene and soap chips. The soap chips allow burning kerosene to adhere to human skin. He said, "It's criminal to burn paper, but not criminal to burn children.

"What do we make of the Sermon on the Mount while all this is going on?" questioned Father Berrigan. "Jesus lived by nonviolence; he commanded us to love our enemies."

In light of Memorial Day Father Berrigan said, "We must honor the living — including vulnerable children and old people — as well as the dead. Let's stop shipping young men and women to Iraq and Afghanistan and bringing them back in body bags. Any sense of our faith and humanity would lead us to demand an end to the killing."

He summed it all up with these soul-searching questions: "Are we Christians who happen to be American? Or are we Americans who happen to be Christian?"

The very fate of our nation, not to mention our souls, hinges on our answer.

Sinful gossip

Exploring the characteristics of powerful, malicious talk

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Gossip: Everybody does it and everybody suffers from it.

Sometimes gossip is sinful, but in my experience hardly anyone ever confesses it. Maybe that is because it is so common. If we do something routinely, we stop reflecting on it.

A few years ago while preparing adult converts to receive holy Communion, we got into a discussion about whether it was better to receive Communion in the hand or on the tongue. One man said he thought we shouldn't receive Communion in the hand because of all the sins we commit with our hands.

Another responded immediately, "But what about all the harm we do with our tongues?" Good point.

We really can hurt people with sinful gossip. I'm not referring to small talk or harmless chit chat. Such talk may not be beneficial, but it does little damage.

It is ordinary conversation. Simple observations can be made: "She's lost weight"; "he has been sick a long time"; or "their house has been on the market for 10 months." This is hardly sinful.

When does talk become sinful gossip?

It seems to me that it has four characteristics:

1. Sinful gossip is merely idle talk. It serves no good purpose. It advances no good cause.

We are talking about things that we cannot change or affect in any way.

It is not sinful gossip for a doctor to talk to a nurse about a patient's sexually transmitted disease. It has a constructive purpose. It can advance a cure.

It is sinful gossip for the same doctor or nurse to talk to their husband or wife about that same patient. That conversation does nothing for the patient except tear the person down and cause harm to his or her reputation.

2. Gossip is malicious talk. Malicious talk serves an evil purpose. It is designed to harm the person we are talking about.

The reason we want to share that information is to degrade the reputation of another. Often we do this to make ourselves feel superior.

Truth is no defense when it comes to gossip. Even when the information is true it can be malicious. Christians are held to a higher standard than newspapers. Just because a newspaper prints it does not mean that we should gossip about it.

There are very few things more valuable to a person than a good name. Once information is broadcast we cannot get it back in the corral. We do not know how it might be used.

When we repeat something bad, to no purpose, we add to the harm.

A good test for malicious talk is our own feelings. How would I feel if something about me was repeated to others? Could I recover?

3. Gossip is about the private lives of others. We do not have a right to delve into lives of famous people.

Even politicians and celebrities should have a zone of privacy. Just because something is on the front page does not mean a Christian should talk about it. The supermarket tabloids titillate, but they do not elevate.

4. Gossip degrades the speaker. When we listen to someone gossip, we want to move away.

We know that this kind of talk is designed to destroy. We know that the speaker will come after us next.

Christian speech should lift us up and encourage us. It should appeal to our better angels and noble thoughts. It should be a sign of grace.

Our tongue is a powerful instrument. It can be used to build up in grace or tear down in gossip.

Finding community

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

Where do you find community? When we answer that question it tells us a lot about who we are and what we value.

Catholicism is essentially a communal religion. Sometimes we find ourselves in big, impersonal congregations where we barely know each other. We think of our faith as a private matter, when in fact the essence of Christianity is based on community.

"Spirituality is not a private search for what is highest in oneself but a communal search for the face of God," says Father Ronald Rolheiser in "The Holy Longing."

Father Rolheiser's quote brings to mind the story of the blind men describing an elephant. How much more clearly we can see the face of God when we share our experience of God with others.

The focus of our parish mission this year was Eucharist. The speaker emphasized that Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith, is about breaking bread together, becoming Christ for each other, leaving the church to carry Christ to others.

Community, this priest said, is established as soon as someone walks in the front door and feels welcomed.

On the mission's first day, as we shared coffee and doughnuts, the priest asked for questions.

"I really dislike it," one woman proclaimed, "when people start talking to each other as they leave their pews after Mass. Why can't they wait to chat until they get to the foyer? The church is God's house."

I know the woman meant well, and I agree with her that the sanctuary is sacred space. But would the God who loves us not be part of the celebrating of the community as they burst forth into the world?

I love the fact that our parish is comprised of people who know and care for each other, and as they spill out of the pews they begin to greet each other, ask about a parent who is ill or about who won the Friday night football game.

We've all had the misfortune to be in the midst of sullen churchgoers pushing toward the front door of the church so they can get on with their lives. The contrast with a church where community is building is stark.

Community requires effort and an expenditure of time. Over the years, our parish elementary school provided community for me as my children attended and I volunteered. I have also found community in parish committees, especially the one for which I take holy Communion to the homebound.

When worship at my parish seems dull and brittle, I need to ask if I am making the effort to form community or just going through the motions.

Symbols of hope

Catholic life in tornado-hit town slowly getting back on its feet

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

GREENSBURG, Kan. — Although St. Joseph Church in Greensburg was destroyed in the May 4 tornado, its cross is reportedly the only cross left standing in the shattered town, and its bell is still rung daily at noon and 6 p.m.

But the rubble that was once St. Joseph Church was cleared from the lot May 11 by a work crew that included parishioners from Greensburg and Sacred Heart in nearby Pratt, as well as members of the Knights of Columbus.

> "Everyone has a story of survival, helplessness, humbleness and happiness in being alive."
>
> — Billy Baalman
> Knights of Columbus
> Aid Foundation

The cross and the bell, which are all that remain, are seen as symbols of hope.

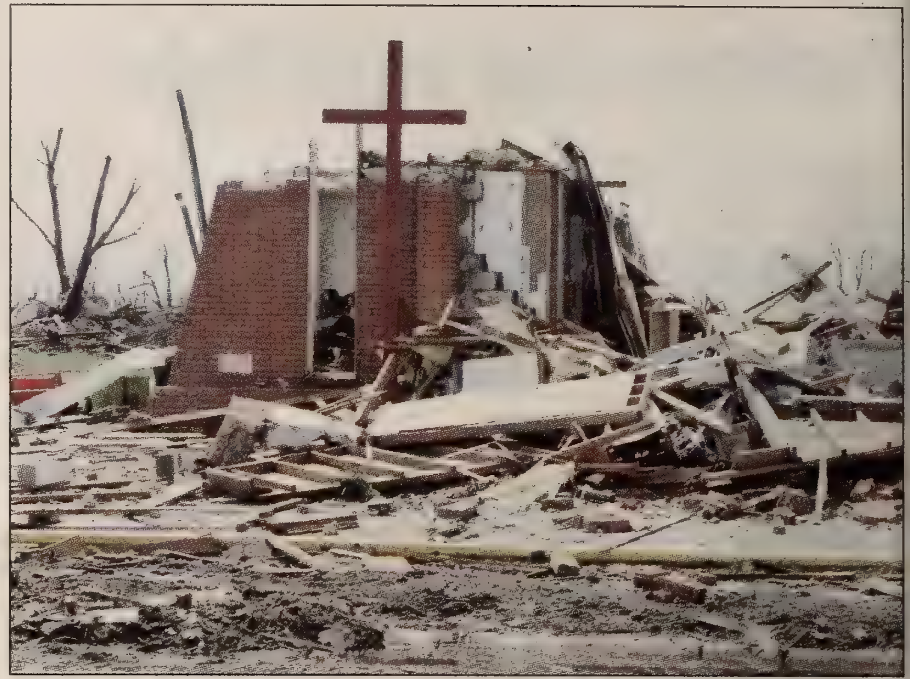
Plans are now under way to provide a structure that will serve the parishioners and the community as a church.

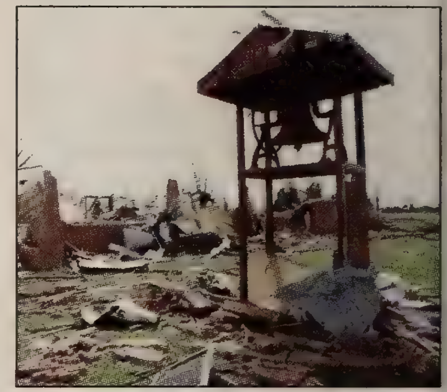
"We are committed to St. Joseph Parish and have made arrangements to purchase a modular building to serve as a temporary worship space until more permanent building plans are established," said Dan Stremel, director of finance for the Diocese of Dodge City.

"The timetable for this is 'as soon as possible,'" Stremel added. "This will be dependent upon utilities and other infrastructure issues that may take some months to re-establish."

"Having this time will allow us to attempt to address the real needs of the parish, that is, the people whose lives have been disrupted and where we will focus much of our attention in the weeks ahead," he said.

Father Robert Schremmer, vicar general for the diocese, has been in contact with leaders from other denominations in Greensburg and has offered the use of the modular structure for their congregations as well.





CNS PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SCHWEITZER, DODGE CITY DAILY GLOBE

The cross (above) and memorial bell (below) of St. Joseph Church stand amid rubble May 7 in the aftermath of a tornado that swept through Greensburg, Kan., May 4. The F5 tornado was the most powerful to hit the U.S. in eight years. Greensburg was about 95 percent destroyed.

The Catholic Church Extension Society has offered to assist with the $55,000 cost of the modular building. Individuals, parishes and dioceses throughout the country have called with offers of money, manpower, equipment and vehicles.

Quoting Richard Ritter, vice president of Catholic Extension, communication director Mark Andel said, "That's what we're here for. We are just really concerned about the people there and hoping they can pull together and take comfort in God and know that God is still with them."

Nearly 30 members of the Knights of Columbus canvassed Greensburg May 9 handing out $100 vouchers for food, clothing and medicine to the residents who lost their homes in the tornado.

The Knights helped 381 families in Greensburg and another 60 families in surrounding communities affected by the May 4 storm, according to Bill Baalman, president of the Knights Charities Aid Foundation.

The funds were made possible by the Knights' emergency disaster aid program.

The Knights spent five hours in Greensburg covering 80 square blocks. They canvassed the town in teams of two handing out vouchers to be used at the Wal-Mart store in Pratt.

"Several people commented that they were Methodist, Baptist, Mennonite and others, and wanted to know if we would still help them," Baalman said. "Our answer to them was that we are all in life together trying to get to the same goal."

"When people are suffering it doesn't matter what religion, if any, they are. They still need our help and prayers," he said.

"Everyone had a story of survival, helplessness, humbleness and happiness in being alive as well as expressing sorrow for those who were injured or lost their lives," he added. "Many came to tears while telling their stories and were comforted by the Knights passing out vouchers. I wish everyone in Greensburg would write their own experience because what I heard from them, there are 1,500-plus people with 1,500-plus stories, each a little different, but all amazing," said Baalman.

Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore, in his column in the diocesan newspaper, the Southwest Kansas Register, recounted his May 10 visit to Greensburg to comfort the twister's victims.

"They were hurt, of course. They were struggling to absorb what they had lived through that dark night. They were struggling to give voice to their experience. They were overwhelmed by the scale of the problem before them," Bishop Gilmore said.

"For their homes were gone. Their church was gone. Their town was gone, quite literally gone. Days and weeks of uncertainty stretch out before them," he continued.

"Months and years of rebuilding stretch out before them. Anxieties piled up around them on that afternoon as the debris piled up all around them, and all around their town," said the bishop.

"But they were not glum. They were not paralyzed. They mocked the fierce storm in their conversation, they almost dared it to come back," he said. "They laughed at it through their anxieties and through their tears. They were down-to-earth, heart-on-sleeve, human about it all."

Bishop Gilmore added, "I am proud to be in the same church with them. I am proud to be their bishop" because their suffering invited others "to suffer with them. That communion in suffering makes all of us more human, and more divine: more like Christ, who had compassion on the crowds."

Contributing to this story was David Myers.

NO RISK to hold space — FULL refund before July 31st!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL

January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with
Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today – FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JUNE 1, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 31

Perspectives
David Hains examines fear mongering; Father Peter Daly reveals the season of happiness
| PAGES 14-15

To welcome the strangers

Bishop Wenski testifies on immigration reform before House panel

BY ANDREA SLIVKA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The problem that must be solved by immigration reform "is not the immigrants" but "the broken system," the former chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration told a House subcommittee.

In testimony May 22 before the House Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., urged lawmakers to produce legislation that would reform the current immigration system and respect the dignity and rights of immigrants and

See REFORM, page 6

Protecting God's children

Successes, challenges mark fifth anniversary of sex abuse charter

BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Five years after the U.S. bishops passed their landmark policies to prevent child sex abuse, they can look back at successes in institutionalizing safeguards and look ahead to challenges in restoring church credibility.

But the basic question is: Are children safer now?

See CHARTER, page 13

The golden age of priesthood

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop William G. Curlin delivers the homily during the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 27. Also pictured are Father Ed Sheridan, Deacon Patrick Toole, Father Brian Cook, Father Larry LoMonaco and Deacon Guy Piche.

Bishop Emeritus William. G. Curlin celebrates 50th anniversary

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A half-century after he was ordained as a priest, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin still burns with a fiery love of the Catholic faith.

"Find an intimate relationship with the Lord ... when you do that, you see Christ all around you," said Bishop Curlin in a May 22 interview for docPod, the bi-weekly podcast produced by David Hains, diocesan director of communications.

Bishop Curlin commemorated his golden jubilee — 50 years as a Catholic priest, auxiliary bishop and bishop — with a Mass and reception for 800 people at

See CURLIN, page 9

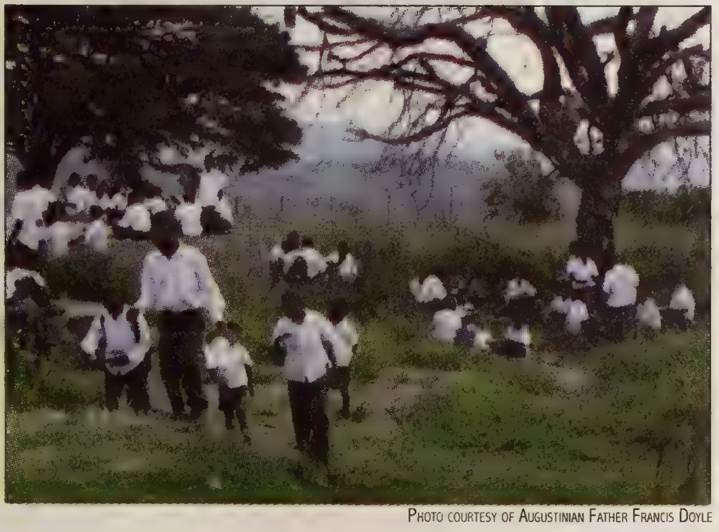


PHOTO COURTESY OF AUGUSTINIAN FATHER FRANCIS DOYLE

Students eat lunch on the grounds of St. Leo's School in South Africa, where Augustinian Father Francis Doyle will serve as a missionary.

Toward a foreign land

Father Doyle to become missionary in Africa

BY JOANITA M.
NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — Invitations — you never know where they're going to lead.

For Augustinian Father Francis Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley, it's to Africa.

At the end of July, the 63-year-old priest plans to leave North Carolina to become a missionary to the Zulu people in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

In 1997, Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus invited Augustinian friars worldwide to establish a friary to help them in South Africa. Three provinces accepted: the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, headquartered in Philadelphia, Penn.; and the English and Irish provinces.

"At that time, I was beginning my sabbatical,"

See AFRICA, page 5

#BXHPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese
Parishioners celebrate Pentecost, examine stem-cell research
| PAGE 4

Youths in Action
Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts earn awards, recognition
| PAGE 8

Culture Watch
Author pursues apostles; pope blasts media violence
| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

BIRTHDAY WISHES

CNS photo by Chaz Muth, Catholic Review

Anne Morrissey is shown at her residence in Libertytown, Md., holding a rosary blessed by the late Pope John Paul II. Morrissey celebrated her 103rd birthday May 13 and asked family, friends and well-wishers to donate money they would have spent on gifts to the restoration fund for her parish of 71 years, St. Peter the Apostle in Libertytown.

For her 103rd birthday, woman asks for presents for her church

LIBERTYTOWN, Md. (CNS) — Before Anne Morrissey celebrated her 103rd birthday May 13, she said didn't want presents for herself.

Instead, she asked family, friends and well-wishers to make donations to the restoration fund of her beloved parish for the past 71 years, St. Peter the Apostle in Libertytown.

The feisty centenarian with the slight Irish brogue said the church needs the money more than ever to rebuild, following a devastating June 2004 fire, and she was happy to forgo birthday gifts to help complete construction before she turns 104.

"I have everything I need," she said, "except being able to worship in my church."

It looks like Morrissey got her wish even without having to blow out any birthday candles. While she had a quiet celebration on her birthday, including a small lunch at the home of a grandson, St. Peter the Apostle rectory worker Liz Hunter said at least $1,165 had been contributed in Morrissey's name through May 14. Hunter added that the figure may rise.

Though Morrissey is content attending Mass in the parish center for the time being, she would like to see parish life return to normal, and the sooner the better.

A tireless fundraiser for the parish, the Irish-born mother of two, grandmother of 11, great-grandmother of 23 — and great-great-grandmother of four — is unrelenting when it comes to supporting her parish.

The oldest living parishioner of St. Peter the Apostle, she continues to sell more tickets for the church's annual quilt raffle than anyone else — usually more than 1,000 chances — making her the quintessential fundraiser for her place of worship.

"She doesn't let anyone get out of here without buying several tickets each year," said Madeline Stevens, the 77-year-old daughter with whom Morrissey lives. "People don't say no to her."

Over the years she attended scores of special occasions at the church, which included the weddings of both of her daughters plus the baptisms, first Communions and confirmations of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"I'm definitely invested in this parish," she said. "When I was in my 80s, they allowed me to crown the Blessed Mother on my birthday. In that fire, that Blessed Mother wasn't hurt. She was just covered in soot."

Stevens is amazed to see her mother so vibrant, given her age. Morrissey's parents didn't expect the eighth of their 11 children to even reach her first birthday.

"I got the measles when I was a baby and my uncle told my parents I wasn't going to survive," Morrissey said. "I guess I was a little heartier than he expected me to be."

Report, summit on children's welfare highlight familiar problem

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., hosted a national summit on child welfare May 22, she shined a light on a problem that is all too familiar to Catholic Charities USA officials.

"The numbers are moving in the wrong direction," said Desmond Brown, health and welfare policy director at Catholic Charities USA, about a new National Center for Children in Poverty report that said 42 percent of U.S. children under the age of 6 — roughly 10 million — are vulnerable to poor health and substandard education, largely as a result of poverty and economic hardships.

"We have gathered today to begin what will be a long-term conversation, and to signal our deep commitment to caring for our children and creating a prosperous future for them and for our entire nation," Pelosi said at the summit in Washington, attended by academic and policy leaders who spoke about early childhood development in the U.S.

Catholic Charities agencies, which serve some 7 million clients annually, largely from poor working families, "are on the front lines — day to day" in the battle against poverty, according to Shelley Borysiewicz, media relations manager at Catholic Charities USA.

The National Center for Children in Poverty report found that access to quality health care, early learning opportunities and family economic support vary widely. While most states have maintained or increased health care eligibility since 2001, 33 states have decreased eligibility for child care subsidies.

Though the 2007 poverty level for a family of three is $17,000, the report estimated that it would take twice that amount to provide basic necessities.

Catholic Charities USA had set a goal of cutting poverty in half by 2020, calling for strengthening of the nation's nutrition safety net, enactment of universal health insurance coverage and other policy changes.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will present *"Seeking the Heart of God"* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Thursdays through June 28, 7-9 p.m. This lecture series deals with understanding the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Each participant will need a copy of St. Teresa's "Interior Castle." For more information, please contact Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext.4.

CHARLOTTE — *Theology on Tap*, a dynamic speaker series designed to provide young adults in their 20s and 30s with the opportunity to discover more about their faith in a relaxed open environment, will conclude June 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Fuel Pizza in Park Road Shopping Center. On tap June 5: "To Know Jesus Christ" with Father Jim Hawker. These interactive events will explore the issues and challenges that Catholic young adults face in the 21st century.

For more information, contact Catrina at (704) 533-2124 or c_l_conway@hotmail.com or visit www.compass-catholic.com.

CHARLOTTE — The next *Blood Give-In Sunday* at St. Matthew Church is June 10, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., in the family room of the Parish Center, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Donors will be required to provide identification, such as a driver's license or Red Cross blood donor card. Sign up table is in the narthex May 26-27 and June 2-3. Appointments are encouraged and will be honored. Walk-ins are welcome, but will be taken as time permits. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — The *Vietnamese Cursillo of Charlotte School of Leaders* meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — The *Happy Timers of St. Ann Church* meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. The group will discuss the Gospel of Luke. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — The family life committee of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE, hosts a *Scrapbooking Night* on the second Friday of every month, 6 p.m.-12 a.m. Looking back through our family photo albums can be a form of prayer as we

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JUNE 1, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 31

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue to get its own leader

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, which has shared a president with the Pontifical Council for Culture for more than a year, will get its own leader shortly, the Vatican secretary of state said.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, speaking May 26 at a conference on interreligious dialogue in Vercelli, Italy, said, "the change demonstrates the importance of interreligious dialogue" for the Catholic Church.

The Vatican press office confirmed Cardinal Bertone's remarks but said it had no information on when Pope Benedict XVI would name the new president.

Since March 2006, French Cardinal Paul Poupard, 76, has led both the Pontifical Council for Culture and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The Vatican said at the time that the joint presidency would be temporary.

Still, many people involved in interreligious dialogue saw the move as a downgrading of the council's importance or as a shift in emphasis from focusing on the faith and practice of the Catholic Church's dialogue partners to focusing on their contributions to local culture and on fostering joint cultural projects.

Italian newspapers also reported that Cardinal Bertone said the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church would become part of the Pontifical Council for Culture, but the Vatican press office would not confirm the statement.

In early May, Pope Benedict named Benedictine Abbot Christopher M. Zielinski of Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey in Pecos, N.M., to be vice president of the commission.

give thanks for the blessings the Lord has provided for us. Adding scripture and prayers to your family albums is a great way to evangelize to your family and children. For more information, call the office at (828) 327-4558.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

FRANKLIN — The *Respect for Life* group meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WAYNESVILLE — *The Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., will meet June 11 at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

WINSTON-SALEM — *The Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date (Fridays). Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 2 — 10 a.m.
Ordination to Sacred Priesthood
St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

June 3 — 11 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Angels Church, Marion

June 4 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Therese Church, Mooresville

June 5 — 5 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School

June 6 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

June 9 — 6 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. Margaret of Scotland Church,
Maggie Valley

June 10 — 1 p.m.
Installation of new pastor
Father José Enrique Gonzalez Gaytán
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

June 11-12
Colloquium of Priests
Asheville

June 13 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville

Pope: Catholics must bring Gospel to world debased by poverty, abuses

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The primary task of every Catholic is to bring the Gospel message to a world debased by poverty, violence and human rights abuses, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Through its missionary action, the pope said, the church can "guide and evangelize cultural, social and ethical transformations and offer Christ's salvation to modern humankind, debased and oppressed in so many parts of the world because of endemic poverty, violence and the systematic denial of human rights."

While renewed efforts for evangelization have proven fruitful, there is "still more to be done to answer the missionary call the Lord tirelessly makes to every baptized person," he said in his message for World Mission Sunday 2007.

The Vatican released this year's message May 29, ahead of World Mission Sunday, to be celebrated Oct. 21 in most dioceses.

Addressing this year's theme, "All the Churches for All the World," the pope focused on the need for every local church to breathe new life into its missionary mandate.

Bringing Christ's saving power to all people "truly involves everyone," he said.

Individual Catholics must see themselves not as simple "collaborators" in the church's evangelizing mission, but as being "protagonists" and jointly responsible for carrying it out, the pope said.

He said every local diocese on every continent needs to be aware of the "urgent need to relaunch missionary activity to meet the many serious challenges of our time."

Pope Benedict said increased secularization has had an impact on the established churches in the West.

Low birthrates, declining numbers of vocations and an increasingly older clergy put the established churches at "risk of closing in on themselves, of looking to the future with less hope and of lessening their missionary efforts," he said.

But the pope said God never abandons his people, who must recognize that this is the moment "to open with confidence to God's providence" and trust that through the Holy Spirit, God will guide them toward the fulfillment of his eternal plan, the salvation of humanity.

Have tractor, will pull

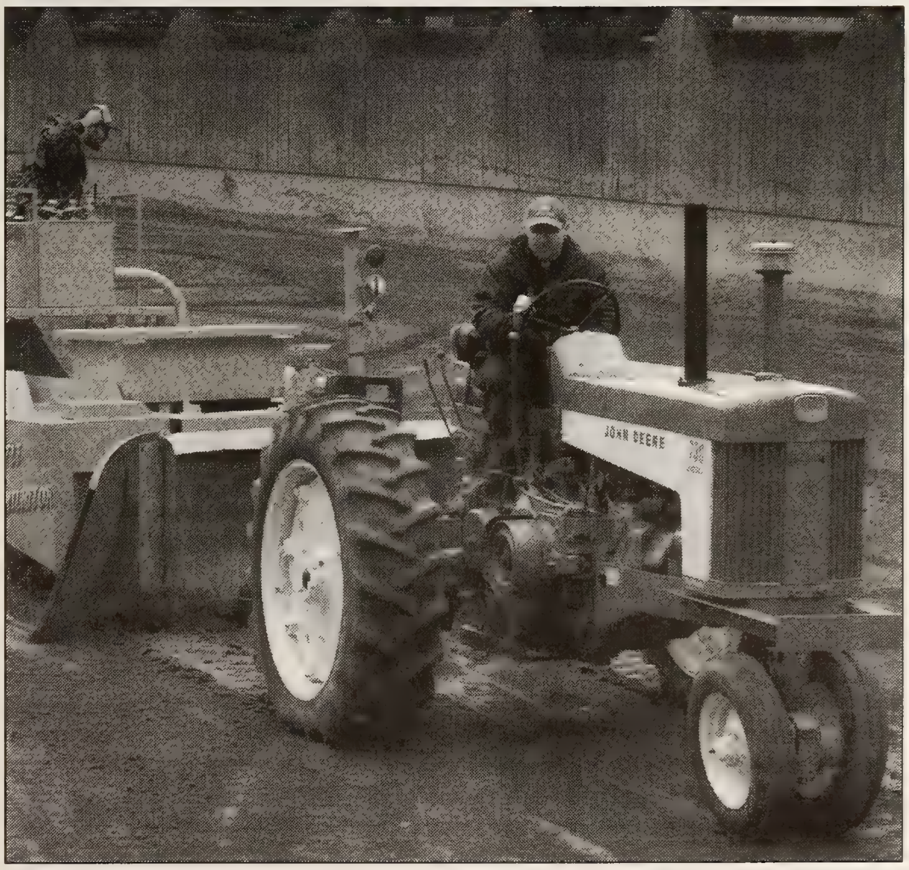


Photo by Cori Fugere Urban, Vermont Catholic Tribune

Iowa native Father Daniel Rupp drives a 1960 John Deere 730 diesel tractor during a tractor-pull contest May 27 at the Orleans County Fairgrounds in Barton, Vt. The pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church in Barton garnered second place in the 9,000-pound antique category by hauling an orange weighted sled 156 feet 6 inches. Profits from the contest were donated to St. Paul School.

REMINDER TO OUR READERS

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD HAS BEGUN ITS BI-WEEKLY PUBLISHING SCHEDULE FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST. AS SUCH, THERE WILL BE NO ISSUE NEXT FRIDAY, JUNE 8. OUR NEXT ISSUE WILL BE FRIDAY, JUNE 15.

Dispelling myths of stem-cell research

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Dozens of people recently spent a Saturday morning learning the myths and facts about stem-cell research and cloning.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, spoke at St. Peter Church in Charlotte May 12.

"It was a very enlightening seminar with regard to science versus moral issues," said Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Father Pacholczyk dispelled some of the common misconceptions regarding stem-cell research, such as the Catholic Church opposes all stem-cell research. In fact, the church encourages the research, provided human embryos are not destroyed. This includes cells obtained from the nostril, skeletal muscles and umbilical cords. Of the 10 stem-cell research methods currently in use, the church approves of nine.

Another fallacy is that every embryo will be useful for providing stem cells. It is often necessary to destroy 15 or 20 embryos before successfully getting one embryonic stem cell line.

"An embryo is a human being ... not some other kind of animal," said Father Pacholczyk.

"Every Catholic should be aware of this issue," said Villapando. "It is one of four elements impacting the American moral landscape, along with war and conflict, business ethics and end-of-life issues."

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk speaks about stem-cell research at St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

One church on Pentecost

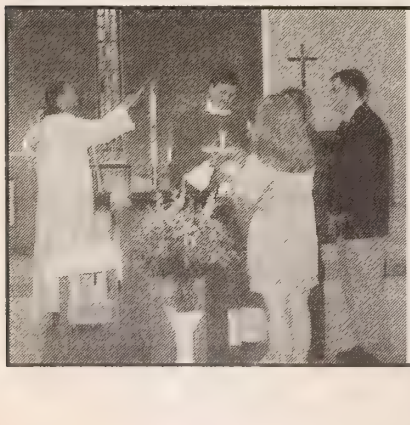
PHOTOS BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro celebrate the feast of Pentecost May 27 with Mass and a lunch afterward (above). The feast marks the occasion of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles 50 days after Christ's resurrection. Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the church because, from that point on, the apostles carried forth the message of Christ to the world.

"The church is one," just as the community gathered on the day of Pentecost was one, said Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square May 27.

Reading the biblical account of Pentecost is a reminder that "the church is holy, not on its own merits, but because, animated by the Holy Spirit, it keeps its gaze fixed on Christ in order to conform itself to him and his love," he said.

Also pictured is the setting sun shining through stained glass windows onto the wall at the end of Mass in St. Paul the Apostle Church (right), as if symbolizing the arrival of the Holy Spirit.



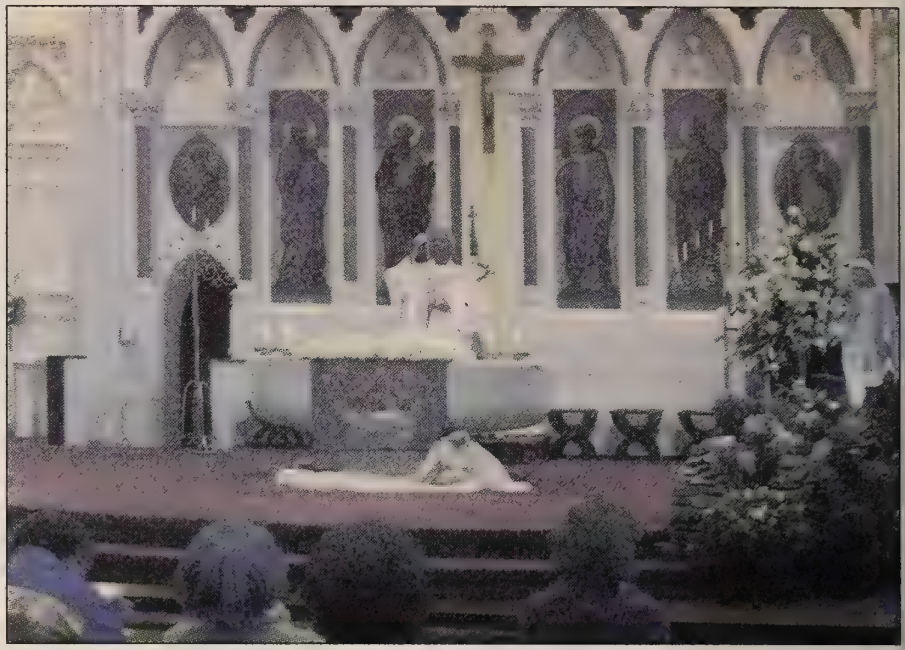
Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Knocking on holy doors



COURTESY PHOTO BY RICHARD FEERICK

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrates Mass May 10 at the old church of Our Lady of Knock Shrine, north of Galway, Ireland, during a diocesan-sponsored pilgrimage. Ireland's national Marian shrine is where 15 people witnessed the apparition of Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist on the gable of the church in the western village of Knock on Aug. 21, 1879.

Testimonies taken from witnesses by two separate official church commissions were considered "trustworthy and satisfactory." Pope John Paul II visited Knock in 1979 during his visit to Ireland.

The holy site was just one of many visited by the group of 21 pilgrims of the Diocese of Charlotte, who toured several significant sites and learned of the Irish traditions that are integral parts of the Catholic faith.

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites • **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Father Doyle to become a missionary in Africa

AFRICA, *from page 1*

Father Doyle said. "In my prayer I included: 'Could God be calling me to be a missionary?'"

He'd never considered this before, and in any event he didn't feel ready for such a drastic change.

A native Philadelphian, Father Doyle entered the Order of Saint Augustine in the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in 1962 and was ordained a priest in 1970.

He has served as his province's director of novices, as formation director at Augustinian College in Washington, D.C., on the staff of the Christian Institute for the Study of Human Sexuality, and as pastor of parishes in the Northeast.

"Then the invitation came from our province to begin a community here in Maggie Valley, and I have been extremely happy here," he said.

Then-Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte "welcomed our charism, our spirituality, to the diocese," Father Doyle said.

It's a charism of "hospitality expressed in community life."

On Sept. 14, 1998, Father Doyle came to Maggie Valley with Augustinian Father Terrance Hyland and Augustinian Brother and Deacon William Harkin to begin ministering in Haywood County.

While serving as pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Father Doyle has also been a spiritual director and retreat leader at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center. He has served as chairman of the Haywood County Domestic Violence Task Force and as a board member of REACH of Haywood County, a nonprofit agency working with domestic-violence victims.

In January 2006 Father Doyle visited the South African mission for 10 days.

"While I was there I felt this very strong urge to consider going there as a missionary," he said. I saw the "violence against women and children, the tremendous suffering of people with HIV/AIDS, and the tremendous spirit of the friars and sisters there."

Was God calling him to go — or to stay in Maggie Valley?

"I came home and made the discernment of that a primary focus of my prayer," he said. "I prayed for the grace to be open to what God would ask of me and to give me the strength to do it. At the time, I didn't feel called to leave Maggie Valley. The call might have been to stay in Maggie Valley."

He invited others to help him discern.

"I shared this with my provincial, Father Donald Reilly," Father Doyle said. "He was open to my going there, but he wanted me to go for four to six weeks to experience more of the mission. I went Jan. 15 (2007) for six weeks."

PHOTO COURTESY OF FATHER FRANCIS J. DOYLE

People walk to St. Helen Mission in Southern Africa where they will attend Mass. The building is not a church, though the people hope to raise money to build a church.

Being evangelized

While there, Father Doyle met Cardinal Wilfred F. Napier, a Franciscan who is cardinal archbishop of the Archdiocese of Durban, South Africa. He also met members of the Durban deanery (vicariate) and attended clergy education days in preparation for the diocese's synod, held every five years. The synod will be held in September; its theme is "Evangelization."

"One of the major points of the education days was that as priests we think of ourselves as doing the work of evangelization, but we are sometimes weak in being evangelized — by prayer, Scriptures and the people we serve," Father Doyle said.

"One of the reasons God has me going is to be evangelized by the church of South Africa, evangelized by the poor," he said. "I will be taught by the simplicity of the Gospel as it's lived by the poor, and also by the (Augustinian) volunteers who are living in our community."

About 80 percent of adult Zulus are unemployed. Father Doyle believes that the poor will teach him "to simplify, to be challenged as to what really is necessary, what really is important."

South Africa is located on the southern tip of the African continent, on the Atlantic and Indian oceans. The province of KwaZulu-Natal (Land of the Zulu) is on the country's eastern coast.

Father Doyle will be prior (head) of St. Rita's Friary at Botha's Hill in the Valley of 1000 Hills, where he'll live with two other Augustinian friars.

"I'm very committed to community life, and I want to assist the friars and sisters with the expression and development of community life," he said.

The friary compound also includes housing for the Augustinian Volunteers, Jacob's Well retreat house, a hospital, St. Leo's School, and a convent of the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus, who staff Jacob's Well and the hospital.

The school, where Father Doyle will teach English and help raise funds, has 440 kindergarten-through-eighth-grade students, many of whom walk barefoot as much as three hours to class and three hours home each day.

About 130 of the children are orphans, who live with family members or with other local families. Their parents died of AIDS, and some of the children are HIV positive.

Father Doyle will supervise the Augustinian Volunteers — four American college graduates who are giving one to two years to teach English at the school, work in hospices for the dying and at St. Theresa's Orphanage, which the sisters staff in Durban, about 30 minutes from Botha's Hill.

In addition, he'll provide spiritual direction at Jacob's Well.

After a tutor teaches him Zulu so that he can celebrate Mass, Father Doyle will regularly visit the Augustinian missionaries' three outstations (mission parishes). For the other two parishes, Father Doyle will prepare the homilies, which will be translated into Zulu before Mass, then read by a layperson.

He feels that his work with domestic-violence victims in Haywood County will help him in ministering to victims of this kind of violence in South Africa.

What will enable him to do all this, Father Doyle said, is God's grace — the grace to let go of the familiar, to let go of material things, to freely respond to what God is calling him to do.

"God's will," he said, "is for all of us to be happy and fulfilled, and to use our gifts for building up the kingdom of God."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD *at Irving Park*

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

Visions in Faith

Sunday, June 17 – Wednesday, June 20

Father Richard Sparks

Father Sparks is a Paulist priest who writes and teaches ethics and pastors at Holy Spirit Parish/Newman Hall in Berkeley, California. He successfully bridges practical pastoral needs with serious theological reflection.

For more information, contact The Oratory.

Bishop Wenski testifies on immigration reform before House panel

REFORM, *from page 1*

migrant workers.

He spoke on behalf of the U.S. bishops about comprehensive immigration reform, joining representatives of other religious denominations in giving testimony to the subcommittee.

Before the hearing, Bishop Wenski told Catholic News Service that one of the most important aspects of immigration reform is to ensure that policies would help unite families and not divide them.

He expressed concern in his testimony that the current Senate bill would separate families by replacing the family preference system with a merit-based system and by capping the number of visas for parents of U.S. citizens.

"From the church perspective, a family member from Central America, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean or elsewhere could well offer the country as much as a computer software engineer," he said. "We should not abandon family unity as the cornerstone of our immigration system."

He also encouraged lawmakers to reconsider the temporary worker program, the reconfiguration of the legal immigrant system and the legalization program in the Senate bill.

On May 23, senators passed an amendment to the bill to reduce the number of temporary workers from 400,000 to 200,000.

Bishop Wenski said the temporary worker program would create an "underclass of workers in our society who are easily exploitable and without full rights and privileges in the society."

In addition, the bishops believe requiring workers to return home for a full year every two years could encourage some to remain illegally.

Instead of the temporary worker program, Bishop Wenski proposed elements of a "new worker visa program" agreed on by both U.S. and Mexican bishops as ways to safeguard the rights of migrant workers.

Bishop Wenski said a new worker program should require migrant workers to be given the same wage levels, benefits and worker protections that other workers are granted.

He also said the workers should be able to sue in federal court for violation of their rights and should be able to earn permanent residency over time.

As part of comprehensive immigration reform, the bishops also believe an earned legalization program for the 12 million undocumented workers is necessary and would benefit national security by creating an opportunity to identify those living in the country illegally.

On the West Coast, the church also is taking action to encourage lawmakers to support fair and just immigration reform.

On May 29, Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Wang of San Francisco and Auxiliary Bishop Oscar A. Solis of Los Angeles were to deliver 45,000 petitions to the California offices of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., in addition to 5,000 petitions previously delivered to the senator.

Before the hearing, Bishop Wenski dismissed the idea that the church is involved in the immigration debate to gain more members, as political pundit Bill O'Reilly had suggested in light of the fact that many Hispanics are Catholic.

"We're involved in this issue because it touches human lives and that's what the church cares about — human beings and their souls," the bishop said.

The church has a strong interest in the current immigration debate because of its history of assisting immigrants and its social teaching, Bishop Wenski said.

"As providers of pastoral and social services to immigrants throughout the nation, we in the Catholic Church witness the human consequences of a broken immigration system every day in our parishes, social service programs, hospitals and schools," he said.

The church sees divided families and exploited workers under the current system, he added.

In the past 100 years, the Catholic Church has developed a body of teachings on migration, the bishop said.

"Pope John Paul II stated that there is a need to balance the rights of nations to control their borders with basic human rights, including the right to work," Bishop Wenski testified.

At the end of the hearing, members of the subcommittee acknowledged that faith communities have a role to play in the debate because of the close ties between churches and immigrants.

"For me it is very important to hear from the faith community as we go through this debate," said Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minn.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

1st Holy Communion Celebrations

Let us help you with gifts and holy reminders for your loved ones as we all celebrate their continued growth in our faith.

Come and visit our Cornelius store. Or, if you'd like us to bring our store to your parish, please call us for arrangements.

We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience with the closing of our Monroe Road store. Please call our Cornelius location and we will make every effort to provide all of your religious gift needs. Our new Charlotte location will be unveiled very soon and we believe you'll be pleased with the convenience and location.

God bless you during our celebration of this holiest of Holy Seasons.

704-655-9090
19905 West Catawba Ave., Suite 106, Cornelius
west off I-77 exit 28 (Johnsbury Square - next to Goodwill)
maryimmaculata.com

NEW CHARLOTTE STORE LOCATION to be announced very soon! Watch this space as we unveil our new location.

21 years ago, Brian withdrew $300 and drove his wife to the clinic…

One house, two minivans and three kids later, there's still no one who can fill these shoes.

Abortion rates have plummeted. Those who've been there know why.

Jason throws a mean fast ball, Gracie doesn't know a stranger and Jen's the bookish one. Brian and Lisa love their kids, but they wonder about the one that came along when Lisa was sick and Brian lost his job. The counselor said there was no way they could make it work. Now, they'd give anything to try. They never spoke of the abortion again ... until the day Lisa saw her first ultrasound – and her first picture of Jen. Ironically, the day Lisa fell apart was the day she and Brian finally got it together. They found the strength to confront a grief as unbearably big as a tiny pair of shoes.

www.UnChoice.info
An unwanted choice is no choice at all.

Abortion is the unchoice.™
Unwanted. Unsafe. Unfair.

Would you like to experience God's love and healing after an abortion? Consider coming to the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Rock Hill on June 22-24, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Charleston. The weekend is totally confidential. For more information and to register, please call Kathy at (803) 547-5063 or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

ADVERTISEMENT

CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND BISHOP McGUINNESS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENT THEIR GRADUATING SENIORS AND INTENDED COLLEGES

2007

CCHS

Alabama, U of
Connor Lenahan
Karley Nemeth
Kelsey Nemeth
Courtney Smith

Appalachian St. U
Colleen Croghan
Meagan Jerome
Jeremy Maher
Shannon Martin
Laney McAlpine
Kimberly Meiss
Faye North
Adam Richardson
Sarah Schemmel
Daniel Summers
April Torres
Jacob Wiesehan

Arizona State U.
Benjamin Quinn

Auburn University
Thomas Britton
Walker Ferebee
John Witt

Barton College
Cassandra Haecherl

Belmont Abbey College
Meagan Nordmark

Catholic U of America
Daniel Caron
Thomas Coughlin
William Heckmueller
Luka Suon

Central Piedmont CC
Nicholas Lee
Jaclyn Martin
Duc Nguyen
Jacob Rose

Centre College
Mary Dilisio

College of Charleston
Elizabeth Nault

Clemson University
Jamie Gullickson
Michelle Krause
Catherine Opalka
Jonathan Sunde

Coastal Carolina U.
Stephanie Grider
Kirsten Pruitt
Jennifer Sigurdson
Jeffery Stanek
Nicholas Verhein

Cornell University
Kathleen Sequeira
Emily Sharp

Davidson College
Brendan McKillop

Dayton, U. of
Abigail Hughes

Duke University
Jessica Green
Christopher Keith

East Carolina U.
Jeremy Armstrong
Erica Cudic
Jessica D'Aries
Kathryn Denaro
Joshua Farmer
Caitlin Faughnan
Benjamin Herlocker
Amanda Mann
Michael Matthews
Kristopher Platarote
Ryan Potenski
Rachael Radcliffe

Elon University
Allison Coggins
Jenna Farley
Jessica Frederick
Taylor Hall
Matthew O'Shields
Michael Pacicco
Marco Piraino
Deanna Zeitouni

Fashion Inst./ Design, Merch.
Brittany Vu

Furman University
Emily Cornelius

Georgia Col. State Univ.
Rachel Day

Georgia Inst. of Technology
Kristopher Bahar
Erica Schweiger
Patrick Sung
Elizabeth Tans

Georgia, U. of
Carson Michalski
Kaitlyn O'Hara
Hannah O'Neil
Diana Ricketson

Hampden-Sydney College
Connor Gavigan

High Point U
Kyle Baarson

Illinois, U. of
Erin Galis

Kentucky, U. of
Sarah Riney

Lenoir-Rhyne College
Caitlin Pratt

Loyola College/ Maryland
Bridget Farrelly

Meredith College
Courtney Kreber

Miami University
Jessica Slee

Miami, U. of
Daniel Griffin
David Hanson

Millsaps College
Molly Lehmuller

Mississippi, U. of
Morghan Giddings

UNC - Asheville
Francis Curran
Gillian Logan
Devin O'Malley
Alexandra Ponton
Rebecca Raab
Alexandra Thomas

UNC - Chapel Hill
Jenna Alexy
Andreas Biermann
Sarah Bishop
Stephan Bracewell
Daniel Brynes
Erin Conlon
Matthew Daly
Mario Dest
Anthony Flores
Brian Frias
Megan Gassaway
Douglas Harris
Paige Heskamp
Jacob Husain
Kathleen Hutson
Brenna Keane
Brandon Lamourex
Catherine McCormick
Olivia Myrick
Kaitlyn Nanney
Diem Nguyen
Jessica O'Connell
Abigail Osborn
Melinda Plavnicky
Caitlin Roy
Lindsay Ruebens
Alex Saber
Katherine Schiappacasse
Jennifer Slee
Carolyn Stout
Kelsey Tiffey
Andrew Tinson
Kimberly Welch
William Wilmer
Nicholas Yarbrough
Thomas Zawistowicz

UNC - Charlotte
Kuan A
Mauricio Alzate
Corey Baran
Kristina Boyle
Rachael Chung
John Connors
Cathleen Contes
Spencer Davis
Tyler Donoghue
Jennifer Gilewski
Pedro Hernandez
Nicholas Immel
Jorge Islas
Elizabeth Johnson
Margaret Kientzel
Caitlin McNulty
Jillian Naveken
Karen Pierce
Eric Ramirez
Alexandria Reinhardt
Erin Strauss
Kristen Wild
Christopher Wood

UNC - Greensboro
Haley Hartzoge
Philip Roberts

UNC - Pembroke
Mary Amann
Kaitlyn Ciotti
Matthew Claurich
Sean Luckie

UNC - Wilmington
Arya Arooji
Andrew Barnobi
Nicholas Baxter
Amy Eidson
Michael Lechich
Christine Matson
Nicholas Miller
Alexander Nelson
Li Nguyen
Maximillian Philipp
Richard Randall
Megan Regele
Alexandra Vavarutsos
Christopher Velado

NC State U.
Peter Bui
David Busch
Nicholas Dodge
Alexandra Doubrava
Mary Alice Duffy
Emily Freeman
Megan Gravely
Katherine Jansen
Tracy Johnson
Stefan Kalczynski
Mary Kornegay
Collin Ladd
Henry Lawson
Alexander Manasa
Katherine Maslanka
Andrew Medearis
John Melcher
Grace Nowell
Kaitlyn Panetta
Christopher Rowland
Mark Scala
Lee Soucek
David St. John
Paul Sung
Ryan Swancy
Diana Torricella
Michael Varela
Neil Von Holle
Alexandra Yaconetti

Notre Dame, College of
Jessica Rohaly

Notre Dame, U. of
Katherine Sample
Michael Troy

Pennsylvania State U.
Allyson Coyne

Pittsburgh, U. of
Claire James

Presbyterian College
Katlin Moore

Purdue University
Joseph Gilligan

Randolph-Macon College
Christopher Grady
Keith Poutier

Roanoke College
Artuello Guillen

Rochester Inst. of Tech.
Bridget Duffy

Saint Vincent College
Brendan Egan
Kevin Murray

Salem College
Kristyn Bridges
Rebecca Siler

San Diego, U. of
Kelley Flynn

Savannah Col/ Art & Design
Richard Workley

Simmons College
Deanna Santanello

South Carolina, U. of
David Baranowski
Michael Becker
Jason Borucki
Stacey Bowditch
Douglas Cotty
Michael Daly
Meghan Dupuis
Jennifer Ellis
Jennifer Ervine
Chloe Gallaher
John George
John Gilmore
Nathaniel Harceg
Chelsea Havner
Megan Keane
Kathryn Knier
Dana Koster
Christopher Kueser
Andrew Kugbei
Alexandra Lapalombella
William Laurie
Kyle Lesniak
Jaclyn Mazzucca
Nelson Mercado
Matthew Moorman
Kari Nagel
Christopher Needham
Matthew Sidari
Katelyn Tobalski

Spring Hill College
Christine Ivey

St. Andrews Pres. Col.
Geoffrey Webber

Surry Community College
David Yergeau

Sweet Briar College
Emily Carter

Syracuse University
Jung Shim

Tennessee, U. of
Richard Siskey

US Military Academy
Andrew DeMoss

US Naval Academy
Patrick Strittmater

Virginia Poly. Inst.
Morgan Bradley
Mary Anne Carter
Sarah Chaves
Nicholas Haake
Matthew McClanahan

Virginia, U. of
Nicole Pagano

Wake Forest Univ.
Katherine Bracken
David Trautmann

Warren Wilson College
Patrick Overman

Washington U/ St. Louis
John Menze

Western Carolina U.
Teawan Gausi
Ryan McGarvey

Western Michigan U.
Allison Kilpatrick

Winthrop University
Donald Isenberg

Wofford College
Paul Bartholomy
Alexander Drummond

Xavier University
Peter Johnson

Undecided
Jennifer High

BMCHS

Appalachian State Univ.
Theresa Fernandez
Kristen Flinn
Katherine Spillane

Auburn University
Chance Tara

Bellarmine University
Alex Porter

Cape Fear Com. Col.
Wm. Kirby Farrell
Daniel Kerr

East Carolina Univ.
Kristin Carlson
Kathryn Disney
Claire Judd
Elizabeth Lawrence
Allison Nett
Melissa Plunkett
Joseph Simmons
Blaise Tackitt

Elon University
Chris Ganim
Annie Preske

Forsyth Tech. Com. Col.
Robert Miller

George Washington Univ.
Lohr Beck

Georgia Southern Univ.
Christina Blanco

Guilford Tech. Com. Col.
Chris Boylan
Joseph Carr
Andrew Kinzie
Stephen McNeill

High Point University
Jessica Brennan
Chad Clinard
Matt Costello
Adam Hughes
Sarah Lasine
William Lavasque

Johnson and Wales Univ.
Brandy Metcalf

Landmark College
Kelly Finn

Lenoir-Rhyne College
Samantha Freese

Louisburg College
William Jones

Lynchburg College
John B. Kenney

Mars Hill College
Adam Kemp

Maryland East. Shore Univ.
Jonathan Brown

Meredith College
Kelsey Donahue

NC State A & T
Emeka Okafor
Neil Goodman

NC State University
Chad Davis
Sarah Foroudi
Hannah LaRoe
Corey McIntyre
Kieran Moreira
Nate Nurse
Drew St. Claire
Sarah Weber

Oxford College/Emory Univ.
Matt Sutter

Peace College
Margaret Minton
Caitlin Falls

Penn State University
Michael Albertson

Pfeiffer University
Jenna Conry

Radford University
Hannah Brown

Rockingham Com. Col.
Matthew Young

Salem College
Alessandra Bazo

Savannah Col./Art & Design
Margaret Hallinan

Spring Hill College
Joshua Manguno

St. Andrew Presbyterian Col.
Tara Barker

Union County College
Connor Ballantyne

Univ. of Dublin, Ireland
Kyle Hughes

University of Florida
Richard Andresen

University of Louisville
Vito LaBruzzo, Jr

University of Maryland
Katheryn Lyons

UNC – Chapel Hill
Jose Arroyo
Sarah Booker
Andrew Cekuta
Dominic Dascoli
Maren Gehling
Michael O'Shea
Michael Taylor

UNC – Charlotte
Chelsea Rollinger

UNC – Greensboro
John Boschini
Gina Hurley
Adam Johnson
Blaine Karper
Kristofer Readling
Melissa Taylor
Daniel Witzke
Chris Woodstock
David Zimmerman

UNC – Pembroke
Jill Howell
Courtney Yarbrough

UNC – Wilmington
Katherine Barker
Jennifer deGuzman
Aaron Elsner
Allie Grant
Meghan Hamacher
Tyler Hollett
Sean Jordan
Tyler McClurg
Wm Camp McCurry
Melissa Mergner
Colin Nolan
Chris Petrangeli
Jackson Sadler
Marie Saxon
Teresa Walsh

Univ. of So. Carolina
Megan Fennie
Dana Forrester
Sarah Obergfell
Jennifer Pentz

Wingate University
Andrew O'Connor

Undecided
Ben Horton
Ashton Maddox

Charlotte Catholic High School
7702 Pineville-Matthews Road
Charlotte, NC (704) 543-1127

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School
1725 NC Hwy 66 South
Kernersville, NC (336) 564-1010

Cookies for troops

Teamwork
Responsibility
Organization
Peanut Butter Sandwich
Lemonades
Goal Setting
Goal Setting
Organization
Responsibility

Courtesy Photo

Members of Girl Scout Junior Troop 30 from St. Michael Church in Gastonia are pictured May 11 with members of Knights of Columbus Council 6700 and the 272 boxes of Girl Scout cookies they sent to U.S. troops overseas.

Although the girls had already sold 2,280 boxes of cookies, they wanted to do something extra for the troops and collected an additional $952 to purchase the 272 boxes. The Knights donated funds for the cost of shipping. The girls, who also wrote letters of encouragement to the troops, received a plaque as a sign of gratitude for their efforts from the North Carolina Army National Guard's 113th Field Artillery Brigade at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.

Pictured are Knights Bobby Baird (left) and Mark Rucco with (front row, from left) Catherine Glisson, Emily Cole, Ashlyn Abernathy, Olivia Nesnow, Laura Baird, (back row, from left) Brooke Maddie, Maisy Meakin, Maddison Deely, Mackenzie Hawley, Rachel Terrio and Genet Girmay.

Quilting Cadettes

Courtesy Photo

Cadettes from Girl Scout Troop 216 at St. Ann Church in Charlotte hold baby quilts they recently made for Room at the Inn in Charlotte. The quilts were part of the Cadettes' Silver Award project, which focused on assisting mothers and their children at the Catholic maternity home in Charlotte.

As a group, the eighth- and ninth-graders collected baby items and food items with the help of parishioners from St. Ann Church, as well as made the quilts with the assistance of a quilter from the church.

The Cadettes received their Silver Awards, the second highest award in Girl Scouts next to the Gold Award, during a ceremony at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte May 19.

Pictured are (clockwise from top left) Lucia Leahy, Maria Barrell, Laura Ross and Katie Rango. Not pictured is Katherine Murray.

Scouts gather for Catholic Camporee

Courtesy Photo

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presents religious Scouting awards after Mass at the 32nd annual Catholic Camporee in Midland March 23-25. Also pictured are Augustinian Father Russell Ortega (left, behind Bishop Jugis), pastor of St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte; and Deacon James Johnson, permanent deacon at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

Bishop Jugis celebrates Mass, presents awards

MIDLAND — Under clear blue skies, more than 550 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and adult leaders recently gathered for the Catholic Camporee.

The 32nd annual event, sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte, took place at Clear Creek Scout Camp in Midland March 23-25.

Troop 12 from St. John Neumann Church in Charlotte, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 7342, was the host of this year's event, themed "Glorious Mysteries" and designed to promote awareness of Catholic life and prayer through Scouting activities.

All registered Scouts, regardless of religious affiliation, were invited to participate. The diocesan Committee on Scouting reported the highest attendance of any previous camporee.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass outdoors for the attendees. After Mass, the bishop presented religious Scouting awards to Cubs and Scouts for their individual achievements.

WANT MORE INFO?
Visit the diocesan Committee on Scouting Web site online at www.cdccos.org.

Brownies Try-It and succeed

Courtesy Photo

Brooke Turnamian, Lauren Merlini, Caroline Valitutto and Natalie Labonge, parishioners of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro and members of Girl Scout Troop 708, are pictured outside the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Ga. The girls, along with 10 other members of their troop, visited the Girl Scout national center April 20-22 to receive their Gold Awards.

For their project, the girls implemented a Brownie Try-It Day, in which they helped nearly 40 Girl Scout Brownies receive their Try-It badges by completing activities in areas of interest.

The girls enjoyed a private tour of the home and received their Bronze Awards during a ceremony.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

Bishop Curlin celebrates 50th anniversary

CURLIN, *from page 1*

St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 27.

The Mass was concelebrated by Father Ed Sheridan, pastor of St. Gabriel Church; Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro; Father Larry LoMonaco, parochial vicar of St. Gabriel Church; and Father Brian Cook, parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Clemmons.

Also on the altar were Deacon Patrick Toole, who will be ordained to the priesthood June 2, and permanent deacons Ben Wenning and Guy Piche.

Bishop Curlin entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore in 1951. He was ordained by Cardinal Patrick A. O'Boyle May 25, 1957.

He spent the next 37 in the Archdiocese of Washington, serving as pastor, director of vocations for men, vicar of permanent deacons, chaplain to Pope Paul VI, auxiliary bishop of Washington, vicar for Theological College of Catholic University of America and president of the board of directors of Catholic Charities.

In the 1970s, the future bishop had a chance encounter with a nun who was visiting Washington from Calcutta. Archbishop William W. Baum of Washington asked Bishop Curlin to meet with the nun, who wanted to open a local soup kitchen.

At the time, Bishop Curlin was serving as pastor of St. Mary Church in one of Washington's poorest and most crime-ridden neighborhoods.

"I thought she was a Hare Krishna … I didn't know a thing about Mother Teresa," said Bishop Curlin.

Mother Teresa and Bishop Curlin spent a Sunday afternoon in the rectory talking about their work.

"By the end of the day, I knew she was a very holy woman," he said.

Thus began a life-altering friendship that lasted nearly three decades.

At Mother Teresa's insistence, Bishop Curlin went to Calcutta, working among the city's poor and sick.

"After a while, I knew she was a saint — no doubt about it," he said.

Bishop Curlin returned to Washington, where he eventually established a residence for homeless women; served as chaplain at Gift of Peace, a home for AIDS patients founded by Mother Teresa; and helped open more than 20 shelters and soup kitchens.

He also converted St. Mary Church's former convent into a shelter for homeless women and children.

In 1988, Bishop Curlin was ordained as auxiliary bishop of Washington. In 1994, he was named as the third bishop of Charlotte.

"My first night in Charlotte, I immediately felt at home," he said.

In his eight years as bishop, he continued his mission to alleviate the suffering of the poor, sick and disenfranchised. He also saw the Catholic population of the diocese grow from 95,000 to more than 135,000.

In September 2002, Bishop Curlin retired as bishop of Charlotte.

Never a man — nor priest — to rest for long, he continues his ministries, celebrating liturgies and sacraments and visiting the sick and dying.

As chaplain for the Knights of Malta's Charlotte region, Bishop Curlin has led more than a dozen pilgrimages to Lourdes, France.

"The greatest miracles are the deepening faith and love you see in Lourdes," he said.

"Bishop Curlin has always lived the priesthood as Pope John Paul II expressed: 'The priest does not live for himself, but for the church and the sanctification of the people of God,'" said Father Mark Lawlor, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

WANT TO LISTEN?
For David Hains' interview with Bishop Curlin, visit www.charlottediocese.org/communications.

Courtesy Photo

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Top: Bishop William G. Curlin blesses a young boy during Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France in May 2007. Above: Bishop Curlin prays before processing into St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination May 27. Also pictured is Deacon Ben Wenning.

2007
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress
TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

Mark your calendar now
for the third
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress –
Charlotte Convention Center
SEPTEMBER 21 & 22
Visit the Web site
www.GoEucharist.com
often for the latest updated
information about programs and
speakers, as well as opportunities
to volunteer.

docPod
It's news and
inspiration about
the Diocese of Charlotte!
Subscribe today
— it's FREE!
Check it out at
www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.
Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Crypt seeker

U.S. writer follows varied path around globe to tombs of apostles

ROME (CNS) — As a Peace Corps volunteer, Tom Bissell was hiking through a village in Kyrgyzstan one day, and an old Russian woman offered to take him to see the tomb of St. Matthew.

"I remember thinking: 'The tomb of Matthew? I thought he was buried in Jerusalem or Italy or somewhere like that,'" Bissell recalled.

But Kyrgyzstan, he soon learned, also had a claim on the apostle's final resting place. The woman led Bissell to the ruins of a monastery next to Lake Issyk Kul, where according to local legend the saint's relics were transported by Armenian monks in the fifth century. It was a small marker in the remote reaches of Central Asia.

"That planted the seed," said Bissell said, who began to wonder about the rest of the apostles, and discovered that many of them ended up in pretty strange places.

Bissell, a highly regarded travel and nonfiction writer, is at the American Academy in Rome this year working on a book on the tombs of the Twelve Apostles. Actually, as Bissell pointed out, it's 13 Apostles — Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot after Judas betrayed Christ and committed suicide.

St. Matthias, like most of the apostles, is known mostly through legend and tradition. His relics were said to have been brought from Jerusalem by St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, and given in part to an abbey church in Trier, Germany. So Bissell made a pilgrimage to Trier and spent the day with a priest, who happened to be named Matthias.

"This priest had a really beautiful way of looking at it," Bissell said. "He said, 'I don't really know if these are Matthias' bones, but this church is here, and I am here because someone very early on believed these were the relics of one of the apostles, and that's a tradition worth preserving.'"

Bissell said one of the most haunting spots he visited was Aceldama near Jerusalem, where Judas is said to have hanged himself.

Unlike other historical places in and around the holy city, this one had no gift shops and no tour guides. A thin and not very worn path leads to the site.

"There's absolutely nothing there. There's this dead tree in the middle of a little clearing, and there are caves all around it where the apostles supposedly hid," Bissell said.

He spent fours hours at Aceldama and saw only one other person, a Palestinian shepherd. It was, he concluded, "very, very spooky."

Bissell is not out to authenticate tombs or settle debates over which place has the most legitimate claims to the relics of the apostles. But he does find some traditions more believable than others. He said it was significant, for example, that 100 years after St. Peter died, people believed he was buried in a spot on the Vatican hillside, where the basilica was later built.

Bissell said it's harder for him to take seriously the legend that the bones of St. Bartholomew were lost at sea, somehow washed ashore in southern Italy and ended up in a Rome church, where they are now venerated.

The apostles roamed far and wide, and some were buried far from their homes. St. Thomas, for example, evangelized in India and tradition says his first tomb was there. The bones of the apostles have made equally long journeys, sometimes back and forth over entire continents. There are several reasons for this, Bissell said. In many places, local Christians feared desecration of the remains, particularly by Ottoman soldiers.

Bissell said that in researching his book he's especially interested in what kind of devotion the apostles have inspired in their burial locations.

Bissell said the local priest at Holy Apostles told him he was the first person in his eight years there who ever came asking about Sts. Philip and James. Their bones, after earlier sojourns in the ancient cities of Hierapolis and Constantinople, are preserved in a crypt below the main altar.

JOIN US ON A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH
FR. LOUIS CANINO, OFM

SEPTEMBER 17 ~ 26, 2007
*COST: $2,695.00

Visit Assisi ~ The land of St. Francis and pray in the Chapel of San Damiano, Basilica of St. Clare, La Verna and other sacred places where St. Francis walked and blessed by his loving presence. The trip will also include daily Mass, prayer and spiritual reflections. Thirty spots are available for this trip on a first come, first serve basis. **Call St. Francis Springs Prayer Center to register or to request further information. (336) 573-3751.**
*Double occupancy. Price includes airfare (including taxes), ground transportation, tour guides, room in convent, and all meals except for three.

(This is a privately sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 10, 2007

June 10, Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Cycle C Readings:
1) Genesis 14:18-20
Psalm 110:1-4
2) 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
3) Gospel) Luke 9:11b-17

Body and blood of Christ an eternal source for Catholics

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The pastor of my parish is on sabbatical, so several retired priests have shared responsibilities of sacramental ministry for the last five months. Our permanent deacon expected to give the homily most weekends but was surprised to find that the priests wanted to preach the word themselves.

One of them, Msgr. Chet Michaels, has become a favorite. It has been interesting to hear parishioners often quoting him when they are gathered for other activities: "It's like Father Chet said last Sunday ..." or "Father Chet explained it so well."

As a catechist of youth, I particularly was impressed at the number of times I heard teenagers relate a lesson they'd learned at Mass from this 80-something priest!

On a recent Sunday he mentioned to the congregation that it was the 60th anniversary of his first Mass as a priest. The sheer number of years was astounding enough. But more amazing was the fact that he continues to share the message of Jesus in resonant ways and with a seemingly endless supply of enthusiasm and freshness.

No doubt the monsignor doesn't worry about whether or not he can come up with an effective way to bring God's presence to the people. He believes and practices the eternal source of Jesus among people of faith. His lifetime of ministry draws from the same well as did the feeding of the multitudes in this weekend's Gospel.

Through Msgr. Michaels' inspired words, the multitudes grow by generations, and through the miracle of Jesus' body and blood this source of life is constant.

At one Mass Msgr. Michaels, after elevating the host, started right into the memorial acclamation. The deacon whispered that he'd forgotten to bless the wine. As the last words of the acclamation still echoed in the sanctuary, the priest intoned, "Likewise he took the cup ...," and we followed with the Memorial Acclamation again.

Somehow it was a graced moment, remembering that with Jesus there is always more, and celebrating him feeds our endless desire.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 10-16
Sunday (The Body and Blood of Christ), Genesis 14:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 9:11-17; **Monday (St. Barnabas),** Acts 11:21-26; 13:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Tuesday,** 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday (St. Anthony of Padua),** 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday,** 2 Corinthians 3:15 — 4:1, 3-6, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus),** Ezekiel 34:11-16, Romans 5:5-11, Luke 15:3-7; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary),** 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Luke 2:41-51.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 17-23
Sunday(Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13, Galatians 2:16, 19-21, Luke 7:36 — 8:3; **Monday,** 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday (St. Romuald),** 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday,**2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga),** 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday (St. Paulinus Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More),** 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30, Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday,** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Matthew 6:24-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 24-30
Sunday (Birth of St. John the Baptist), Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; **Monday,** Genesis 12:1-9 Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday,** Genesis 13:2, 5-18, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday (St. Cyril of Alexandria),** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday (St. Irenaeus),** Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16, Mark 7:21-29; **Friday (Sts. Peter and Paul),** Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; **Saturday (First Martyrs of Rome),** Genesis 18:1-15, Luke 1:46-50, 53-55, Matthew 8:5-17.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Retired.
Not retiring.

Kathy has her own idea of wellness. Some days, it's a hole-in-one. Other times, it's gardening, gourmet dining, and grandchildren. Soon, she'll have more time for it all. Being carefree feels good. Living here will feel great…like hitting the green. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

MAG/CNH/Ret3

Pope calls violence in media aimed at young people unacceptable

Young people need to develop a taste for what is 'morally valid,' says pope

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Portraying violence, antisocial behavior and vulgar sexual content in the media is unacceptable, especially when aimed at a young audience, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope appealed to both media magnates and workers in the field of communications to "safeguard the common good, respect truth and protect the dignity of the person and family."

The pope's remarks May 20 commemorated World Communications Day, which is celebrated in most countries on that day. He made his comments before praying the "Regina Coeli" from the window of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican.

Today's mass media have to help make programming and entertainment an educational experience that promotes "the dignity of the human person, marriage and the family, and the accomplishments and aims of civilization," he said.

The pope, who chose this year's theme, "Children and the Media: A Challenge for Education," said parents, teachers and parish communities "are called to collaborate to educate children and young people to be selective" in their viewing and to develop "a critical attitude" toward what is offered in the media.

Young people need help in developing "a taste for what is aesthetically and morally valid," he said.

Meanwhile, U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said young people need help in becoming responsible consumers of media so that "they might be open and sensitive to positive messages in the media and resistant to messages that could do them harm and lead them away not only from merely human virtues but also from supernatural truth."

Children need to be taught "how to distinguish the true from the false, the substantial from the ephemeral, the constructive from the destructive," he said in a May 18 homily at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

In their search for what is true, he said, children also need to learn about Jesus, "who is the personification of the truth."

"There are so many offerings in each medium that there is a need for guidance and preparation," he said.

Come and join us for a Spiritual Retreat!
"Be Not Afraid"
Accepting God's Love,
Healing, Forgiveness and Blessings
July 13-15 (Fri., Sat., Sun.)
St. John Neumann Church, Charlotte
8451 Idlewild Road, 28227
www.4sjnc.org

Speakers

Ned Dougherty - author of The Fast Lane to Heaven, a celestial encounter that changed his life (www.fastlanetoheaven.com)

Rev. Russell Ortega, OSA - pastor of St. John Neumann and retreat spiritual director

Rev. Deogratis Rwegasira, A.J. - St. Bernard Church, Easton, Pa; Missionary of South Africa

Dr. Cris Villapando – Diocesan Director of Faith Formation Program; instructor of moral theology for lay ministry programs

Darcy M. Tabotabo, MD – Catholic lay minister for apologetics; professor of ophthalmology; servant of the Lord

Bill Milligan – parishioner of St. John Neumann; husband, father, grandfather, soldier, teacher, coach, lay minister and businessman

Ferdinand Roccanti – Catholic lay evangelist; poor, unable to read, becomes a millionaire, gives it all away; has double vision and becomes a spiritual artist

Flory Achong – orphaned on streets of Costa Rica, now blessed with spiritual gifts

Cost for all 3 days: $35 (snacks daily, Sat. night dinner)
Registration deadline: June 15

Info: Stephanie Alder: 704-365-2209 or Beth Manning: 704-365-6601

Dynamic Parish Seeking Director of Faith Formation

St. Aloysius in Hickory, NC is seeking director of Faith Formation. The position will be open July 1. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a Bachelor's Degree in theology or similar discipline or have the equivalent experience. Send resume & references to: Search Committee c/o St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 921 2nd St. NE, Hickory, NC 28601 or staloysius@charter.net

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

Good Shepherd, Cumming, GA seeks full-time Director of Music and Liturgy to oversee 1600-family parish liturgical music program including adult choir, cantors and musical ensembles. Will work with parish staff on all liturgical needs and will assist in planning weddings and funerals as well as appropriate liturgical rites and prayers. Ability to implement additional musical ensembles required. Good working knowledge of Catholic liturgy with proven leadership skills and excellent musical abilities in keyboard and conducting. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Please fax resume and cover letter in c/o Fr. Peter J. Rau: 770-887-2241

Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. The director is responsible for coordinating the diocesan ministry to and with the young adults on the college and university campuses of the diocese and in the parishes. The director also oversees the Encounter with Christ program and the administration of the office. The position requires a minimum of master's degree in ministry or a closely related field and at least five years' professional experience in campus ministry. Closing date: June 15, 2007. Additional information is available on the diocesan website, www.richmonddiocese.org. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to dmahanes@richmonddiocese.org, or mail to D.G. Mahanes, Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 811 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220.

Parish Business Manager

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1580 St. Thomas Way, Lenoir City, TN 37772
E-mail: FRDAVID@STHOMASLC.COM

Rapidly growing parish of 700+ families seeks an experienced business manager to conduct the business affairs and manage the facilities of the parish in a professional, ethical, effective and efficient manner. Candidate must be an active member of a Roman Catholic parish community. Minimum five years experience in business office management and/or Catholic parish office operations, including but not limited to a comprehensive understanding of supervisory and administrative procedures and personnel issues. Thorough knowledge of the principals of accounting and the ability to analyze financial data and budget information are essential. A working knowledge of pertinent state and federal laws, maintenance procedures, security issue and the informal network of communication within a parish will also serve this candidate well. A bachelor's degree is required. Salary commensurate with education and experience; full range of benefits included. Submit resume by 6/20/07 to Search Committee at e-mail address above.

Director of Music Ministries

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 1580 St. Thomas Way, Lenoir City, TN 37772
E-mail: FaerieKP@aol.com

Rapidly growing parish of 700+ families seeks an experienced and accomplished pastoral musician to lead parish music ministry program. Unique opportunity to work in bi-lingual parish with both English and Spanish communities, and to develop a model program within the diocese. Primary responsibilities include developing and directing choral programs for choirs and ensembles, coaching instrumentalists and cantors, developing music skills among youth and the broader parish at large, and participation in parish liturgy planning. Salary commensurate with education and experience; full range of benefits included. Submit resume by 6/12/07 to Search Committee at e-mail address above.

Principal - St. Peter's Catholic School
Beaufort, SC

For 2007-2008 school year. K4 through 8th; salary $60,000-$70,000 commensurate with experience. Qualifications: active Catholic, 2 years' administrative experience, valid teaching credential, Master's in Educational Administration or related field. Mail statement of education philosophy, resume, & references to SPCS, Attn: Search Committee, 70 Lady's Island Drive, Beaufort, SC 29907 or email award@stpeters-church.org or call 843-982-6245. Closing date: June 15, 2007.

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

St. Paul the Apostle Church is a community that is committed to Intergenerational Catechesis and is seeking an experienced Director of Faith Formation. The position will be open as of July 1, 2007.

Candidate must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in Catholic theology and a minimum of five years pastoral experience. Send resume and references to: Susie Barnes, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd, Greensboro, NC 27410; fax (336) 294-6149; e-mail sbarnes@stpaulcc.org.

Regional Minister of Christian Formation for Small Parishes

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a Minister of Christian Formation for the Appalachian area of the diocese. The selected individual will support the local volunteer catechetical leaders in the 18 small parishes of Region 10 through consultation, resourcing, and implementation of the diocesan catechetical norms, and PATHWAYS, the diocesan catechist certification process. The regional minister will also promote Adult Faith Formation in the region and oversee the Region 10 Resource Library. The selected individual will have a master's degree in Religious Education, Theology, or Pastoral Ministry, and have at least three years' experience as a catechetical leader, preferably with small and/or rural parishes.

For a position description and additional information regarding this position, contact:
Dennis Beeman, 804-359-5661, ext. 113; dbeeman@richmonddiocese.org.

Director of Development

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a Director of Development. The director will develop, implement and monitor a comprehensive diocesan development plan, consistent with the mission and vision of Catholic schools and will also plan, coordinate, and implement the diocesan Annual Appeal. Qualifications include demonstrated successful experience in fund-raising and development (preferably in a non-profit environment) and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Marketing, Communications or Public Relations or related study or experience, a master's degree and fund-raising certification are preferred. Additional information is available on the diocesan website, www.richmonddiocese.org. Closing date: June 15, 2007. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and diocesan application to dmahanes@richmonddiocese.org, or mail to D.G. Mahanes, Director of Human Resources, Catholic Diocese of Richmond, 811 Cathedral Place, Richmond, VA 23220.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro has an immediate opening for a full time Director of Music Ministry. Applicant needs a solid background in traditional Catholic Masses and music, vocal, organ and piano skills, and the ability to motivate, expand and lead both youth and adult choirs. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Full benefits available. Applicants who meet these requirements should send their resumes to: **Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 201 South Chapman St., Greensboro, NC 27403; or fax to: (336) 274-7326.**

Success, challenges mark fifth anniversary of charter

CHARTER, *from page 1*

"Absolutely yes," answers Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, chairwoman of the National Review Board overseeing the bishops' compliance with child protection policies.

Structures have been put in place for dealing pastorally with victims who come forward with allegations; millions of parents, clergy, employees and children are being educated on child sex abuse prevention; background checks are being done on clergy and church workers; and procedures have been developed for reporting allegations to public authorities, said Ewers, an educator and former president of Pace University in New York.

The Diocese of Charlotte has been audited annually by the U.S. bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection and has been found to be in compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." Approved at the U.S. bishops' meeting in Dallas June 13-15, 2002, the charter contains the sex abuse prevention policies.

In addition to adhering to the charter, the Diocese of Charlotte revised its "Policy of the Diocese of Charlotte Concerning Ministry-Related Sexual Misconduct by Church Personnel" in July 2003.

For Thomas Plante, a psychologist who treats clergy sex abusers and victims, the policies are good and the U.S. church is setting an example for the rest of society. But the key to success is "if dioceses and religious orders do what the policies say with integrity," he said.

Implementation has been uneven, he said. "Some dioceses and religious orders are further along than others."

Plante works with the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., and several religious orders to help them judge accusations and to establish prevention policies.

For critics, especially those who are victims, the policies are toothless pledges aimed more at improving the image of the church than at helping to end child sex abuse.

Much of the criticism centers around the issue of the hierarchy's credibility in fighting abuse because of decades of alleged cover-ups that occurred in some dioceses where bishops allowed priests to continue in ministry although they continually abused children.

Some critics have said the cover-ups are at least as bad as the abuse.

Ewers and other church officials say major tasks now include overcoming the loss of trust in the church, improving the quality of the programs and streamlining church procedures for investigating and judging whether a priest is guilty.

"The U.S. church is trying to create the safest environment that can be humanly created," said Teresa Kettelkamp, executive director of the Office of Child and Youth Protection, which helps dioceses implement the policies and audits compliance.

But church leaders have to avoid "issue fatigue" since protecting children is a never-ending task, she said. "Some refuse to hear the evidence of the successes of the church," she said. "Others say the issue is behind us. This is not the case either."

Key charter provisions

The National Review Board and the Office of Child and Youth Protection were established by the 2002 charter, which was updated in 2005.

Also approved in 2002 by the bishops was a companion document called the "Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing With Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons," which established legal procedures under church law for applying charter policies. The norms were updated in 2006. The charter and norms have Vatican approval. Other key charter provisions include:

— Establishing offices to receive accusations and to provide professional counseling to victims.

— Setting up diocesan review boards to examine accusations and advise the bishop on policies.

— Permanently removing a priest or deacon from ministry after he admits committing abuse or his guilt is established after an appropriate church process, commonly referred to as "zero tolerance."

— Improving seminary training and providing ongoing priestly formation programs to strengthen the commitment to celibacy.

— Cooperating with a Vatican-supervised on-site examination of U.S. seminaries.

Besides these practical programs, the charter also commissioned a study on the causes and context of the sex abuse scandal. The study, targeted for completion in 2010, plans to examine how bishops responded to the crisis, the social attitudes in the general society at the time of the abuses and priestly formation programs.

It will complement a previous study on the nature and scope of the clergy sex abuse crisis. The nature and scope study gathered statistical data about the crisis from the 1950-2002 period.

Diocese of Charlotte

In the Diocese of Charlotte since the charter's implementation five years ago, 41,288 members of the clergy, diocesan employees, parish volunteers and students have received training that describes inappropriate behavior and explains what steps to take when the behavior is witnessed.

During the last fiscal year, the diocese has provided financial assistance to or on behalf of victims, all of which was used for counseling services. As in the past, none of these funds came from the Diocesan Support Appeal or from parish savings.

Also in the past fiscal year, more than 4,500 background checks were processed on clergy, employees and volunteers. And as a part of its commitment to support the charter, the Diocese of Charlotte has appointed a coordinator to assist survivors of sexual abuse. The assistance coordinator can help victims whether the incident took place in the Diocese of Charlotte or in another diocese.

The work ahead

For many victims and victims' advocacy groups, however, the policies "are purely and simply public relations," said David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

The situation for children has only been "marginally improved" because the policies remain a "set of promises" that a bishop can ignore, he said.

To improve the situation, bishops should support expanding the statute of limitations for criminal and civil actions in child sex abuse cases, he said.

The Vatican should make it mandatory for bishops to comply with the charter, added Clohessy, one of four clergy sex abuse victims who addressed the bishops at their Dallas meeting.

Ewers said the "wounds are so deep" for many victims that "I can understand the anger no matter what" the church does to rectify the situation.

At the same time, "I've seen a dramatic change in attitude by religious authorities toward victims, from confrontation to welcoming," she said, noting that many bishops have met personally with victims.

There is also a need to balance justice for victims with fairness for accused clergy, she said.

Ewers favored maintaining the "zero tolerance" policy but said ways have to be found to speed the process by which church officials determine if a clergyman has committed an abuse "so someone is not in limbo for years" with his reputation tarnished.

Nor are long delays in making a decision helpful for victims, she said.

A related issue, said Ewers, is how to monitor priests during the interval when an accusation has been deemed credible but no final decision has been made.

Also under discussion is whether the church should monitor priests removed from ministry after a determination has been made that they abused a minor.

Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin, Texas, chairman of the bishops' Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People, said the church is struggling over the issue of what to do with priests who have been removed from ministry. There is a fear that, once severed from church control, they can abuse again in the general society, he said.

Deciding how and if this can be done is complicated and bishops have sought the advice of law enforcement officials, he said. "I can't say we have a solution."

Overall, children are safer now, said Bishop Aymond. "I'm not saying we're finished. We still have a lot more to do. But we are determined to do it well," he said.

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray.

WANT MORE INFO?

The sexual abuse victim coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte is David Harold. Contact him at (704) 370-3363 or dwharold@charlottediocese.org.

Classifieds

FOR RENT

LAKE LURE VACATION CABIN: Beautiful mountain setting inside Lake Lure city limits. New, spotless, spacious, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, wrap-around deck. Spectacular views! Close to all area activities. Relax for weekend, week or more. Reasonable. Military discount. No Pets. 828-299-3714

CONDO: Myrtle Beach. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath. Available weeks of: 5/26, 6/9, 7/28. 336-924-2842.

PRAYERS & PETITIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for hearing my novena. Please answer. DL

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332.**

House of Mercy
Thanks our Walk for AIDS Supporters!

Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors
Tibotec Therapeutics • WAL★MART • GILEAD • QNotes
Sam's Club • ID Associates CaroMont Medical Group • EDS Environmental Drying Services, Inc. Environmental Diversified Services, Inc. • BMS Virology Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Thanks to our Corporate Friends
Dermatologic Laser Center • Lucas Concrete Products • Merck
P.C. Godfrey, Inc. • Tony's Ice Cream Company • Wachovia

Thanks to our Top Fundraisers
Wachovia, Captain Terry Smith - Top Fundraising Team
Knights of Columbus # 11076/Queen of the Apostles Church • St. Paul's Baptist Church
Harrison United Methodist Church • Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School
Scott Cloninger - Top Individual • Becky Raxter • Ned Sergew

House of Mercy, founded by the Sisters of Mercy, has provided a home and care for over 235 low-income men and women living with AIDS.

www.thehouseofmercy.org • PO Box 808, Belmont, NC 28012

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Catholics in the ‘spin zone’

Fear mongering is a shameless but profitable business

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The claim of popular cable commentator Bill O’Reilly that his program is “fair and balanced” received a stunning rebuke recently in a study that compared him to 1930s radio personality Father Charles Coughlin.

The study, “Villains, Victims and the Virtuous in Bill O’Reilly’s ‘No-Spin Zone’” was conducted by three Indiana University social science researchers and was published in May.

Who was Father Coughlin? He was perhaps the first person to use the fledging medium of radio to broadcast inflammatory messages.

Father Coughlin hosted a weekly program from his home diocese of Detroit. The views he expressed initially supported the status quo of the time, which included President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal (a series of programs between 1933-1938 with the goal of relief, recovery and reform of the United States economy during the Great Depression).

But as the Depression decade wore on, Father Coughlin’s views changed radically. He became anti-Semitic in his denunciation of international Jewish bankers. He was openly sympathetic to both Hitler and Mussolini.

Father Coughlin and O’Reilly have a lot in common. Both use fear-based rhetoric and both have, or had, large followings.

Father Coughlin’s estimated weekly audience was 9 million listeners. He received more than 80,000 letters a week. O’Reilly is the most watched cable commentator. He was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools, but his faith is not as obvious to his viewers as the collar-wearing Father Coughlin’s was.

Roosevelt and others tried unsuccessfully to moderate Father Coughlin’s speech and later forced him off the air. Father Coughlin’s voice wasn’t completely silenced until 1942 when a new Detroit bishop ordered him back to pastoral ministry, in which he served until retiring in 1966. He died in relative obscurity in 1979.

Father Coughlin’s use of radio to radiate fear was so revolutionary that a systematic method to analyze propaganda speech was developed by an organization called the Institute for Propaganda Analysis (IPA).

The Indiana University researchers used the tools created by the IPA to measure the “Talking Points” segment that kicks off each O’Reilly broadcast. What they found was that, compared to O’Reilly, Father Coughlin was a “choir boy” in his use of name-calling and other propaganda devices.

O’Reilly uses name-calling a lot. The researchers found that, on average, he called someone or something a name every nine seconds. His favorite targets are immigrants, terrorists and foreigners, followed by left-leaning news organizations and politicians.

Father Coughlin, by comparison, used name-calling about half as much as O’Reilly.

O’Reilly has his pets, too. The military, the criminal justice system and the Bush administration are typically displayed as virtuous. But only about 15 percent of the “Talking Points” are devoted to virtue. The bulk of these diatribes is devoted to villains and victims, to what scares us rather than what reassures.

Despite the claim of being “fair and balanced,” both O’Reilly and the Fox News Channel are not. Programming is designed to appeal to conservatives, which in the increasingly fragmented media marketplace is apparently a good business strategy.

Fox News outdraws the other news networks — CNN and MSNBC — and consequently earns more money.

Making a solid business case for programs that twist reality to suit the viewers’ tastes may shine up a quarterly profit statement, but the price is high as civil discourse in our society declines with name-calling and endless interviews that collapse into shouting matches.

The technology of media has made great advances since Father Coughlin ruled the airwaves. We have hundreds of TV channels, and stunning lifelike graphics allow us to escape into mesmerizing videogame worlds.

Yet the ratings prove that we are still attracted by fear mongering and the siren call of doom.

It is all the sadder that O’Reilly and Father Coughlin, the icons of this downward spiral of spin, are both Catholics, the faith of love and forgiveness.

David Hains is director of communication for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available on the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org.

Letters to the Editor

Debunking bad science

The opinions expressed in letters to the editor by readers Kevin Roeten and Frank Carrillo regarding the cause of global warming were right on target (“Concerns over ‘global warming,’” May 18).

This hysteria was created by Al Gore and left-wing scientists and non-scientists without due regard to the opinions of highly respected and credentialed climatologists such as Dr. John Christy, lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Third Assessment Report, and Dr. Richard Lindzen, meteorology professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both of whom debunk much of the global warming data.

Research conducted by these two scientists, along with many of their peers, often doesn’t get reported in the mainstream media. Follow the money trail, just like embryonic stem-cell research, and there you will find the not-so-hidden agenda.

While the concerns of the Catholic Church and other organizations are certainly admirable, I believe that they are being taken in by a segment of our society that is deviously creating a “climate of fear” for their own personal goals.

General circulation models predicting future calamities are inexact at best and leave out critical data for more accurately predicting future climate changes. This is an issue of unsettled science and not politics.

If the money spent on reducing greenhouse emissions were spent on infrastructures and investment in capitalism in third world countries, lives would improve dramatically. While we can all help in reducing our energy bills, man-made global warming has yet to be scientifically proven.

— Bill LaMay
Matthews

Commending articles on abstinence, chastity

I was delighted and grateful to read of the letter from Bishops Peter J. Jugis and Michael F. Burbridge to the N.C. legislature regarding the pending bill modifying the current “sex education” curriculum in public schools (“Abstinence before marriage,” May 18) and of Cardinal Justin Rigali’s letter to the U.S. House and Senate addressing essentially the same issue (“Avoid ‘compromised’ message in sex education, cardinal says,” May 18). Thank God for their sorely needed prophetic voices!

The article on the draft of guidelines being reviewed by the bishops (“Bishops get draft of guidelines for education in chaste living,” May 18) too was a welcome and much-needed magisterial teaching from our American shepherds.

But nowhere was mentioned the virtue of modesty, which protects the virtue of chastity, mentioned. I’m hoping it was just an oversight in the Catholic News Service report and that it will be addressed in the final document.

The Catholic catechism eloquently articulates the beauty and necessity of this “forgotten virtue.” I would urge all parents, teachers and grandparents who are concerned about the loss of the virtue of chastity in our society to read it if they haven’t already done so.

— Estelle Wisneski
Charlotte

Fighting domestic violence

I applaud the article on the symptoms and causes of domestic violence (“Fighting back with faith,” May 18).

I agree with Augustinian Father Francis Doyle’s statements about how our Catholic communities have not often engaged in this issue. I am a Catholic woman and health care provider who has worked with victims of domestic violence. It is my experience that the church has rarely been available to support women who have summoned the courage to reveal that abuse is part of their daily married life.

Many of these women are Catholic and live under the assumption that the vows of marriage are sacred in the eyes of God “until death do us part.” So whom do women of faith turn to first when they are ready to admit to the emotional damage that domestic violence has caused them? It is not a divorce attorney; it is a priest.

It is my hope and prayer that Father Doyle’s efforts and the article will launch activism in the Catholic community regarding the un-Christ-like and potentially criminal aspects of domestic violence.

It is time for Catholics to join those who will work for justice in cases of domestic abuse. Let us help to find peaceful resolutions for survivors and their children. I personally pledge my own activism toward this work in our church, in whatever way my skills can be of service to women and to God.

— Rosemary Nocella, RN
Fort Mill, S.C.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letters or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Apostle to the poor, friend to the needy

Father McKenna remembered for raising awareness, bringing hope

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

On a Saturday in mid-May, several hundred Washington, D.C., area Catholics gathered to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Jesuit Father Horace McKenna (1899-1982).

He was an apostle to the poor who fed the hungry and sheltered the homeless while urging others to find permanent solutions to these problems. Immediate care for Washington's hungry and homeless continues today in the McKenna Center in the basement of St. Aloysius Church, where this good pastor worked.

Those who gathered wanted to celebrate Father McKenna's life and search for ways to extend his influence particularly in the nation's capital, through advocacy and relief for the hungry and homeless.

Father McKenna expressed his solidarity with the poor by sleeping occasionally in homeless shelters and eating in soup kitchens. He once told me that he tried for a while to get along without wearing underwear just to be closer to the poor, but that proved not to be such a good idea.

"We're middle class," he said, "and we have to be if we're going to be around long enough to help the poor."

As one who knew and admired Father McKenna, I would like to let him speak here in his own words:

"If the church does not care for the poor, they will be neglected. That is the test of our faithfulness to Christ: how we relate to the poor."

"I really believe that every person is a revelation of God — the joy of God, the love of God. I feel that the human person on the street is the appearance of Jesus Christ consumed with human needs."

"The poor are here, I believe, to teach us that we must live modestly."

"The church without social work is like Christ without miracles."

"Our Lord did his miracles instantaneously at a word, but his church — his brothers, his sisters, his fathers and mothers — have to do their miracles slowly."

"The poor can't lift themselves up by their own bootstraps because they have no boots."

"I think we need to have marches — hunger marches, marches for the homeless, marches for peace. We need to make the government realize it should not spend our food money on armaments for war."

Whether or not there will be marches on Washington to extend the McKenna legacy is anybody's guess. There will be, I suspect, strategic planning to organize alumni of Washington-area Jesuit schools and parishioners from the two Jesuit parishes in the nation's capital to make something happen in providing food and housing for the poor.

Forty years ago, with nudging and encouragement from Father McKenna, the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Georgetown University Alumni Association used its corporate clout to facilitate the federally funded construction of the 199-unit Sursum Corda low-income housing project just a few blocks from Capitol Hill.

Those units are now owned by the residents in a limited equity partnership. Private developers are offering to buy out the present residents to make room for an enlargement of capacity and reorganization of ownership that will result in many more market-rate units and far fewer subsidized housing units for the poor.

Although Father McKenna is no longer around to speak up for the poor, it is likely that some influential Washingtonians who are part of the Jesuit network and who remember Father McKenna will try to make his voice heard in policy debates.

Those debates will affect some of today's poor in whom Horace McKenna would see "the appearance of Jesus Christ consumed with human needs."

Season of happiness

Many events happening to savor, remember

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER
DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

Spring is the season of happiness. So many happy events in parish life.

We have first Communions, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries, graduations and retirements.

So many times to dress up. So many photos to be taken, invitations to send out, gifts to buy and cakes to be eaten. As the kids say, "I'm down with all that" — especially the eating part.

Like most parish priests, I get a little dizzy since we hardly have a chance to catch our breath from Easter before the spring round robin of events.

I have to say I love it, even though I moan and groan a little.

My favorite is first Communion. The children are so excited. They take it so seriously. They listen so intently. They really enjoy getting their photos taken.

The boys get their first clip-on necktie. Sometimes it stays on until the end of Mass. The girls get their fancy white dresses, veils, shoes, and little purses. Girls definitely get more stuff.

This year as the children were lining up for first Communion I told them all they looked beautiful.

The boys corrected me — "We look handsome."

I asked the girls if they looked like brides or queens. One girl volunteered, "We look like angels."

Confirmation is joyous, but in an adolescent sort of way. The joy is coupled with relief. "Whew, we at least got them this far!"

I always thank the parents for bringing their children up in the faith.

This year the archbishop tossed our children a couple of softball questions. Each time there was that moment when all seemed struck dumb. Then after a poke from a teacher or a sponsor, a hesitant hand went up.

The way young people talk today, it makes their answers sound like questions: "Sacraments?!"

The archbishop affirmed them all and made a nice save out of every answer, much to the relief of their pastor.

Weddings are high anxiety. That's because they include mothers of the bride and wedding coordinators. They are a highly combustible mixture. Brides hire wedding coordinators to control their mothers.

Once the wedding march has begun the anxiety is largely left behind.

In recent years I have taken to inserting two pauses into weddings.

The first one comes when the bride and groom get to the altar. I tell them "sotto voce," to take a deep breath. I remind them that they look radiant.

The other pause comes at the homily. I stop and ask for silence: "Let's just savor this moment for a while. Let's listen to our hearts beating in union with the bride and groom, saying, 'We love you.'"

The graduations, anniversaries and retirements are less painstaking. Pretty much the drill is just one, two, three: One, get a card. Two, show up. Three, eat some cake.

Each spring the jubilee celebration for priests is a bittersweet celebration. This year I took along the young seminarian who is staying at our parish.

I told him, "Come and see what you will look like in 40 years."

When all the elder brothers line up for the Mass, I see myself in them. It is a well-worn group. Some are on walkers. Some have canes. Some are in wheelchairs. But most look pretty good.

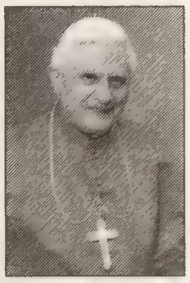
At jubilees there is a different kind of joy and beauty. It is not the joy of beginnings and future hopes. It is the joy of accomplishment and gratitude for the past. It is the beauty of wisdom and experience.

This really is a season of happiness. Line up and smile for the photo.

Pope says only God is flawless, imperfect people need forgiveness

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Only God is thoroughly flawless and holy; imperfect people are constantly in need of forgiveness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Christians, even great theologians, need to be humble and accept both their own weaknesses and the weaknesses of the church, "because only God is really completely holy. We, instead, constantly need forgiveness," the pope said at his May 30 weekly general audience.

More than 32,000 pilgrims from all over the world gathered in St. Peter's Square for the audience. The pope continued his catechesis on the Fathers of the Church and early church teachers by focusing on Tertullian, a second-century theologian and apologist born in Carthage, an ancient city in North Africa.

Through his many writings, Tertullian refuted accusations pagan authorities launched against the early Christians, and explained and defended Christian teachings and traditions, the pope said.

"An essential characteristic of a great theologian must always be the humility to stay with the church, to accept its and one's own weaknesses, because only God is really completely holy," he said.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the Fathers and teachers of the early Church, we now turn to Tertullian, an African from Carthage and the first great Christian author to write in Latin.

A convert to Christianity, Tertullian became an eloquent apologist for the faith, not only defending it from its detractors but striving to present positively the Gospel message in dialogue with the pagan intellectual tradition.

He emphasized the unity of God while affirming the divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Tertullian's terminology of three "persons" in one divine "substance" marked a significant advance in the development of the dogma of the Trinity.

His works also bear witness to the emerging understanding of the dignity of Our Lady, the nature of the church, the Petrine Primacy and the sacraments.

Tertullian grounds the Christian life in prayer and in hope based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Converted by the sufferings of the martyrs, whose blood he called the seed of the church (cf. Ap., 50.13), Tertullian grew increasingly rigoristic, and eventually left the church's communion.

Yet he remains an influential witness to the church's rule of faith and an important figure in the perennial dialogue between the Gospel and the world of culture.

Honoring their memory

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Abbot Vincent G. Taylor Assembly Fourth Degree honor guard take part in a Memorial Day service at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Greensboro May 27. The cemetery features a veteran's memorial.

Join us: "CRUISE INFO MEETING"
7 pm, Tuesday, June 26
Slide presentation, answers to your questions by travel rep at Pastoral Center, Charlotte. All are welcome! Call for reservation (704) 370-3332.

NO RISK to hold space — FULL refund before July 31st!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today – FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

Celebrating service

COURTESY PHOTOS

Knights of Columbus celebrate the national organization's 125th anniversary during a special Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro May 29.

Knights of Columbus celebrate 125 years of service

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro-based Knights of Columbus Piedmont Council 939 recently celebrated the national organization's 125th anniversary.

Fifty members and their families, as well as 24 members of the Abbot Vincent G. Taylor Assembly honor guard, gathered for a special Mass at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro May 29.

The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, and Msgr. Joseph Showfety, a retired diocesan priest.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States by Father Michael McGivney in 1882.

Most of its 1.7 million members are in the United States, but it has councils in Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan and Poland.

There are more than 12,100 Knights of Columbus in North Carolina.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information on the Knights of Columbus, visit www.kofc.org.

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JUNE 15, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 32

Perspectives

Our promises to the world's poor; curbing global warming; the Pope Speaks; letters to the editor

| PAGES 14-15

To love and serve the Lord

Bishop Jugis ordains five to priesthood

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The five ien recently ordained to the riesthood are a gift from God, aid Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

"We recognize that the ord is answering our prayers or vocations to the priesthood," e said in an interview with The atholic News & Herald. "We re conscious of that blessing nd we give thanks for it."

The Diocese of Charlotte oyously welcomed its five ewest priests — the largest umber ordained in the diocese n one year since 2000 — uring an ordination Mass t St. Matthew Church in harlotte June 2.

Ordained to the priesthood

See PRIESTS, page 8

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Fathers Richard DeClue Jr., Frederick Werth Jr., Patrick Cahill, Patrick Toole and Patrick Hoare bow their heads in prayer during their ordination Mass at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte June 2.

A new church in Candler

Bishop Jugis dedicates new St. Joan of Arc Church

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

CANDLER — Bishop eter J. Jugis greeted the ongregation assembled outside t. Joan of Arc Church May 30, hen processed with them to the hurch's front door.

After the ribbon across the ront doors was cut, the people ntered the church, which vas filled with light from the all windows.

As part of what he called "the beautiful and rich symbolism in the dedication of the church," the bishop first sprinkled holy water on the attendees to remind them of their baptism; then he sprinkled the church's interior walls to symbolize cleansing.

In his homily, Bishop Jugis spoke of the "solemn sense of joy that we come together to celebrate the dedication of the new St. Joan of Arc Church."

See CHURCH, page 5

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis censes the altar of the new St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler during its dedication Mass May 30.

School's out for summer

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Charlotte Catholic High School graduate Katie O'Hara mugs for the camera before receiving her diploma June 6.

Schools across the Diocese of Charlotte celebrated graduations and end-of-year festivities in the last few weeks.

For more coverage, see pages 6-7.

The pope and the president

Pope Benedict, Bush discuss many issues, including Christians in Iraq

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Meeting for the first time, Pope Benedict XVI and U.S. President George W. Bush spoke about the precarious situation of Christians in Iraq and a wide range of other foreign policy and moral issues.

See BUSH, page 12

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
S-B P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Around the Diocese

Kids collect for mission trip; saint statue dedicated

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch

Book on Hitler's plot to kidnap pope; teen movie

| PAGES 10-11

Nourishment in 'desert'

Pope leads Corpus Christi procession in Rome

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FULL OF HEART

CNS PHOTO BY CAROLYN HUGHES, CATHOLIC SPIRIT

Seminarian Edmund Luciano III, walks with sister Danielle (left) and cousin Lisa Scarano in late May. It's one of two daily walks he takes during his recovery from heart transplant surgery.

Heart transplant marks new beginning for seminarian

KENDALL PARK, N.J. (CNS) — Scripture has taken on a deeper meaning for Edmund Luciano III, especially passages such as this one from Ezekiel: "I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you."

For Luciano, a seminarian of the Diocese of Metuchen, that passage can be taken quite literally since his May 4 heart transplant at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Recovering in his home, he looked back with eyes of faith on the saga that began a few months ago, ending in a successful surgery that should allow him to return to his third year of studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore in the fall.

When Luciano, 23, who had seldom been ill and who exercised regularly, began to feel breathless and had trouble climbing stairs, he went to see a doctor, suspecting he might have the flu. But his physicians' surprising suggestion was a heart transplant.

The diagnosis was idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. Dilated means enlarged or expanded. Idiopathic means the cause is unknown. The condition may have been a consequence of a viral infection.

"Being young and in the early stages of congestive heart failure, they were trying to treat me with medicine, which wasn't working," Luciano said. "After two months of steady decline, we decided to go to Beth Israel."

More than 460 heart transplants have been done at Newark Beth Israel since 1990.

In April Luciano completed the necessary blood work to go on the list for a heart transplant. On May 3, he was told his heart was too weak for him to leave the hospital until he received a transplant.

After receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, he underwent surgery to insert a balloon pump into his heart to assist its beating. When he awoke after surgery, he was amazed to hear that a potential match had already been found — after being on the list for only two hours. Most patients wait an average of two to three months for a heart.

The transplant surgery was scheduled for the next day. Luciano was released just 10 days later in "good health."

Luciano knows only that the heart donor was a 12-year-old boy.

"The donor's family knows more about me than I know about them," he said. "I was told that the grandmother was greatly comforted by the fact that I am studying to be a priest."

He hopes one day to meet the family, a decision that is up to them.

"It has definitely been a mystical experience for me to think that there was a family in that much of their own tragedy that was able to respond to the needs of someone else, that they had enough love. ... How could I not want to meet people who can love that much?"

"Because I was praying to (Pope) John Paul II, I have kind of named him 'Paul' when I think of him and pray for him," Luciano said of his donor.

Luciano plans to make himself available to transplant departments of local hospitals to support others.

"This is an area where I can bring not just the love of God, but my own witness to the exact thing they are going through," he said.

Immigration bill stalled, not dead, backers say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the June 7 failure of a procedural vote intended to bring the bill to a vote, the Senate's attempt to pass comprehensive immigration reform will go back behind the scenes, though the bill's backers in both parties vowed to bring it back to the floor.

After the failure of a second cloture vote to cut off debate, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he would take the bill off the floor to allow other legislation to move along, though without closing the door to reviving its consideration.

Analysts on all sides have said that if immigration reform legislation isn't passed before the end of 2007, it's unlikely to get a serious shot at passage again until after the 2008 general election.

Some supporters of the bill accused President George W. Bush of failing to exert enough pressure on Senate Republicans to pass the bill. The legislation itself was the product of months of behind-the-scenes negotiatio by the White House, Democratic ar Republican senators.

While many supporters comprehensive immigration reforn including the U.S. Conference Catholic Bishops, said the massive pie of legislation was flawed, most membe of a vast alliance of faith group unions, civil rights groups and busine organizations were urging that the bi be passed, as a starting point to fixing broken immigration system.

In a series of press conference June 8, representatives of many of thos organizations said they believe Reid sincere about bringing the bill to a vot and that backroom efforts could yield viable plan for allowing more debate an a limited number of amendments.

The White House said Bush woul use some of his time during a previousl scheduled visit to the Capitol June 12 t try to persuade more Republicans to bac the bill.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, 564 Long Shoals Rd. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

BOONE VICARIATE

JEFFERSON — Father Matthew Buettner will present a lecture July 16 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 326 East Main St. The topic of the lecture will be related to his book, *"The Mystery of the Mass."* Please call (336) 246-9151 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Father Timothy Reid will present *"Seeking the Heart of God"* at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Thursdays through June 28, 7-9 p.m. This lecture series deals with understanding the spirituality of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Each participant will need a copy of St. Teresa's "Interior Castle." For more information, please contact Susan Brady at (704) 541-8362, ext.4.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowshi through the divorce process. The group mee Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For mo information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a suppo group for separated or divorced women and me All are welcome to join us for encouragement an discussion with others making similar journeys St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Common Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Ne Life Center, Room 114. If you have any question call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

CHARLOTTE — The *Healing Prayer Group* wi pray with you in the name of the Lord Jesus f your healing, be it mental, spiritual or physica Come and know the gentleness and unconditiona love of the Lord. We meet the third Monday each month in the St. Matthew Chapel, 801 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. Fo more information, e-mail Barbara Gardner chlt5nc@aol.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Decease Loved Ones* is celebrated the last Friday of eac month at 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Church, 1474 Stumptown Rd. For more information, call Pa Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — A *Support Group for Caregive of a Family Member with Memory Loss* meet the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Fo more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704 376-4135.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need fo prayers, or would like to offer your time in praye for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chai* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chai is a sizable group committed to praying for you needs and the needs of your family and friends o a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participat

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JUNE 15, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 32

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

At Vatican, whirling dervishes mark anniversary of Muslim mystic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a Vatican palace decorated with frescoes and directly under a ceiling medallion invoking "the peace of Christ," a group of Muslim mystics — commonly known as whirling dervishes — danced in prayer.

The June 5 event in the Renaissance Palazzo della Cancelleria, which houses several Vatican tribunals, was sponsored by the Turkish Embassy to the Holy See to mark the 800th anniversary of the birth of Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi, a 13th-century Muslim mystic, philosopher and poet.

Rumi's version of Sufism, Islamic mysticism, is known for its use of music and dance in prayer rituals aimed at helping the one praying experience unity with God.

Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the pontifical councils for Culture and for Interreligious Dialogue, said the evening was an example of how "intercultural dialogue often takes on the aspect of interreligious dialogue."

He said the performance by 20 musicians and eight dancers under the watchful eye of a spiritual master demonstrated how "music and dance are universal languages that nourish the spirit."

Muammer Dogan Akdur, Turkey's ambassador to the Vatican, told the church officials, ambassadors, priests and other guests that "we all know that true dialogue cannot occur without understanding well and respecting other cultures and religions."

He said the Turkish embassy wanted to promote the process by sharing an exhibition "inspired by a mystic philosophy of Islam in a sumptuous room of a Vatican palace."

"I think that this context and this exceptional place form a very symbolic and meaningful image of dialogue between cultures," he said.

---

in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — As Christians we struggle daily with negative emotions such as anger, anxiety and despair. *"Spirituality of the Emotions"* offers an opportunity to bring together insight, prayer and group support in this struggle. Dr. Ronda Chervin will present this program Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m., June 27–Aug. 8. These free classes will meet at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 413-4624 or St. Charles Borromeo Church at (828) 437-3108.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *Eucharistic Adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — The *Knitting Ministry* of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., meets Monday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., to pray, learn to knit, reflect on life's lessons and reach out to others in our community. Opportunities exist for the beginner to the experienced as we knit and purl Prayer Shawls, Preemie Blankets or Squares for Survivors. Please contact Rosemary at (336) 766-2315 or Carmel (336) 766-0650 for more information.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 16 — 10:30 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of the Americas Church, Biscoe

June 16 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. James the Greater Church, Hamlet

June 18-23
USCCB meeting
Albuquerque, N.M.

June 25-27
Bishops' provincial meeting
Charleston, S.C.

June 30 — 10:30 a.m.
Mass for new tribunal advocates
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

July 1 — 11 a.m.
Installation of new pastor
St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville

German man sent for treatment after jumping toward papal jeep

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A 27-year-old German man was forced to undergo immediate psychiatric treatment June 6 after he jumped over a barrier in St. Peter's Square and reached the back of the open jeep in which Pope Benedict XVI was riding.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, refused to release the man's name but said he was in a Rome psychiatric facility by 2:30 p.m., about four hours after being tackled to the ground by Vatican police.

The man was first taken to the Vatican police station and questioned by Gianluigi Marrone, a Vatican judge, Father Lombardi said.

"The young man's intention was not to make an attempt on the life of the pope, but to carry out a demonstrative act to attract attention to himself," Father Lombardi said.

Because the young man was "showing clear signs of mental imbalance, psychiatric doctors from the Vatican health service were called, and they arranged hospitalization for obligatory treatment in a protected, specialized health facility," the spokesman said.

"The case is, therefore, considered closed," Father Lombardi said.

Pope Benedict was in St. Peter's Square for his weekly general audience. The pope did not appear to have noticed the young man or the activity of Vatican security agents and police forcing the man to let go of the jeep.

Dressed in a red shirt, dark shorts and a baseball cap, the young man was in the third or fourth row of spectators behind a wooden barricade in the square. As the pope approached, a police officer moved directly in front of the young man's section of the crowd, although it was not clear what had attracted the attention of the officer.

The young man jumped over the people in front of him and used the barricade to push himself farther, knocking over the police officer.

He managed to hold onto the back railing of the jeep for a just a few seconds before being forced to let go.

Msgr. Georg Ganswein, the pope's personal secretary, was in the jeep and also attempted to push the young man away.

Giving back to the earth

CNS PHOTO BY ROMEO RANOCO, REUTERS

Catholic nuns plant trees in a field, symbolizing a deforested area, during a program marking World Environment Day in Manila, Philippines, June 5.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Collecting hope for those in need

MINT HILL — Children in Mint Hill recently worked hard to answer the prayers of the needy in Jamaica.

Since August 2006, Nita Leslie's third-grade faith formation class at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill collected toiletries for the parish's Agape Missions to the Islands ministry.

The class presented the donated items — boxes of shampoo, deodorant, razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste and other toiletries — to Theo Ennis and Steve Uzzell, members of the Agape ministry, May 9.

The Agape ministry coordinates and supports two established missions in the Caribbean — the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica, and the Batey Lecheria mission in the Dominican Republic. The term "agape" means the self-giving love of one who looks exclusively for the good of another.

"All these things you gave are the answer to someone's prayers," said Uzzell to the children.

"It was interesting to think that these donations are the answer to prayers from persons in Jamaica who need help and items to improve their lives," said Martha Hannah, parish faith formation coordinator.

During Lent, each child in the class took home a framed photo of someone living in Jamaica and prayed for that person each day.

"It made collecting the toiletries that much more meaningful to see who those items would help," said Hannah.

COURTESY PHOTO

Nita Leslie's third-grade faith formation class at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill is pictured May 9 with toiletries they collected and presented to Theo Ennis and Steve Uzzell (seated), members of the parish's Agape Missions to the Islands ministry. Also pictured are faith formation teachers Scott Glover and Leslie (standing).

Saintly statue

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Parishioners of St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley join Augustinian Brother and Deacon William Harkin (left) and Augustinian Father Francis Doyle for the dedication of the statue of St. Rita of Cascia, donated to Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, adjacent to St. Margaret Church.

The dedication was held May 22, the feast of St. Rita (1382–1457), wife, mother, widow and Augustinian nun.

St. Rita, known as a patroness of impossible or hopeless cases, was a stigmatic. She often meditated on Christ's passion and received a wound in her forehead, according to a description of this miracle, "as though a thorn from the crown that encircled Christ's head had loosened itself and penetrated her own flesh."

Her incorrupt body is venerated in her shrine in Cascia, in the Italian province of Umbria. The statue was donated by St. Margaret parishioners Don and Ginny Condren in memory of his daughter, Trisha.

Am I My Brother's Keeper? —
The Sanctity of Human Life

Eternal Life
presents
THE 2007 CHURCH TEACHES FORUM
JULY 20th & 21st
at
THE GALT HOUSE, EAST TOWER — LOUISVILLE, KY
FOURTH STREET & THE RIVER – 1-800-633-1561

Location		Single/Double	Triple	Quad
GALT HOUSE	EAST TOWER	$125	$135	$145
502-589-5200	WEST TOWER	$90	$100	$110
800-626-1814		•••Deadline to reserve rooms is June 19th, 2007 •••		

All rates are subject to state and local taxes (13.95% in Ky). Subject to availability. Register early!!

† The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 5:00 on Friday Evening †
His Excellency, Most Reverend Fabian W. Bruskewitz - Main Celebrant
Most Reverend Robert W. Finn - Homilist

Priests who wish to concelebrate, please advise Secretary at 1-800-842-2871

****Friday Evening Reception (6:00 pm) & Banquet (7:00 pm), July 20, 2007***
Banquet Keynote Speaker: Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz
A RESUME OF SOME CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN THE CHURCH, & THEIR SOLUTIONS

Friday Banquet - July 20, 2007

QUANTITY **TOTAL AMOUNTS**
_____ **BEEF** @ **$40.00 $**________
_____ **SALMON** @ **$40.00 $**________

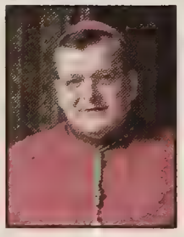
Saturday Forum, July 21, 2007

_____ **Forum Tickets for SATURDAY** @ **$15.00 $**________
_____ **Luncheon tickets** @ **$15.00 $**________

Name
Address
City/State/Zip Phone

Make checks payable and mail to:
ETERNAL LIFE –THE CHURCH TEACHES FORUM
902 W. Stephen Foster Avenue • Bardstown, KY 40004
1-800-842-2871 • FAX: 502-348-2224 • www.lifeeternal.org • wjsjmj@bardstowncable.net

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, DD, JCD



The Mystery of Human Suffering and Euthanasia

Abbot Edmund McCaffrey

Winning the Battle of Life with Mary

Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz

A Resume of Some Contemporary Issues in the Church, and Their Solutions

Bishop Robert Finn

Protecting Human Life – the Authentic Lay Vocation

Rev. Roger Arnsparger

The Priest: Sentinel and Prophet of the Sanctity of Human Life

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk

The Science and Ethics of Stem Cells and Cloning

Bishop Jugis dedicates new St. Joan of Arc Church

CHURCH, *from page 1*

"Not only do I greet all of you," the bishop continued, "but also the one we are here for, the reason we are here — Jesus Christ, the one who comes to consecrate this church by his presence. He is with us now. He will come to consecrate all of you in years to come."

Taking off his chasuble after his homily and putting on an apron, Bishop Jugis poured fragrant oil, the sacred chrism, lavishly on the altar, then rubbed the oil into the wooden surface. This anointing reminds us that Jesus is the anointed one.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Father John Pagel, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church, unlocks the front door of the new church in Candler May 30.

"We are reminded to unite ourselves to the altar and offer our hearts as a sacrifice to God," he said.

He walked around the altar, censing it with incense as a reminder of Jesus' sacrifice. Bishop Jugis also anointed the walls by placing the chrism onto cross-shaped wooden candleholders hanging on the walls.

Parishioners brought in and lighted the candles, which they placed on the altar and on either side of the tabernacle, set in a niche in a stone "wall" behind the altar.

"The candles symbolize the light of Christ and remind us to take that light into the world," the bishop said in his homily. "We go forth into society to be a leaven of change. We are to bring light to a world where there is so much darkness."

Bringing that light, he said, includes "seeking out people who don't have faith or faith in Jesus Christ. We have the work of evangelization to do."

"Are there people around (in the Enka-Candler area) who don't have a church?" he asked. "Then we have work to do to find them and invite them to join us. People in poverty? People who have moved here from other countries? We have work to do to show Christ's love in practical ways."

"We are on a mission for God. What happens here (in the church) propels us to go out to bring Christ to others," said the bishop.

Priests from a number of parishes concelebrated the Mass.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis rubs sacred chrism into the altar during the dedication Mass of the new St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler May 30. Also pictured is Father John Pagel, pastor.

Building a church

St. Joan of Arc parish was established in 1927; the old church was built on three acres in Asheville in 1936. Seating capacity was for fewer than 200 people.

The new St. Joan of Arc Church, which can hold up to 300 worshipers, stands on 13.5 wooded acres in Candler, which is near Asheville.

"We were told by the diocese that this area was going to grow and to plan for the next 20 to 30 years," said Bill Kalarovich, building-committee chairman. "This building is constructed so that can happen. The wall behind the stone wall can come down so the building can grow. The (church's) supporting walls are its side walls."

The parish hall can also be enlarged in the same way.

St. Joan of Arc Church's parish had a say in the design, executed by John Yurko and Holly Crabill.

"We asked the parishioners what was important to their experience and they said light, windows and wood," Kalarovich said.

"Most of the parishioners have said that just being able to see the trees adds to their experience. In the morning and afternoon, the light comes through from behind the tabernacle and it just glows," he said.

The planning committee met for the first time in December 1999; more than three years of planning followed, with the building committee's first meeting in June 2003.

"The committees were composed of the ordinary people of St. Joan of Arc parish, who, under the instruction of the diocese, decided to do extraordinary things," Kalarovich said. "First, we prayed at each meeting for vision, wisdom, perseverance and often for a sense of humor."

Kalarovich added that there was an extra beatitude: "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

An anonymous benefactor donated $100,000 toward the project, which parishioners more than matched through hundreds of hours spent on fundraising events such as dinners, raffles, and selling bumper stickers.

They also sought donations of some church furnishings, an energy-saving heating and cooling system, and other items. The pews and kneelers from the old church were refurbished for use in the new building. The front doors, as well as the crucifix, altar and ambo were made from trees grown on the property.

Landscaping and construction of the serenity garden are still under way.

In August 2004, Bishop Jugis presided at the first Mass, outdoors, on the new property. Construction of the new church began in March 2006.

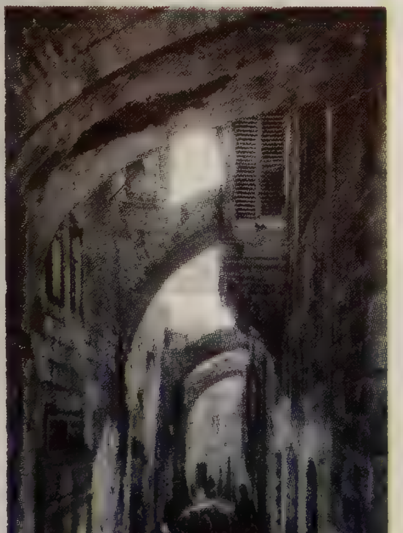
At the last Mass in the old church, the liturgy included removing the Stations of the Cross, statues, and other artifacts, many of which are now in the new church.

"The last thing out was me with the Eucharist," said Father John Pagel, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Church.

A developer purchased the old church property. The old school will be torn down.

"I'm very happy for our parish," he said. "We've come a long way in our journey of faith."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.



WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

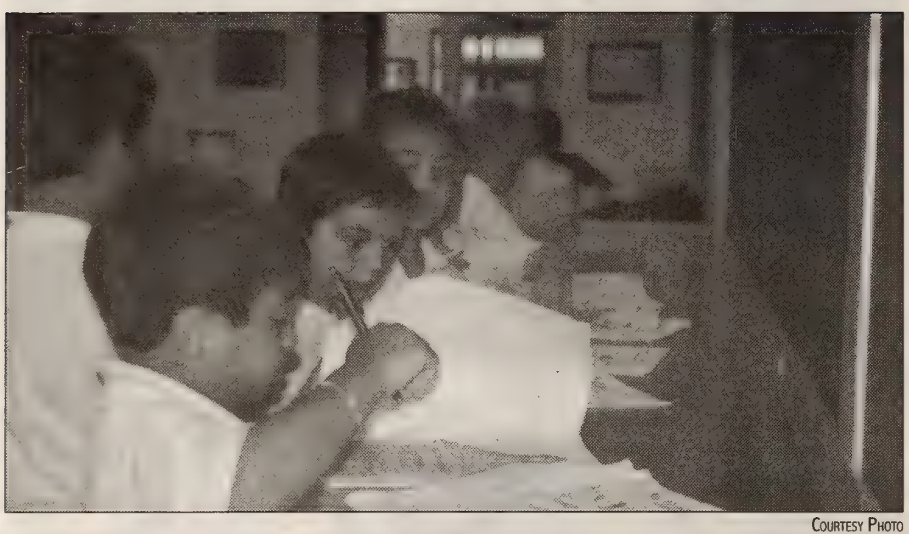
* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
Asheville & Arden
The Catholic Funeral Directors
828-252-3151

Congratulations to St. Joan of Arc on its new church!

Many memories



Courtesy Photo

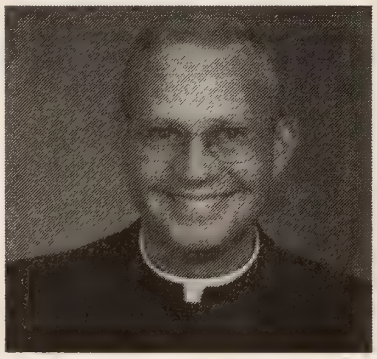
First-graders sign their "My First Grade Memories" book at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem June 7. The book included work from each student and pictures of them at the start and end of the school year, documenting their growth over the year.

The school held graduation ceremonies for the eighth grade June 6 and kindergarten class June 8. They also held a picnic at Triad Park in Kernersville June 7, where the students spent time with their friends, played on the playground and enjoyed softball games.

Friends 'til the end

Courtesy Photo

Catherine Dudley and Katherine Watkins, eighth-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem, sing "You've Got a Friend In Me" from the animated movie "Toy Story" during the eighth-grade graduation ceremony. The school held a family picnic and yearbook dedication day May 25, during which students signed each other's yearbooks and enjoyed food and games with their families.



Congratulations!

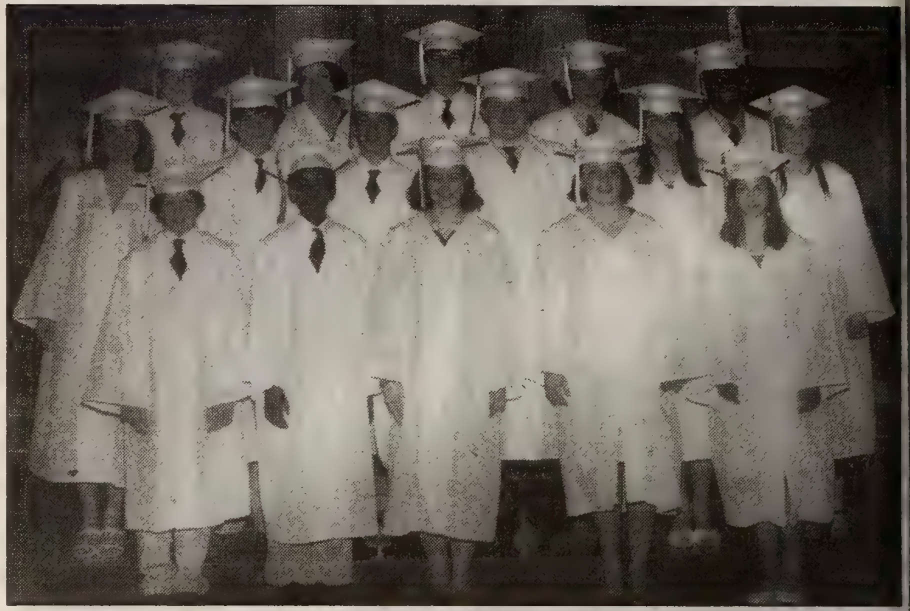
Fred M. Werth, Jr.

On your Ordination to Priesthood for the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina

Blessed John XXIII National Seminary
Reverend Peter J. Uglietto, Rector
Faculty, Seminarians and Staff

Blessed John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Avenue
Weston, MA 02493
781-899-5500
www.blessedjohnxxiii.edu

Gastonia graduates



Courtesy Photo

Pictured is the 2007 graduating class of St. Michael School in Gastonia. Graduates received their diplomas and awards from Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor, and Joseph Puceta, principal, during Mass at St. Michael Church June 3.

The Pastor's Awards, for eighth-graders who achieved the highest academic averages, were presented to Laura Valedon and Harry Caulfield.

The Mother Margaret Mary, R.S.M., Award, for the student who best demonstrated an eagerness to set goals and worked diligently to achieve them, was awarded to Zachy Girmay.

The Father Gregory Eichenlaub, O.S.B., Award, for the student who best exemplified the traits of scholarship, leadership, compassion and service, was presented to Laura Valedon.

Other awards were presented after Mass during a reception in the parish center.

Join your Catholic Chaplain, Father Joe Codori
Departing Sunday, December 30, 2007

Rose Parade

Las Vegas & Laughlin Tour

9 Days** from **$899*

Join your Spiritual Director Father Joe Codori, Parochial Vicar at St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, PA, and other Catholics on this popular Your Man Tours ***Rose Parade Golden West Vacation***. Get away from the colder weather during the first week in January, avoid the post-holiday blahs, and enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Year's Day you have had in years! **Mass will be available some days on tour.** This first-class hotel package includes four nights in Los Angeles, California, at the Marriott Hotel; two nights in Las Vegas, Nevada, right on the strip at Excalibur; and two nights in Laughlin, Nevada, on the Colorado River at The Riverside Hotel & Casino. You'll enjoy Your Man Tours' city tour of L.A. including Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and pre-parade float building and viewing at the Floats and Flowers Expo, and on January 1, 2008, **reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade!** Also included are baggage handling, motor coach sight-seeing, and optional tours including the *Glory of Christmas* at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. You've seen the parade on TV for years; now see the excitement and hoopla of the most famous parade in America live and up close! The sights, the sounds, and especially the smells all make being there truly spectacular. *Prices (per person, double occupancy) start at $899 plus $149 tax/government fees and services. Round trip airfare from Charlotte $600. *Friends and family are welcome.* *$100 deposits are now due.*

For information, brochure, and letter from Fr. Joe call today:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-736-7300**

America's First Choice *for travel since 1967!*

Bishop McGuinness graduates celebrate commencement

KERNERSVILLE — With fond memories of the past four years, and in eager anticipation of the next chapter in their lives, 105 graduates of Bishop McGuiness Catholic High School in Kernersville received their diplomas at the Stevens Center in Winston-Salem June 2.

The diplomas were conferred by Mgsr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte; Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; and George Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness.

On May 31, Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated the Baccalaureate Mass for the students at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point.

In the fall, the graduates will be attending 43 colleges and universities, from nearby High Point University to as far away as the University of Dublin Trinity College in Ireland.

Bishop McGuinness' class of 2007 received more than $3 million in combined scholarships.

Graduates and their guests heard remarks from Katheryn Lyons, salutatorian; Nathan Nurse, valedictorian; and special guest speaker Dr. Edward Sadler Jr., retired superintendent for Gaston County Schools and uncle of graduate J.L. Sadler.

COURTESY PHOTO

The 2007 graduating class of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School in Kernersville is pictured in front of the school's chapel May 31.

We are your source for homes and lots in Buck Mountain and the beautiful mountains of Wilkes County —

HUFFMAN
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
www.huffmanrealestate.com

Call Karen or Randy today!
Karen Huffman (336) 262-0208
Randy Huffman (336) 262-0480
karenahuffman@aol.com

MLS #50929: 2.5 acres at Buck Mountain with your own stream-fed fishing pond in gated community. $85,000/broker interest.

MLS #50227: 50 acres with pond, two bold streams, pasture, elevation with views. $299,000/broker related.

MLS #50974: Renovated historic home - large rolling lot with mountain views. Outbuildings include workshop, playhouse. Only 1/2 mile from town.
Priced to sell: $208,000.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Graduate Luka Suon leads his classmates in a rallying cry of "We are Cougars!" following commencement ceremonies for Charlotte Catholic High School June 2.

Charlotte Catholic grads march into bright future

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Spirits were high as the Charlotte Catholic High School class of 2007 received their diplomas at Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte June 6.

Charlotte Catholic's class of 2007 consisted of 282 students, who received more than $7 million in combined scholarships and will attend 74 colleges, academies and universities in the fall.

The diplomas were conferred by Mgsr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the Diocese of Charlotte; Linda Cherry, superintendent of diocesan Catholic schools; and Gerald Healy, principal of Charlotte Catholic High School.

Following the closing prayer, the graduates marched into the open space outside the auditorium. Several graduates hoisted Luka Suon on their shoulders, who led his classmates in a spontaneous cheer, shouting "Who are we?"

"We are Cougars!" the class of 2007 joyously responded.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Remember God's Will In Yours

You can take care of your family and your church through your will. You can express your commitment to your Church by making a bequest to the Diocese of Charlotte or to your parish. Simply have the following statement included in your will: *"I leave to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (or__________ parish, city) the sum of $_____ (or_____ percent of the residue of my estate) for its religious, educational and charitable works."*

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Bishop Jugis ordains five to priestho

FATHER PATRICK CAHILL

Age: 27

Born:
Richmond, Ind.

Schooling: Studied at Belmont Abbey College; two degrees in philosophy from Theological College at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.; master's degree in divinity and theology from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa.; studied Spanish in Madrid, Spain.

Background: Oldest of six children.

FATHER RICHARD G. DECLUE JR.

Age: 27

Born:
Columbus, Ohio

Schooling: Studied pre-veterinary medicine and biology with a chemistry minor at University of Findlay, Ohio; bachelor's degree in theology from Belmont Abbey College in 2002; studied theology at Boston College; studied at Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Background: One of five children.

FATHER PATRICK T. HOARE

Age: 40

Born:
Willow Grove, Pa.

Schooling: A bachelor's degree in business administration from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, Pa.; Master of Business Administration from Drexel University in Philadelphia; Master of Divinity and a master's degree (concentrating in pastoral theology) from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa.; studied Spanish in Madrid, Spain.

Background: One of six children. Worked in insurance industry. Served as youth minister at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte.

PRIESTS, *from page 1*

June 2 were Father Patrick Cahill, Father Richard DeClue Jr., Father Patrick Hoare, Father Patrick Toole and Father Frederick Werth Jr.

"We have some fine newly ordained priests to appoint to parochial vicar positions in parishes," said Bishop Jugis. "Because of that, six current parochial vicars are able to take on appointments as pastors, which helps our diocese tremendously."

New priests also serve as inspirations to parishioners to pray for vocations and they encourage more men and women to consider religious vocations, the bishop said.

"I believe these ordinations to the priesthood are the Lord's response to our prayers to 'send laborers out for his harvest,' as Jesus says in the Gospel of Luke," said Bishop Jugis.

To live as a servant of God

During his interview, Bishop Jugis said there are three important qualities every priest should possess: prayerfulness, joy and love.

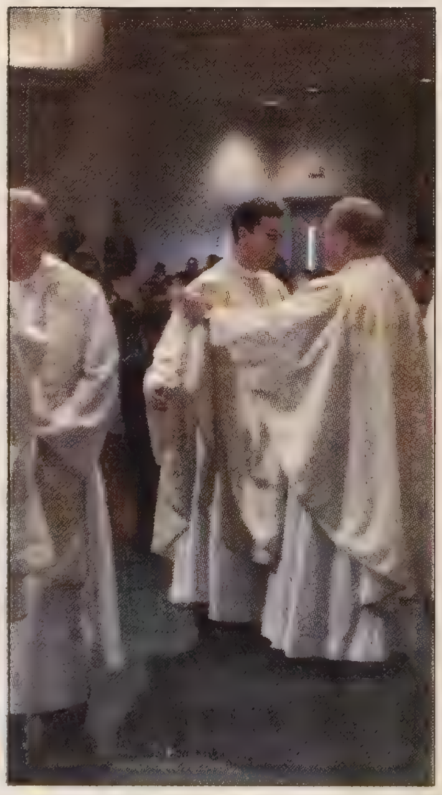
"It's important for a priest to be a prayerful person," he said. "People want their priests to be prayerful, to be men of faith. Prayer is the center of the priestly ministry."

New priests bring into their ministry the spirit of joy from their ordination and the celebration of their first Masses, he said.

"Our priests' joyfulness in their ministries is evidence of the Holy Spirit at work," said Bishop Jugis.

Finally, a priest must love all his parishioners and people unconditionally.

"As priests of the Lord, they should have the heart of Jesus and show that love by being good examples of it," said Bishop Jugis.



Father John Allen vests Father Patrick Cahill with the stole and chasuble, outer garments of the priestly office.

Fathers Patrick Cahill, Frederick Werth and Richard DeClue kneel before diocesan and visiting priests du
the most solemn moment of the ordination rite, as Bishop Peter J. Jugis looks on.

> "It's important for a priest to be a prayerful
> of the priestly ministry."

Ordination Mass

Concelebrants of the ordination Mass included Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and diocesan chancellor; Msgr. John J. McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church; Father Christopher Gober, director of diocesan vocations; priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte; and visiting priests. Also in attendance was Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin.

During the rite of ordination, Fathers Cahill, DeClue, Hoare, Toole and Werth made their promises to fulfill the office of the priesthood.

Kneeling, they placed their hands between Bishop Jugis' hands in a promise of obedience him and to his successors.

The congregation was invited to join in prayer for the church, its people and the priestly candidates as they lay prostrate before the altar.

During the rite's most solemn moment, Fathers Cahill, DeClue, Hoare, Toole and Werth knelt before Bishop Jugis, who laid his hands on their heads. The celebration of the sacrament of holy orders was completed as the bishop extended his hands over the kneeling candidates and prayed the prayer of consecration.

The new priests were vested with stoles and chasubles — outer garments of the priestly office.

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Three Voices of Vocations

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

diocese

Photos by Karen A. Evans

f hands, an ancient sign of ordination representing

. Prayer is the center

— Bishop Peter J. Jugis

The bishop anointed their hands with sacred chrism and they were then presented with chalices and patens signifying their roles as celebrants of the Eucharist.

The newly ordained priests then joined their brother priests to concelebrate the Mass, thus opening a new chapter in each of their lives.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

CFCC

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

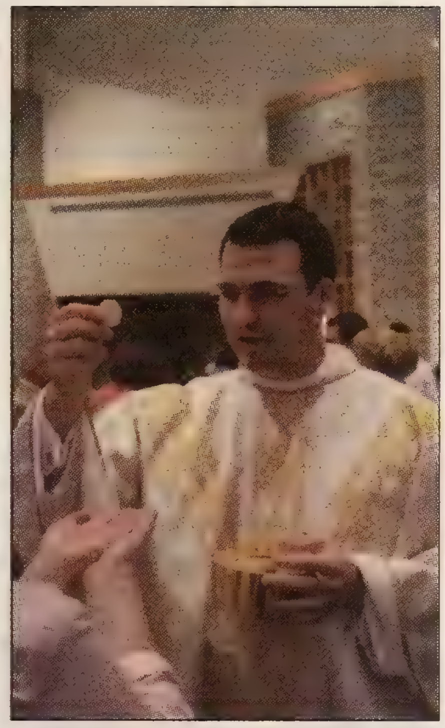
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Above: Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and Father Frederick Werth smile and clasp hands after Father Werth offered his first priestly blessing to the bishop at the conclusion of the ordination Mass.

Below left: Smoke from burning incense rises from the censer. Since the earliest days of the Christian church, incense has been used as a sign of purification.

Below right: Father Patrick Toole offers Communion for the first time as a newly ordained priest.



PASTORAL ASSIGNMENTS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis announces the following pastoral assignments, effective July 5, 2007:

Father Pat Hoare as parochial vicar, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Fathers Pat Cahill and Pat Toole, as parochial vicars, St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Father Fred Werth as parochial vicar, Holy Family Church, Clemmons

Father Rick DeClue, in residence at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte, then theological studies at The Catholic University of America.

FATHER PATRICK D. TOOLE

Age: 28

Born: Voorhees, N.J.

Schooling: Attended Belmont Abbey College and the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; bachelor's degree in philosophy and master's degree in theology from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa.

Background: One of two children. Visited Japan twice as part of high school diplomat program.

FATHER FRED M. WERTH JR.

Age: 59

Born: Radford, Va.

Schooling: Bachelor's degree in English from Virginia Military Institute; law degree from University of Virginia; studied at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Background: Served in U.S. Air Force, later worked as trial lawyer. Married to his Catholic high school sweetheart for 19 years, with 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Raised Presbyterian; converted to Catholicism in 1989. Lost wife and daughter in car accident in 2002.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis anoints the hands of Father Patrick Hoare with the sacred chrism oil.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

New book details Hitler plot to kidnap pope, foiled by Nazi general

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An SS general close to Adolf Hitler foiled a plot to kidnap Pope Pius XII during World War II and to put the Vatican and its treasures under Nazi control, according to a new book.

The book, "A Special Mission" by Dan Kurzman, refutes arguments that Pope Pius XII maintained a public silence about Nazi actions during World War II because he was anti-Semitic or because he was sympathetic toward Hitler.

"They were bitter, bitter enemies. They despised each other," said Kurzman of the pontiff and the führer in a May 31 telephone interview. The pope hated Hitler "not only for his inhumanity but because he threatened the whole church structure," said Kuzman.

Hitler, for his part, "saw the pope as his greatest enemy" and as someone with whom he was "competing for the minds and souls that he wanted to control," the author added.

Kurzman also said he found no evidence that Pope Pius was anti-Semitic, noting that one of his closest childhood friends was a Jewish boy with whom he remained in contact throughout his life.

The book is subtitled "Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII." It details the actions of SS Gen. Karl Wolff, chief of staff to SS Chief Heinrich Himmler, in the months after the overthrow of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini in July 1943.

Describing Wolff as one of "history's most successful opportunists," Kurzman said the general earned the "full confidence" of both Hitler, who ordered him in September 1943 to kidnap Pope Pius, and of the pontiff himself, whom Wolff warned about the plot during a secret meeting at the Vatican in May 1944.

Hitler ordered the kidnapping, according to the book, because he feared that Pope Pius would speak out about Nazi actions against the Jews, and in particular against a proposed Nazi roundup of the Jewish community in Rome.

Hitler was afraid the pope's words could trigger a "revolution" against the Nazis in Italy, worldwide and even within the Germany army, about 40 percent of which was made up of Catholics.

Pope Pius, for his part, was afraid that a strong public stand against the Nazis would force Hitler to take action against the Vatican and would also endanger the many Jews being sheltered in Italian monasteries, churches and convents.

The pope's behind-the-scenes actions also brought the roundup of Roman Jews to a halt, Kurzman said. Only about 1,000 of the 8,000 Jews living in Rome at the time were deported to Nazi concentration camps, he said.

Kurzman was the first journalist to interview Wolff in 1970 after the former general was allowed to return to his home town of Darmstadt in Germany. Wolff died in 1984.

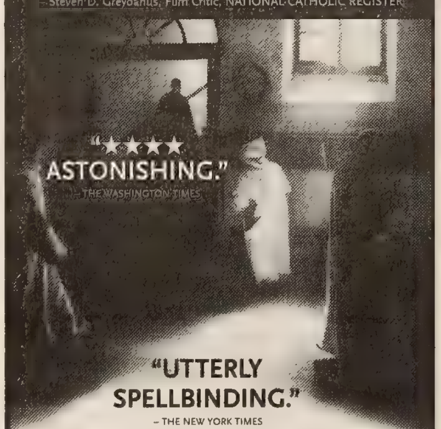
"He tried to close his mind to the reality" of the Holocaust by saying that his job was only to get the trains to destinations like Dachau and Treblinka on time, while ignoring what was happening to those who arrived at the Nazi concentration camps, the author said.

Although the Nazis were careful not to put any details of the kidnapping plot into writing, and Kurzman has not seen materials in the Vatican Secret Archives from that period, he said the plot and details about the pope's actions during World War II were confirmed to him by Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who had read the archival material as chief investigator for Pope Pius' sainthood cause.

Despite criticism from some Jewish groups, work on the sainthood cause for Pope Pius XII has continued in recent years. In a vote Father Gumpel called "unanimous and totally positive," the Congregation for Saints' Causes recommended May 8 that Pope Benedict XVI formally declare the World War II-era pope venerable.

Kurzman, who has written 16 other books, said he wanted to clear up certain untruths contained in "Hitler's Pope," a 1999 book by author John Cornwell.

"He was a human being and he made mistakes, but I found no evidence that he was anti-Semitic," Kurzman said of Pope Pius.



"CINEMA AT ITS PUREST AND MOST EXALTED. More than a documentary of monastic life... Reveals the beauty and power of this most hidden, yet unexpectedly human, world.... IT'S A RARE PERFECTION IN A FILM!"
– Steven D. Greydanus, Film Critic, NATIONAL CATHOLIC REGISTER

"★★★★ ASTONISHING."
– THE WASHINGTON TIMES

"UTTERLY SPELLBINDING."
– THE NEW YORK TIMES

INTO GREAT SILENCE
INSIDE THE FAMED CARTHUSIAN MONASTERY
A FILM BY PHILIP GRÖNING
BAVARIA FILM INTERNATIONAL zeitgeistfilms.com/intogreatsilence Zeitgeist

REGAL CINEMAS
MANOR
609 PROVIDENCE ROAD
704-334-2727

STARTS FRIDAY JUNE 22

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JUNE 24, 2007

June 24, Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Cycle C Readings:

1) Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15
2) Acts 13:22-26
3) Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

Diversity of voices enhances God's message

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Each year millions of families gather to celebrate the accomplishments of young people who have completed 12 years of education.

Some have made it by the skin of their teeth. At the other end of the spectrum others have achieved extraordinary honors. However, on graduation night 2007, halls everywhere radiated the promise of youth.

Waiting for the notes of "Pomp and Circumstance" to fill the air at my grandson Michael's commencement ceremony, my attention kept returning to an older couple seated nearby. This couple showed all the signs of two people who have lived together for nearly a lifetime. Words did not seem to be needed between them. Someone's great-grandparents were waiting for that magic name.

The woman studied the program; the man watched her. Her gloved fingers followed each of the nearly 600 names as they were called. Finally, with five names left, she and her husband rose as one to cheer a proud young man across the stage.

On the way home someone in our family commented in a positive way on the diversity in Michael's graduating class. I remember the proud couple in front of me. In their day skin color would have been the deciding factor in attending Michael's school.

In the readings for this Sunday we are able to witness the strength that diversity brings to salvation history. For example, Isaiah, the great prophet; Paul, the great evangelist; David, the psalmist king and ancestor of Jesus; Elizabeth; Zechariah; and the infant John fill today's readings.

We celebrate the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Unlike the people in Luke's Gospel who "wonder ... what will this child be," we know he will grow up to be the great desert prophet who will baptize large crowds and prepare the way for Jesus' ministry.

Imprisoned with execution a certainty, John will send a messenger to Jesus, asking, "Are you the one?"

Jesus will not say yes or no; however, he will say the blind see, the lame walk.

Through this oblique answer John the Baptist, the great prophet, knows he has fulfilled his task because Jesus is the One.

Questions:

Who are some individuals whose words and actions have helped you recognize the promise of Christ? How does the diversity of these voices enhance the message?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 17—23

Sunday(Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13, Galatians 2:16, 19-21, Luke 7:36--8:3; **Monday,** 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday (St. Romuald),** 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Matthew 5:43-48; **Wednesday,**2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga),** 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday (St. Paulinus Sts. John Fisher and Thomas More),** 2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30, Matthew 6:19-23; **Saturday,** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Matthew 6:24-34.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 24—30

Sunday (Birth of St. John the Baptist), Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; **Monday,** Genesis 12:1-9 Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday,** Genesis 13:2, 5-18, Matthew 7:6, 12-14; **Wednesday (St. Cyril of Alexandria),** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday (St. Irenaeus),** Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16, Mark 7:21-29; **Friday (Sts. Peter and Paul),** Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; **Saturday (First Martyrs of Rome),** Genesis 18:1-15, Luke 1:46-50, 53-55, Matthew 8:5-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 1—7

Sunday (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21, Galatians 5:1, 13-18, Luke 9:51-62; **Monday**, Genesis 18:16-33, Matthew 8:18-22; **Tuesday (St. Thomas),** Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; **Wednesday**, Genesis 21:5, 8-20, Matthew 8:28-34; **Thursday (St. Anthony Zaccaria)**, Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday**, Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 65-67, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday**, Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29, Matthew 9:14-17.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes Youth Camps Nursing
Retreats Campus Ministry Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Happy Father's Day

from Pennybyrn at Maryfield!

You've earned it: a rare opportunity to embrace life as never before, free from chores or concerns about the future, in a beautiful retirement community with premier services and amenities. Surrounded by good friends and healthy choices, you can stay active, involved and in control.

Now under construction in High Point, Pennybyrn at Maryfield will have everything you want or need, as well as a plan for tomorrow…what a wonderful gift for you, and your family!

Call (336) 886-4103 or toll-free (866) 627-9343.

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Road, High Point, NC 27260

www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants
of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Dad07

Teen makes movie, raises awareness about crisis in Darfur

ONTARIO, N.Y. (CNS) — Erin Schultz has never been to the Darfur region of Sudan but that has not stopped her from reaching out to ease the suffering of the people in that region.

After learning that Darfur is currently in the throes of a crisis so violent that many are classifying it as genocide, 15-year-old Erin, who lives in Ontario, created a short movie about the crisis and e-mailed it to everyone she knows.

She had only intended to raise awareness about the problem, but she has also raised approximately $2,000 for relief efforts in Darfur.

Last year at this time, Erin had barely even heard of Darfur. She was active in the youth group at her parish, St. Mary of the Lake Church in Ontario, and had volunteered at a food bank a few times, but she had never been overly involved in activist efforts. She did, however, regularly read news magazines and that's where she first learned about what was happening in Darfur.

"I found it horrible how almost nobody knew" about what was going on there, she said.

She found out more information from news stories and Web sites devoted to raise awareness of the crisis.

Then she used a computer program to put together a five-minute movie that incorporates photos from Darfur, statistics about the number of people killed, injured and displaced, and a poem written by a Sudanese man who fled the country on foot when he was a teen.

She showed the video to her parish youth group, then she e-mailed it and asked friends and family members to pass it on.

CNS PHOTO BY CLAIRE SOARES, REUTERS

A woman and her son displaced from the Darfur region of Sudan collect their monthly rations from a refugee camp in Chad May 5, 2006.

In early February, the parish youth group raised money for relief efforts in Darfur when they took part in a national effort called Souper Bowl of Caring. Through this program, youth groups collect money in soup pots after Masses on Super Bowl Sunday and donate the proceeds to charities of their choice.

The teens raised $582.87 that weekend. Those who donated received a prayer card and a petition to send to President George W. Bush, asking him to push for a stronger multinational force to protect the people of Darfur.

Although there is no mention of fundraising in Erin's video, people who saw the video soon started sending donations to Erin and Carol May, youth minister at St. Mary of the Lake Church, who then forwarded the money to Catholic Relief Services asking that the funds be used only for humanitarian aid in Darfur.

Erin hopes to eventually raise $10,000 for this relief work, but says fundraising is not her primary goal.

"That's second. I'd really rather raise a lot of awareness," she said.

May was so impressed with Erin's efforts that she nominated her for the town's "Catch a Kid Who Cares Award", honoring children and teens who do kind deeds. The town supervisor presented Erin with a certificate this spring.

"It was nice," Erin said. "I just like that it's going to spread more awareness, not because I want to have my name in the paper."

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic
Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

JOIN US ON A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH
FR. LOUIS CANINO, OFM

SEPTEMBER 17 ~ 26, 2007
*COST: $2,695.00

Visit Assisi ~ The land of St. Francis and pray in the Chapel of San Damiano, Basilica of St. Clare, La Verna and other sacred places where St. Francis walked and blessed by his loving presence. The trip will also include daily Mass, prayer and spiritual reflections. Thirty spots are available for this trip on a first come, first serve basis. **Call St. Francis Springs Prayer Center to register or to request further information. (336) 573-3751.**

*Double occupancy. Price includes airfare (including taxes), ground transportation, tour guides, room in convent, and all meals except for three.

(This is a privately sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Pope, Bush discuss wide range of issues, including Iraq

BUSH, *from page 1*

The pope and president looked relaxed as they greeted each other and spoke briefly with reporters before their 35-minute private encounter June 9. Bush later held a separate 40-minute meeting with the Vatican's top foreign policy officials.

A Vatican statement described the meetings as "cordial" and said they had focused in part on "the worrisome situation in Iraq and the critical conditions in which the Christian community finds itself."

Tens of thousands of Christians have fled Iraq over the last four years to escape violence and discrimination.

The talks also touched on the overall situation in the Middle East, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and developments in Lebanon.

"The Holy See again expressed the hope for a 'regional' and 'negotiated' solution to the conflicts and crises that are tormenting the region," the Vatican statement said.

Bush and the pope also discussed problems in Africa, the humanitarian crisis in Darfur and developments in Latin America, it said. "Finally, there was an examination of current moral and religious questions, including those related to human rights and religious freedom, the defense and promotion of life, marriage and the family, education of new generations and sustainable development," the Vatican said.

Before the president's visit, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, went out of his way to praise Bush for his position on abortion and for "positive initiatives in favor of the defense of life from conception."

CNS PHOTO BY KEVIN LAMARQUE, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush meets with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican June 9.

Exchanging pleasantries and gifts

Bush arrived at the Vatican under very heavy security. The pope smiled broadly as he greeted Bush just outside his private library in the Apostolic Palace. The two men shook hands, and the pope ushered the president to a large desk. Reporters and photographers were allowed to stay for the first minute of the encounter.

"It's good to be with you sir," Bush said as he sat down opposite the pope.

"You come from the conference in Heiligendamm?" the pope said, referring to the G8 meeting in Germany.

"I did, your old country. And it was successful," the president replied.

The pope asked whether Bush's dialogue with Russian President Vladimir Putin was also successful. The president paused as photographers kept snapping photos and said: "I'll tell you in a minute."

Both men laughed. Putin and Bush had sparred over a U.S. proposal to build a missile defense system in Europe.

Bush then went on to tell the pope that he had recently asked Congress for $30 billion toward fighting the global AIDS crisis, a doubling of the previous U.S. commitment.

After reporters left, the two leaders met privately without aides or interpreters. Afterward, Bush's entourage was introduced one-by-one to the pope, who handed each of them a medallion.

The pope and the president also exchanged gifts. Bush gave the pope a long wooden stick with a design representing the Ten Commandments. Bush told him it had been made by a former homeless man in Dallas.

The pope presented Bush with an engraving of St. Peter's Basilica and a gold medallion of his pontificate. The president remarked: "It's beautiful, thank you very much."

Concerns about Iraq

The Vatican's concern about Iraq was underlined in another way during the Bush visit.

As the president and the pope ended their meeting, the Vatican released a statement by the newly nominated prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, who said many Eastern-rite Catholics were suffering in Iraq, Lebanon and elsewhere because of "war, violence or fear of an uncertain future."

Church officials have been increasingly distressed at the exodus of Iraqi Catholics following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The last time Bush came for a papal audience, in 2004, Pope John Paul II told him of his deep concern for the situation in Iraq and reminded the president of the "unequivocal position" taken by the Vatican against the war.

During his first term, Bush met three times with Pope John Paul.

Before coming to see Pope Benedict, Bush told reporters that he would be in a "listening mode" when he met the 80-year-old pontiff. He said a papal audience was always a "moving experience. Sometimes I'm not poetic enough to describe what it's like to be in the presence of the Holy Father."

After his meeting, Bush said the pope was "deeply concerned" about Christians in Iraq and feared that they were "being mistreated by the Muslim majority."

The pope "was concerned that the society that was evolving would not tolerate the Christians' religion," Bush said during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Romani Prodi at Chigi Palace, the seat of Italy's government.

"I assured (the pope) we were working hard to make sure" Iraqis would respect "that modern constitution voted on by the people that would honor people from different walks of life and different attitudes."

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro has an immediate opening for a full time Director of Music Ministry. Applicant needs a solid background in traditional Catholic Masses and music, vocal, organ and piano skills, and the ability to motivate, expand and lead both youth and adult choirs. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Full benefits available. Applicants who meet these requirements should send their resumes to: **Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 201 South Chapman St., Greensboro, NC 27403; or fax to: (336) 274-7326.**

Grant Writer

Part-time grant writing position for Casa Guadalupe with possibility of full-time employment (with benefits). Research, identify, develop, and respond to public and private opportunities for funding in the area of Human Services. Bachelor's degree and writing sample required. Please submit resume and writing sample to Lisa Reyna at Catholic Social Services, P O Box 21314 Winston-Salem, NC 27120, or e-mail lcreyna@charlottediocese.org.

Applications must be postmarked by July 13, 2007.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

Good Shepherd, Cumming, GA seeks full-time Director of Music and Liturgy to oversee 1600-family parish liturgical music program including adult choir, cantors and musical ensembles. Will work with parish staff on all liturgical needs and will assist in planning weddings and funerals as well as appropriate liturgical rites and prayers. Ability to implement additional musical ensembles required. Good working knowledge of Catholic liturgy with proven leadership skills and excellent musical abilities in keyboard and conducting. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Please fax resume and cover letter in c/o Fr. Peter J. Rau: 770-887-2241

Regional Minister of Christian Formation for Small Parishes

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond seeks a Minister of Christian Formation for the Appalachian area of the diocese. The selected individual will support the local volunteer catechetical leaders in the 18 small parishes of Region 10 through consultation, resourcing, and implementation of the diocesan catechetical norms, and PATHWAYS, the diocesan catechist certification process. The regional minister will also promote Adult Faith Formation in the region and oversee the Region 10 Resource Library. The selected individual will have a master's degree in Religious Education, Theology, or Pastoral Ministry, and have at least three years' experience as a catechetical leader, preferably with small and/or rural parishes.

For a position description and additional information regarding this position, contact:
Dennis Beeman, 804-359-5661, ext. 113; dbeeman@richmonddiocese.org.

Classifieds

FOR RENT

CONDO: OCEANFRONT - Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Two day minimum; weekly for under $1000. Additional units available. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

PRAYERS & PETITIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for hearing my novena. Please answer. DL

Classified ads bring results! Over 135,000 readers! Over 50,000 homes!
Rates: $.70/word per issue ($14 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

ADVERTISEMENT

A Comedy Of Biblical Proportions

STEVE CARELL MORGAN FREEMAN

A TOM SHADYAC FILM

EvanALMIGHTY

UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND SPYGLASS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A SHADY ACRES/BARBER-BIRNBAUM/ORIGINAL FILM PRODUCTION STEVE CARELL MORGAN FREEMAN "EVAN ALMIGHTY" LAUREN GRAHAM JOHN GOODMAN JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS JIMMY BENNETT WANDA SYKES JOHN DEBNEY JUDY RUSKIN HOWELL SCOTT HILL LINDA DeSCENNA IAN BAKER ILONA HERZBERG DAVE PHILLIPS MATT LUBER TOM SHADYAC GARY BARBER ROGER BIRNBAUM NEAL H. MORITZ MICHAEL BOSTICK STEVE KOREN & MARK O'KEEFE STEVE OEDEKERK AND JOEL COHEN & ALEC SOKOLOW STEVE OEDEKERK TOM SHADYAC

SOUNDTRACK ON VARÈSE SARABANDE

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED

MILD RUDE HUMOR AND SOME PERIL

SPYGLASS

JUNE 22

ORIGINAL FILM

A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS AND ANIMATION BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC

www.evanalmighty.com

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Letters to the Editor

Reminders with occasion of the feast of Corpus Christi

We recently had the joy of celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ). It is a perfect occasion to remind all faithful Catholics of the obligation to participate in this great mystery every Sunday, to observe the fast prescribed by the Catholic Church prior to Communion and to receive the sacramental species in grace, to be preceded by the sacrament of confession if necessary.

We faithful Catholics are grateful to be reminded of these obligations from our priests' homilies. We need them, not only in this important feast, but often throughout the year.

I view homilies as excellent means for continuous doctrinal education and really appreciate these concrete and helpful messages to keep us closer to God.

— Marina N. Carrillo
Winston-Salem

Criticizing potential immigration reform

Regarding the article on immigration reform ("To welcome the strangers," June 1), like many people, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski is missing a critical point in this current debate — he fails to make a distinction between legal and illegal immigrations. Legal immigrants are entitled to the benefits and protections of U.S. citizens. Illegal immigrants should have no rights.

Bishop Wenski does not understand that illegal immigrants have broken the law by sneaking across the border. In some instances, illegal immigrants have stolen social security numbers. This is a felony called "identity theft."

Bishop Wenski also spoke about how deportation divides families, yet these people made a conscience decision to sneak across the border and start a family. Did they expect that they would never be caught? All of the responsibility falls on the parents — they made their choices, let them deal with the consequences.

The way to stop illegal immigration is relatively straight forward — enforce the existing laws and make employers accountable for who they hire. If an employer is caught hiring an illegal, the employer should have to pay a hefty fine and serve jail time.

It is absolutely absurd to reward 12 to 20 million illegal immigrants with amnesty for breaking the law. It is simple greed that drives employers to want cheaper labor. Hold big business responsible, not the average law-abiding American citizen.

— Ted Jaskot
Charlotte

In "To welcome the strangers," Bishop Wenski raised many good points regarding Catholic social teaching as it relates to the current immigration debate. As Catholics, we should and must react to the injustices committed against anyone, regardless of legal status.

However, Bishop Wenski presented a completely one-sided analysis and I challenge all Catholics to look at all the issues from all sides. Is justice served when illegal immigrants are granted amnesty while thousands of other immigrants wait in line to follow the process in a legal manner?

Is justice served when our students are subjected to a severely limited education because of the inability of so many new students to speak English? Is justice served when our medical costs spiral upward to accommodate the millions who cannot pay?

Is justice served when U.S. citizens are forced to pay for the explosion in governmental services? The retirement portion of the amnesty provision of the bill currently being debated will generate a net cost of some $2.3 trillion alone.

The untold consequence of the new legislation concerns the voting pattern of the new citizens. If granted citizenship, many immigrants will undoubtedly vote for the party that promotes the "welfare state." The inevitable stranglehold of the Democratic party on all branches of government — with its radical support of abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research, homosexuality, etc. — will directly conflict with Catholic moral teaching. Will justice be served when countless more of God's children are aborted or euthanized?

— Paul E. Deer
Charlotte

Response to David Hains' 'spin zone' column

Is "fair and balanced" the intent of David Hains' June 1 column, "Catholics in the 'spin zone'"? I failed to note the perspective of the conservative Catholic. Did not Jesus reach out to tax collectors, soldiers, fishermen and rabbis — people of all political persuasions?

A study by researchers at Indiana University is the springboard for creating a fear-monger out of Bill O'Reilly in particular and Fox News in general. This inflammatory conclusion is at once dangerously naïve or malevolent.

Contrary to the findings of Mr. Hains, as a frequent viewer of Bill O'Reilly's show I have never witnessed an attack on law-abiding immigrants and foreigners. O'Reilly's astute oratory against terrorism is a service to our country and to our faith.

Why is it that Mr. O'Reilly is not credited for his effective defense of abused children?

Many people are attracted to O'Reilly's program because of his consistent fight to preserve our Judeo-Christian values in an increasingly secular and intolerant belief system. As a retired Catholic schoolteacher, I am proud that O'Reilly has made the public aware of these issues.

— Deanna Hagan
Huntersville

David Hains' column "Catholics in the 'spin zone'" was not very well-researched. Indeed, the study from which Mr. Hains quotes was debunked several weeks prior.

The Indiana University researchers used terms like "conservative" and "liberal" in their count of "names." Certainly, if a political commentator is to be charged with name calling every time he utters the word "conservative" then it's surprising the count wasn't far higher.

The intentionally skewed results of this study were ignored by O'Reilly's rivals in the media, and yet here I read about the study in our diocesan newspaper. It's irresponsible journalism, to say the least. Not only does political rhetoric have no place in a diocesan newspaper, but the irresponsible printing of false claims and bad facts has no place in any respectable publication.

Mr. Hains owes us a retraction, if the case is that he simply did not research the facts. If this was deliberate, he owes us an apology for attempting to mislead us, and he owes Mr. O'Reilly an apology for unjustly attacking his credibility.

— H. Kennedy McGovern
Clemmons

Does David Hains watch The O'Reilly Factor on a regular basis, or is he just taking his information from other sources?

O'Reilly's favorite targets? He complains about illegal immigrants who commit crimes; judges who sentence child molesters to light sentences; people who constantly cut down our country, giving fuel for our enemies and terrorists. Wow! How nervy of him. Thank God someone has the guts to do it.

— Catherine H. Bauer
Hayesville

David Hains' characterization of Bill O'Reilly was so off-base — to lump O'Reilly in with Hitler and Mussolini was incredible!

The sad reality is that in most of our mainstream media, the conservative point of view is not being heard or presented appropriately. Before Fox News, the only way to hear a fair and balanced report was to read The Wall Street Journal. Now, at least there is a network that gives both sides of the story when reporting on a host of issues that affect our country.

Fox News and The O'Reilly Factor deserve more credit than you offer for covering issues from both sides — if you were a regular viewer, you would know that O'Reilly is not a Republican patsy and he disagrees with the Bush Administration on a number of issues.

Today I see what millions of Americans see — a media that is biased toward a secular society steeped in the wants and needs of the individual. I don't always agree with what Bill O'Reilly says, but at least Fox News is talking about conservative issues and successfully rebutting liberal diatribe.

— Ralph A. Castillo
Sparta

David Hains' column "Catholics in the 'spin zone'" does a disservice to himself, his readers and The Catholic News & Herald. His comparison of Bill O'Reilly's program and Father Charles Coughlin's radio program rises to the level of ridiculous. The only comparison is that they were both media personalities.

There is no question that Father Coughlin was opposed to the U.S. intervention in the war in Europe. But to compare O'Reilly's and Father Coughlin's use of "name calling" is pure hyperbole, despite the questionable "research" cited. In fact, Mr. Hains reverts to the very same tactic by labeling O'Reilly as a fear-mongerer.

— John C. Tuffy
Murphy

I am a news junkie; I watch all the networks and I personally like a strong debate — this shows that both sides are getting a fair hearing. Is David Hains afraid of someone challenging the standard left of center views? As Catholics, we should encourage open, honest debate, not condemn it, especially when our values are given a fair hearing.

I do not always agree with Bill O'Reilly, but he does often promote Catholic viewpoints: anti-abortion, pro-Christmas, pro-child, anti-porn, pro-religion, pro-family. He is very vocal about his anti-abortion stance — why was this not reported?

On a recent episode of The O'Reilly Factor, O'Reilly exposed a doctor who was performing late-term abortions. During that show O'Reilly did "name call" — he called the doctor a "murderer." Is it wrong to call a doctor performing an abortion a murderer?

We should be glad to have a strong media personality such as O'Reilly supporting moral convictions and we should not completely condemn him. Complete condemnation is not Catholic; it is political ideology.

— Brian Walser
Charlotte

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

To distribute the wealth

Keeping our promises to the world's poor

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Every day 25,000 people — 18,000 of them children — perish from not having enough food to eat. And every year over 9 million fellow human beings die because they are too poor to live.

These appalling facts reported from Friends of the World Food Program should deeply disturb those of us who have more than enough to live well. These facts should especially bother the consciences of the leaders of the world's richest nations.

As I write, heads of the G-8 (the Group of Eight), the world's leading industrial nations, which includes the United States, are meeting in Germany to discuss global economic issues of mutual interest.

But as they deliberate over how to better assist each other's economies, they should more importantly commit themselves to ensuring that the world's poor have a valued place at their economic tables.

Since being poor is the principle cause of hunger, they should vow to rapidly eliminate global poverty. And they can begin by honoring past promises.

To this point, presidents of the bishops' conferences of seven of the G-8 nations sent letters to the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Russia, Canada, France and Germany, urging these political leaders to honor the commitments made at the G-8 summit in Scotland two years ago.

There the world's richest countries promised to spend an additional $50 billion per year on foreign assistance by 2010, with half that amount going to Africa. But the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reports that foreign aid levels have remained stagnant through 2006.

Recently Pope Benedict XVI called for a more just distribution of the wealth of the planet.

The pope said, "In the modern world it is more than ever important to affirm the bonds that unite countries, with special attention toward the poorest nations. ... Authorities in all countries have a duty to work together to ensure greater distribution of the wealth and resources of the planet."

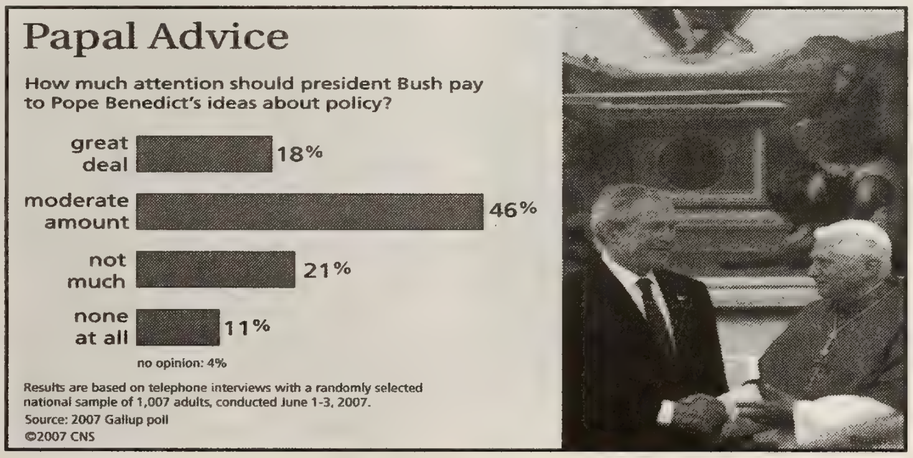
Pope Benedict expressed hope "for a renewed commitment among all nations, especially the richest, to ensure that all human beings may become aware of their responsibility in this matter and accept a transformation of lifestyle with a view to an evermore just distribution" of wealth.

Commitments made at the 2007 G-8 summit will do little to alleviate the misery of the world's poor unless we insist that our political leaders honor past and present promises.

Please e-mail, write or call President Bush (White House comment desk: (202) 456-1111) and your two U.S. senators and congressperson (Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121), urging them to appropriate an additional several billion dollars per year to global poverty reduction assistance — as our government promised to do at the 2005 G-8 summit.

Waiting until 2010 will only allow tremendous misery to continue.

Also, please regularly give whatever you can to help the poorest of the poor. Hunger will not end until we demand justice for the poor, give generously to their needs and keep all our promises.



How much attention should president Bush pay to Pope Benedict's ideas about policy?

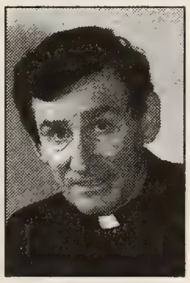
no opinion: 4%

Results are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,007 adults, conducted June 1-3, 2007.
Source: 2007 Gallup poll
©2007 CNS

Small is beautiful

Curbing 'appetites' may help curb global warming

The Human Side



FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

As I watched the "NewsHour" with Jim Lehrer recently, I told myself, "I've been here before."

In a discussion on global warming, an expert on climate change suggested we need to change our ideas about bigness, to think more in terms of smallness.

Several years ago while cycling through Europe, I met a group of university students who were proponents of E. F. Schumacher's book "Small Is Beautiful." The British economist proposes thinking in terms of smaller, less and fewer:

"For humane, aesthetic, moral and political reasons, the overwhelming nature of modern technology threatens a quality of life that has meaning, freedom of choice, a human sense of scale and an equal chance for justice and individual creativity.

"Supporters of this viewpoint have proposed a value system in which all people recognize that the earth's resources are limited and that human life must be structured around a commitment to control the growth of industry, the size of cities and the use of energy.

"Restoration and renewal of natural resources has become the technological objectives of the appropriate-technology alternative."

One of the contentions of the university students was that people's appetites were geared to making things forever bigger. To back up their thinking they pointed to regular-size hamburgers becoming Big Macs; simple station wagons becoming SUVs; skyscrapers getting taller; ordinary homes becoming gigantic mansions.

Unwilling to do without some foods out of season, some countries import them from other parts of the world where they are in season. As one professor on Lehrer's "NewsHour" pointed out, flying in cargoes of food requires jets, and jets pollute the atmosphere. He lauded farmers markets because people didn't need to travel to purchase local produce.

No doubt curbing appetites is necessary, but how do you curb an appetite once it has been cultivated? Changing ingrained habits is extremely difficult.

One meaning of the word "appetite" is "to have a craving." The word "crave" can also mean to desire something one feels he or she has a right to.

One answer to curbing an appetite is to realize no one has an unlimited right to the resources of this earth. They are gifts of nature and ultimately a gift from God. If we are to conserve resources and protect the environment, practicing gratitude in its deepest spiritual sense is imperative.

Developing a sense of heartfelt thankfulness is our best means for developing an ecological revolution aimed at saving our planet.

For thankfulness to truly move us, however, it must be based on a reverence of God. One of the meanings of reverence is to be in awe. The more we are in awe of God's gifts, the more we will cherish them.

To know how true this is, all we need do is recall a gift we received from a dear friend and how we made every effort to preserve and cherish it.

True believers look at life of church seeking God's love, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — True believers look at the life and history of the Catholic Church seeking signs of God's love, rather than trying to highlight the curious or being fixated by the scandalous, Pope Benedict XVI said.

When Catholics take church history seriously, they are inspired to live lives that are more Christian so that they, too, may add their own evidence of God's greatness, the pope said June 13 at his weekly general audience.

Pope Benedict focused on the third-century Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, the author of a 10-volume history of the church. Eusebius set a "moral" standard for recounting church history, the pope said. The aim of a church history "is not just to know the past," but to prompt reflection leading to "conversion and an authentic witness of Christian life on the part of the faithful."

Eusebius' approach to history "invites us to be in awe, to contemplate in history the great works of God for the salvation of humanity and, with as much energy, he invites us to the conversion of life," Pope Benedict said. "Let us do everything in our lives in order to leave a trace of God's love."

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Continuing our catechesis on the writers of the early church, we turn today to Eusebius of Caesarea.

The many theological, exegetical and historical writings of Eusebius reflect the rich Christian culture of his time, which spanned the period of the last persecutions, the peace of the church under Constantine and the controversies surrounding the Council of Nicaea.

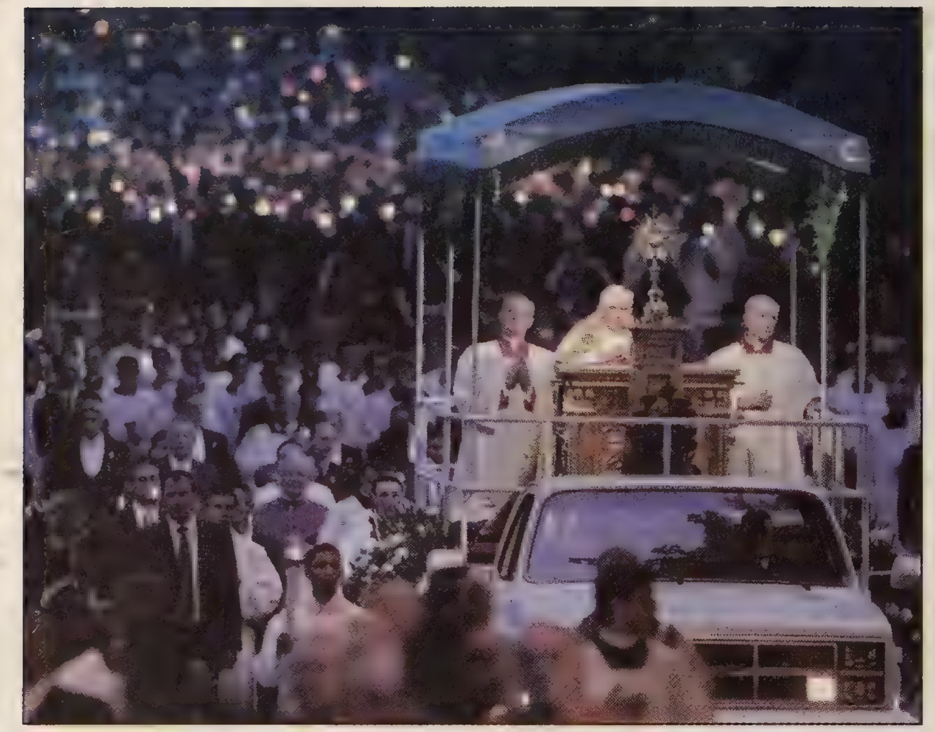
He attended the council as the bishop of Caesarea and subscribed its teaching on the Son's divinity and consubstantiality with the Father. Eusebius is best known for his "Ecclesiastical History," which documented the first centuries of the church's life and preserved much precious evidence which would otherwise be lost.

His Christocentric approach to history emphasized the gradual revelation of God's merciful love for humanity, culminating in the coming of Christ, the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the church. Eusebius' writings continue to inspire Christians in every age to let their study of history bear fruit in a greater appreciation of God's saving works, a deeper conversion to Christ and a more generous witness to the Gospel in everyday life.

Nourishment in the 'desert'

Pope says Eucharist essential for Christians in often-hostile world

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI leads a eucharistic procession in Rome on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 7.

ROME (CNS) — Before leading a Corpus Christi procession with the Eucharist through the streets of Rome, Pope Benedict XVI said the sacrament is essential nourishment for Christians walking through an often-hostile world.

"For every Christian generation, the Eucharist is the indispensable nourishment that sustains them as they cross the desert of this world," he said in his June 7 homily for the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

The world is "made arid by ideological and economic systems that do not promote life, but rather mortify it," he said during the Mass celebrated outside Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Ours is "a world where the logic of power and possessing dominates more than that of service and love; a world where often the culture of violence and death triumphs," the pope said.

"But Jesus comes to meet us and reassure us: He himself is the bread of life," Pope Benedict said.

The pope rode in the procession in the back of an open flatbed truck. The pope knelt before the Blessed Sacrament as security officers and candle-bearing altar servers, bishops and cardinals walked beside the truck.

Because the Mass was considered a Rome diocesan event, despite the thousands of foreigners present, Pope Benedict celebrated the liturgy, including the eucharistic prayer, in Italian rather than Latin.

The pope told people gathered for the Mass that they should not be surprised that many people have difficulty accepting church teaching that Jesus is truly present in Eucharist.

The real presence is a mystery, and "a God who becomes flesh and sacrifices himself for the life of the world puts human wisdom in crisis," he said.

But Catholics continue to proclaim the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and, in traditional Corpus Christi processions, they bear witness to their faith by carrying the Eucharist through their cities, the pope said.

Pope Benedict said Luke's Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes emphasizes the fact that everyone present ate and was filled.

In the same way, he said, the public procession "calls attention to the fact that Christ sacrificed himself for all humanity," the pope said. "His passage between the houses and along the streets of our city will be an offering of joy, of eternal life, peace and love to those who live there."

Pope Benedict said Luke's Gospel story also emphasizes the fact that the bread and fish multiplied by Jesus were offered by people in the crowd.

"The five loaves and two fish indicate our contribution, poor but necessary, which he transforms into a gift of love for all," the pope said.

The Eucharist, he said, calls Christians to give themselves to others "because the vocation of each of us is to be, like Christ, bread broken for the life of the world."

CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI kneels before the Blessed Sacrament in Rome June 7.

Join us: "CRUISE INFO MEETING"
7 pm, Tuesday, June 26
Slide presentation, answers to your questions by travel rep at Pastoral Center, Charlotte. All are welcome! Call for reservation (704) 370-3332.

NO RISK to hold space — FULL refund before July 31st !

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31- February 11 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today – FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

26th Summer Bible Institute

Sunday, July 15 – Friday, July 20

Old Testament Presenter: Father Larry Boadt, CSP —
"The Book of Exodus"

Fr. Boadt is a member of the Paulist Fathers and long-time professor in Old Testament studies at Washington Theological Union. He currently is publisher for Paulist Press and continues to give lectures and retreats on topics in the Psalms, Prophets and Pentateuch. His writings are prolific, notably "Reading the Old Testament."

New Testament Presenter: Dr. Pheme Perkins —
"Reading the Synoptic Gospels"

Dr. Perkins joined the theology department at Boston College in 1972. She has been active in writing and lecturing across the New Testament spectrum, especially in Pauline epistles, Johannine writing, Resurrection and early Christian eschatology, Gnosticism and Irenaeus. Her "Reading the New Testament" is widely known.

For further information, visit the web site or contact
The Oratory: Center for Spirituality

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JUNE 29, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 33

Perspectives

David Hains responds to column criticism; Tony Magliano compares healthy vs. blind patriotism

| PAGES 14-15

Defending all life

Bishop calls on Catholics to fight pending legislation

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis was disappointed in a recent decision by N.C. legislators to fund embryonic stem-cell research and is calling on Catholics to oppose it.

As President George W. Bush vetoed a bill in Washington June 20 to expand federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells, the N.C. House Science and Technology Committee approved House Bill 1837, the Stem Cell Research Health and Wellness Act.

The bill, which was cleared to go before the House Appropriations Committee, allocates $10 million in public funds for embryonic stem-cell research.

See STEM CELLS, page 6

Celebrating a new life in America

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Congolese singers and dancers perform a traditional dance as part of the World Refugee Day celebration in uptown Charlotte June 20. Nearly 100 participants from six ethnic groups performed traditional dances, played contemporary music and spoke about life for refugees in the United States.

Refugees bring cultures to uptown Charlotte

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — People from around the globe gathered in uptown Charlotte to share their experiences as refugees and celebrate their native cultures June 20.

"World Refugee Day is designed to celebrate the courage and determination of refugees," said Mary Jane Bruton, community relations coordinator for the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office.

"It also showcases the cultural gifts they bring with them and allows refugees to share those gifts with the greater community," she said.

In 2000, the United Nations declared that June 20 would be commemorated annually as World Refugee Day.

WANT TO SEE MORE?
For more photos from World Refugee Day in Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/catholicnews.html.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Joseph Waters exchanges the sign of peace with his fellow priests during the Mass celebrating the anniversaries of priestly ordination and recognition of service for retiring priests at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 1.

Reflections of Christ

Jubilarians, retirees honored at Mass

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Priests serving in the Diocese of Charlotte were recently honored for their years of service to Catholics in North Carolina and elsewhere.

A dozen priests were recognized for the 25th, 50th, 55th or 60th anniversary of their priestly ordinations during a Mass celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte June 1.

Also honored during the Mass were Oblate Father Thomas Fitzpatrick and Father Edward Sheridan, who are retiring July 5. Father Fitzpatrick has been serving as pastor of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville; Father Sheridan has been serving as pastor of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Father Thomas Selvaraj, pastor of St. Joseph of the Hills

See JUBILEE, page 8

Resisting evil

Program counteracts violence on news, around world

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — Catholics from the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates came to "The Nonviolence of Jesus: Living the Gospel Today" because they are Christians, concerned about the Iraq war, interested in social justice.

See NONVIOLENCE, page 5

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-8 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Pastoral assignments

List of new pastors, parochial vicars, other assignments

| PAGE 7

Faith-filled journey

Father Ed Sheridan retires after 44 years

| PAGE 9

Culture Watch

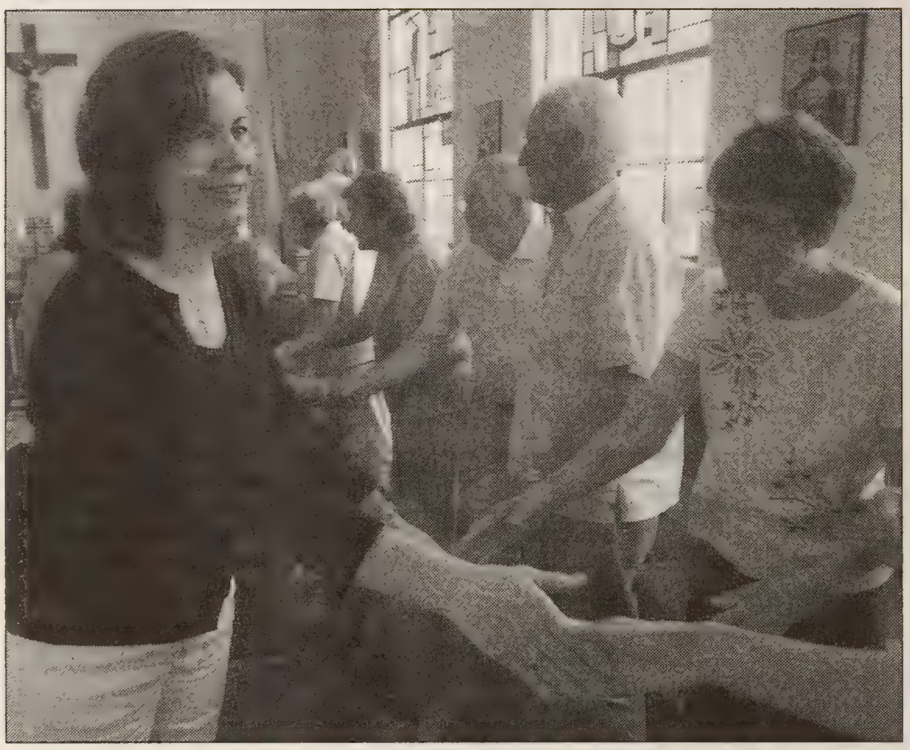
Christian perspectives in Harry Potter; ad pros, cons

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

A FAMILY OF FAITH



CNS photo by David Maung

Francie Ware (left) greets parishioners during a June 14 Mass at the Marine Memorial Chapel at Camp Pendleton, a U.S. Marine Corps base in Oceanside, Calif. Ware, who has four children and lives on the base, depends greatly on the spiritual support she has within the base's Catholic community to help deal with her husband's deployment to Kuwait.

Woman relies on faith, camaraderie during husband's deployment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sometimes it's the little things people miss the most.

Since Navy Capt. James Ware was deployed to Kuwait in February for a yearlong assignment as executive officer of the U.S. Navy's Expeditionary Medical Facility, his wife, Francie Ware, has missed their daily conversations.

She also misses going to Sunday Mass as a family and taking up an entire pew with their four children.

In his absence, she has relied more on prayer, putting her husband "in God's hands" and finding, as a result, that her "dialogue with God has been much stronger."

She also has come to depend on members of the Catholic community at Camp Pendleton, the Marine Corps Base in Southern California. The base is also home to Navy families because of its Navy hospital.

Ware, a religious education teacher, joined a Bible study group formed by members of the three Catholic chapels on base, primarily to brush up on Scripture knowledge. But with her husband's absence, the group has helped fill a void.

Part of life as a parent with a deployed spouse, as she put it, is to worry about your spouse "every minute" and also "to be strong at all times for our children, even when we feel like being weak or scared."

"I don't know what I would do without the good folks from our Catholic community of Camp Pendleton," she said. "It's through them that I see Jesus' shining love, caring and effable goodness as this community continually pours out their support for me and our four children."

The Bible study includes about 20 regular members; many are retirees and have been through long deployments and some are widowed. The six members with active-duty spouses are jokingly referred to as the "kids" of the group.

They have joined her for big family celebrations such as birthdays and her son's first Communion and also for just talking about the everyday things — filling in for the frequent conversations she used to have with her husband during the couple's 27 years of marriage.

Father Chris Merris, a Navy chaplain who has been assigned to Camp Pendleton for the past four years, likens what families such as the Wares go through to a crisis situation that brings forth "humanity and grace."

Father Merris said the church is a natural source of support for military families.

"There is a reason God gave us the church," he added. "You can't do it yourself."

The priest said he is continually humbled by the way military families show bravery, "day after day."

Shows of strength are not only on the battlefield, but everywhere, he said, adding that they are just "not always on display in a great theatrical way."

South Carolina fire chaplain mourns loss of nine firefighters

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — As chaplain of the South Carolina Firefighters' Association for the past 23 years, Msgr. Joseph Roth has made a habit of writing to the families of each of the 80 or 90 members who die each year.

But he never expected to have to write to nine families at once, as he will now do after a fire in a Charleston furniture warehouse claimed the lives of nine firefighters in the early morning hours of June 19. The fire began around 7 p.m. June 18.

Msgr. Roth, vicar general for the Diocese of Charleston, spoke briefly with The Catholic Miscellany, Charleston diocesan newspaper, by telephone June 19.

"We offer the condolences of the Diocese of Charleston to the nine families of the Charleston Fire Department who died in the terrible fire this morning," he said. "We also certainly express condolences to the members of the fire department who are greatly distressed by what has happened. We hope and pray that they will be able to receive God's choicest blessing of peace in this tragic situation."

Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston was in New Mexico June 19 for the spring retreat of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Msgr. Roth said he was heading to a meeting with the firefighters' association at a local fire station to determine what help was needed and to possibly arrange chaplain's visits to the families.

The organization provides services, benefits and information, and a relief fund for about 16,000 active and retired firefighters and their families.

He is the only Catholic chaplain in the 102-year history of the association and recently was inducted into the association's Hall of Fame.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

JEFFERSON — Father Matthew Buettner will present a lecture July 16 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 326 East Main St. The topic of the lecture will be related to his book, *"The Mystery of the Mass."* Please call (336) 246-9151 for more information.

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate a *Mass for military personnel* July 8 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. E. The Mass and a Rosary (to be recited at 2:30 p.m.) will be offered for all of our military personal. Please send a picture of your loved one who has died or is now serving in our military so that we may place their pictures in the cathedral vestibule for display prior to the Mass. Mail your photos to Nancy Weber, Bishop's Office, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by July 5. List your loved one's name and military rank on the back of the picture.

CHARLOTTE — A *Family Ultreya* will take place in the family room of St Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., July 15, 12-2 p.m. All Cursillistas, their families and friends are invited to join us for faith, food and fellowship. We will have an inspirational witness talk, grouping and a potluck lunch. For more information, call Tom and Heather Martin at (704) 544-7011. For babysitting, reserve a spot by calling Vicki Torres at (704) 543-7677, ext 1011.

CHARLOTTE — All high school and college students are invited *to "How Not to Lose the Dating Game,"* an informative talk on the virtue of chastity by Dominican Sister Jane Dominic. The presentation will take place July 19, 7-9 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. Food and door prizes will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail marysample5@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — Dominican Sister Jane Dominic will speak on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *"God is Love"* July 20 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, e-mail margaret_g_kennedy@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE — *The Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group*,

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JUNE 29, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 33

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope says Iraqi Christians experience 'authentic martyrdom'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Christians of Iraq are experiencing an "authentic martyrdom" and must be supported materially and spiritually by the entire Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Peace, so long implored and awaited, unfortunately is still largely being offended," the pope said in a June 21 speech to representatives of the Catholic communities in the Middle East and to Catholic aid agencies that assist them.

In "vast areas" of the Middle East, including Iraq, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories, "interpersonal and communal relationships" are being compromised by tension, unrest and all-out war, he told participants in a Vatican meeting of church funding agencies for Eastern churches.

"Ancient and new injustices" are being perpetuated in the region, the pope said, leading to new violence and more war.

Pope Benedict said he and all those participating in the meeting wanted to express their solidarity with and closeness to the region's Christian communities and to "those who venerate the name of God and seek him with a sincere conscience."

"I knock at the hearts of those who have specific responsibility that they would adhere to their serious obligation to guarantee the peace of everyone, without distinction, freeing them from the deadly illness of religious, cultural, historical or geographical discrimination," he said.

The pope offered his condolences to Chaldean Patriarch Emmanuel-Karim Delly of Bagdad for the June 3 "barbaric murder of an unarmed priest and three subdeacons" in Mosul in northern Iraq.

The pope also encouraged church representatives from Israel and the Palestinian territories "to reinforce the sorely tried hope" of their faithful.

---

at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. The group will discuss the Books of Acts, July 17-Sept. 18. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — As Christians we struggle daily with negative emotions such as anger, anxiety and despair. *"Spirituality of the Emotions"* offers an opportunity to bring together insight, prayer and group support in this struggle. Dr. Ronda Chervin will present this program Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m., through Aug. 8. These free classes will meet at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 413-4624 or St. Charles Borromeo Church at (828) 437-3108.

HICKORY — A *Charismatic Mass* is celebrated the first Thursday of each month in Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, at 7 p.m. For further information, contact Joan Moran (828)-327-0487.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St., hosts a 12:15 p.m. prayer service, *Veni Sanctus Spiritus*, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to reflect on God and refresh the spirit in the middle of a day. For more information call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? If so, tell others about it here in the Diocesan Planner!

Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

June 30 — 10:30 a.m.
Mass for new tribunal advocates
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

July 1 — 11 a.m.
Installation of Father LoMonaco as pastor
St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville

July 8 — 2:30 p.m.
Rosary and Mass for military personnel
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Aug. 4 — 9 a.m.
Mass for Crossroads walkers
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Vatican issues 'Ten Commandments' for drivers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has issued a set of "Ten Commandments" for drivers, saying motor vehicles can be an "occasion of sin."

A document titled "Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road" said driving can unleash road rage and other immoral behavior, including excess speed, reckless passing, cursing and just plain rudeness.

"Cars tend to bring out the 'primitive' side of human beings, thereby producing rather unpleasant results," the document said.

The warning about driving came in the first part of the 59-page instruction, released June 19 by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. The document said drivers need to remember that even when there is no one sitting next to them, they are never alone.

"This capacity for coexistence, of entering into relations with others, presupposes certain specific qualities in a driver: namely self-mastery, prudence, courtesy, a fitting spirit of service and knowledge of the highway code," it said.

Accidents can occur anytime, and when they do, motorists have a moral responsibility to stop and help others, it said.

The "Ten Commandments" for drivers, as listed in the document, are:

1. You shall not kill.
2. The road shall be for you a means of communion between people and not of mortal harm.
3. Courtesy, uprightness and prudence will help you deal with unforeseen events.
4. Be charitable and help your neighbor in need, especially victims of accidents.
5. Cars shall not be for you an expression of power and domination and an occasion of sin.
6. Charitably convince the young and not so young not to drive when they are not in a fitting condition to do so.
7. Support the families of accident victims.
8. Bring guilty motorists and their victims together, at the appropriate time, so that they can undergo the liberating experience of forgiveness.
9. On the road, protect the more vulnerable party.
10. Feel responsible toward others.

Timeless tradition

CNS PHOTO BY ROMEO RANOCO, REUTERS

A Catholic priest sprinkles holy water onto the faithful covered in mud and dried leaves during a ceremony celebrating the feast of St. John the Baptist in the remote village of Bibiclat in Nueva Ecija province, north of Manila, Philippines, June 24. Hundreds of Catholics participated in the religious tradition, which has been held in the village annually since 1945.

Pope says two-thirds majority always needed to elect pope

VATICAN (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has stipulated that a two-thirds majority always is required to elect a new pope, undoing a more flexible procedure introduced by Pope John Paul II.

In a one-page document released June 26, the pope said the two-thirds-majority rule cannot be set aside even when cardinal-electors are at an impasse.

Instead, the pope instructed that if the cardinals are deadlocked after 13 days, runoff ballots between the two leading candidates will be held. A papal election will continue to require a majority of two-thirds of the cardinals present.

In 1996, Pope John Paul introduced a change in the conclave procedure that allowed cardinal-electors to move to a simple majority after 13 days, when 33 or 34 ballots had been held.

Pope Benedict said there had been significant requests for a return to the old rules, under which a two-thirds majority was always required.

Under Pope Benedict's new rule, if a conclave has not elected a pope after 13 days, the cardinals will pause for a day of prayer, reflection and dialogue, then move to a runoff election between the two cardinals who had obtained the most votes on the previous ballot.

The two leading cardinals would not vote in the runoff ballots, though they would remain in the Sistine Chapel, where conclaves are held.

Pope Benedict's document, an apostolic letter issued only in Latin, was signed June 11.

Toward the 'Promised Land'

Parishioners take part in Corpus Christi celebration

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

FRANKLIN — As Pope Benedict XVI led a Corpus Christi procession with the Eucharist through the streets of Rome, Catholics in Franklin took part in a different kind of procession.

A Corpus Christi procession featuring carpets depicting sacred symbols of faith was held at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin June 7, the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Parishioner Michael Brucker originally suggested the idea to Father Matthew Kauth, pastor. Brucker's former parish in Pennsylvania had used 15 carpets with symbols created from sawdust during its Corpus Christi procession.

Father Kauth was intrigued by the idea and gave Brucker the go-ahead.

"Michael had the idea and did most of the work getting the word out," said Father Kauth. "He found so many to help in the project, making it a family affair in which our whole parish participated."

The sawdust carpets at St. Francis of Assisi Church were created by families and various groups within the parish. Each carpet required considerable work and time, with each creation uniquely representing an aspect of the Catholic faith.

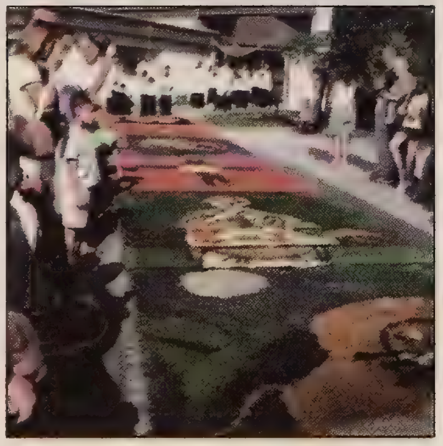
The project resulted in the largest participation by the parish in any event, outside the celebration of the Mass.

The Corpus Christi celebration began with vespers and eucharistic adoration in the church. Participants then went outside, where they lined either side of the carpets. A procession through the center of the carpets began with Father Kauth carrying a monstrance containing the Eucharist.

"Our Lord has not left us orphaned, but has sent us his Holy Spirit to allow us to worship in spirit and in truth," said Father Kauth.

"As the Israelites processed through the desert and were fed by manna, we are processing to the true Promised Land and are fed with the body and blood of the Father's own Son," he said.

The parishioners followed behind the monstrance to the parish's grotto of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, where Benediction was offered. The procession then continued back into the church for a final Benediction.



COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners line carpets with religious symbols during a Corpus Christi celebration at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin June 7, the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus.

In Rome, the pope told those gathered for Mass celebrated outside the Basilica of St. John Lateran that the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is a mystery, and "a God who becomes flesh and sacrifices himself for the life of the world puts human wisdom in crisis," he said.

But Catholics continue to proclaim the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and, in traditional Corpus Christi processions, they bear witness to their faith by carrying the Eucharist through their cities, the pope said.

At St. Francis of Assisi Church, the Corpus Christi celebration helped enable a greater understanding of the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ and an increased appreciation of the Eucharist.

"One woman afterward said to me she had never seen anything so beautiful," said Father Kauth. "She finally realized the ineffable gift of the holy Eucharist."

WANT MORE INFO?

For further information about how the carpets were made, contact Michael Brucker or Father Kauth at St. Francis of Assisi Church at (828) 524-2289.

In the steps of a saint

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Brian Cook, parochial vicar at Holy Family Church in Clemmons and spiritual director of the parish Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild, is pictured with the group during their pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, Md., April 28-29.

The group attended Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, visited the saint's tomb and toured the grounds where she founded the first parochial school in the United States. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is considered the founder of the U.S. Catholic school system.

At the grotto, the group participated in the Stations of the Cross and recited the rosary.

Father Cook, an alumnus of Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, arranged for the group to meet with Jason Barone, Matthew Codd and Transitional Deacon Tri Vinh Truong, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte, who gave them a tour of the seminary.

Checks of charity

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Shawn O'Neal, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee, is pictured with members of Court St. Mary of the Catholic Daughters of America, who are presenting two $200 checks to Julie Sasscer (second from left) and Gayle Woody (third from left) of the Western Carolina Pregnancy Center in Bryson City and Linda Henderson (fifth from left) of the Smoky Mountain Pregnancy Care Center. The checks were presented during the court's monthly meeting at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church May 12.

Limited seats for direct flight — call NOW!
Deadline for deposit coming soon — Aug. 1!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with
Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** – guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today – FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese – **(704) 370-3332**

Program counteracts violence in news, world

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Peg Costigan (left) and Maryknoll Sister Theresa Mangieri of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville look over nonviolence-related materials at "The Nonviolence of Jesus: Living the Gospel Today" program presented at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley June 16.

NONVIOLENCE, *from page 1*

They came to the program, held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley June 16, to hear something to counteract the steady diet of violence on television, including the TV news.

Lisa Caldwell, a Methodist from nearby Waynesville, attended because violence concerns all Christians, not just one denomination.

"Violence is not an issue of Methodists or Catholics. All churches need to pull together," she said.

Pat Mahon, Ph.D., who coordinates the Pax Christi chapter at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, presented the program.

"Jesus was nonviolent but not a doormat," Mahon said. "He actively resisted evil when he encountered it."

For example, Jesus instructed his listeners in such passages as the "Woe to you" sayings in Matthew 23, in which he denounced the scribes and Pharisees for their unjust practices.

The beatitudes turn everything upside down, Mahon said. The Christian Scriptures tell us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, love and forgive our enemies and take no revenge against them.

Jesus is the nonviolent lamb of God, who shows us God's face: justice, mercy, compassion and steadfast love, he said.

Mahon cited the Amish community in Paradise, Pa., who forgave the man who murdered five young Amish girls before killing himself last year. They not only prayed for the murderer at his funeral, they also collected Christmas gifts for the man's son and now attend his sports events to support him, since he has no father to cheer for him.

As Jesus' disciples, all Christians are called to similar behavior.

Christ told his followers, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 6:43–45).

Jesus didn't condone violence, even to protect himself, although he had defensive means at his disposal. As he was being arrested in Gethsemane, Jesus told one of his disciples, "Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (Matthew 26:52).

Mahon cited others who, like Jesus, paid the ultimate price for adhering to what they believed God was calling them to do. Mahatma Mohandas Gandhi used nonviolence to force the British government to grant independence to India in 1947 before a Hindu fanatic killed him in 1948. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and El Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero were murdered because they were in nonviolent solidarity with the poor and oppressed.

"The one who lives with the poor, the miserable, the peasant and who defends them and loves them like Christ our Lord ... this one is the Christ in our midst," Archbishop Romero said in 1978, two years before he was assassinated while celebrating Mass.

Arms or alms

The United States has spent trillions on national defense and the war on terrorism since Sept. 11, 2001, when more than 3,000 people died in terrorist attacks against this country. Yet on that day, Mahon said, another 35,000 people died of starvation.

"We give (less than 2 percent) of our gross national product to relieve suffering in the world," Mahon said. "We are 22nd out of 22 among the wealthiest countries in terms of what is given to relieve suffering."

Mahon outlined what constitutes a "just" war, including just cause (force to correct a grave evil), comparative justice (injustice by one party outweighs the other) and legitimate authority (duly constituted public authorities).

The U.S. bishops have written: "In a world where 42,000 children die every day from hunger and its consequences; where ethnic cleansing and systematic rape are used as instruments of war; and where people are still denied life, dignity, and fundamental rights, we cannot remain silent or indifferent.

"Nor can we simply turn to military force to solve the world's problems or to right every wrong."

Mahon quoted Pope Benedict XVI: "It is understood that nonviolence for Christians is not just a tactic. It is an entire way of being."

Peace then must be every Christian's mindset at all times.

"I think it's a matter of relationships, one person at a time," Mahon said. "We're not going to turn the world upside down. It's a matter of consciousness and awareness."

Augustinian Brother Bill Harkin, Living Waters' director, said, "The more comfortable we get, the harder it is to live the Gospel. On this day, perhaps we will say that we have decided to live the Gospel in a different way."

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

JUST WAR

During "The Nonviolence of Jesus" program, Pat Mahon outlined what constitutes a just war.

Before the war begins, there must be:

— Just cause: only use force to correct a grave evil; that is, aggression or massive violation of the basic rights of entire populations;

— Comparative justice: injustice suffered by one party must significantly outweigh that suffered by the other;

— Legitimate authority: duly constituted public authorities;

— Right intention: force may be used only in a truly just cause and solely for that purpose;

— Probability of success: arms may not be used in a futile cause or where disproportionate measures are required to ensure success;

— Proportionality: overall destruction expected from the use of force must be outweighed by the good to be achieved;

— Last resort: only after all peaceful alternatives have been used.

During the conflict, there must be:

— Noncombatant immunity: not the object of direct action, must take steps to minimize indirect harm;

— Proportionality: use no more force than is necessary to achieve military objectives;

— Right intention: even amid conflict politicians and military leaders must strive for peace with justice.

After the war, there must be:

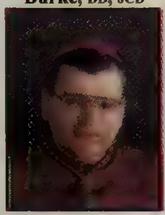
— Just termination: negotiate conditional surrender;

— Restitution: victor must repair damage done.

Am I My Brother's Keeper? —
The Sanctity of Human Life

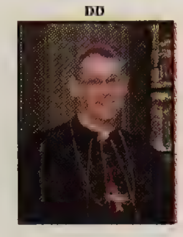
Eternal Life
presents
THE 2007 CHURCH TEACHES FORUM
JULY 20th & 21st
THE GALT HOUSE, EAST TOWER — LOUISVILLE, KY

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, DD, JCD



Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz, DD, STD

Bishop Robert Finn, DD



Abbot Edmund McCaffrey, PhD

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk

Rev. Roger Arnsparger

Friday Banquet - July 20

QUANTITY — TOTAL AMOUNTS
_____ BEEF @ $40.00 $_______
_____ SALMON @ $40.00 $_______

Saturday Forum, July 21, 2007

_____ Forum Tickets for SATURDAY @ $15.00 $_______
_____ Luncheon tickets @ $15.00 $_______

Name
Address
City/State/Zip Phone

Make checks payable and mail to:
ETERNAL LIFE –THE CHURCH TEACHES FORUM
902 W. Stephen Foster Avenue • Bardstown, KY 40004
1-800-842-2871 wjsjmj@bardstowncable.net FAX: 502-348-2224

Keeping the 'moral compass'

Cardinal praises Bush for vetoing embryonic stem-cell bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush June 20 vetoed a bill to expand federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells, saying it "would compel American taxpayers, for the first time in our history, to support the deliberate destruction of human embryos."

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, praised the veto.

"This bill would not actually enhance stem-cell research, but divert federal funds from legitimate research toward avenues requiring the destruction of innocent human life," he said. "The cause of science is not enhanced but diminished when it loses its moral compass."

In conjunction with the veto, Bush issued an executive order calling on federal agencies to strengthen the nation's commitment to research on pluripotent stem cells.

Adult stem cells from a variety of sources, including bone marrow, the placenta and umbilical-cord blood, have led to successful treatments for a number of diseases. Adult stem cells are called pluripotent because they have the power to turn into many of the 200-plus types of differentiated cells found in the body.

Embryonic stem cells are called omnipotent because they can turn into any of those differentiated cells.

"Adult stem cells continue to produce new clinical advances on a regular basis, most recently showing benefits for patients with juvenile diabetes," he said.

He said a recent research breakthrough has shown that ordinary adult cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent stem cells, showing that "science not only raises new ethical questions but at times can help address them."

"Tragically, some embryonic stem-cell advocates in Congress have dismissed such advances or even greeted them with suspicion, as though medical progress were less genuine or praiseworthy when it respects early human life," he said.

The vetoed bill was titled the Stem-Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007. It passed in the Senate April 11 by a 63-34 vote and in the House June 7 by a vote of 247-176. Neither vote reflected the two-thirds majority that would be needed to override a veto.

The day before the House voted to relax the funding restrictions on human embryonic research, Cardinal Rigali had urged it to defeat the bill.

In a letter to all House members, he said, "Embryonic stem-cell research has been as disappointing in its results as it has been divisive to our society. Pursuit of this destructive research will almost certainly require you to embrace more and more egregious violations of moral norms in the effort to bring its 'promise' to fruition."

"Ethically sound research using nonembryonic stem cells has continued to advance, helping patients with over 70 conditions in clinical trials," he added.

"Since Congress debated this issue last summer, further evidence has emerged on the versatility of adult stem cells and on the ability of adult cells to be reprogrammed to rival the flexibility of embryonic cells," he said.

Democratic leadership had made the bill a top priority when the Democrats gained control of Congress this year. It would have ended the Bush administration's six-year-old policy limiting federal funding of human embryonic stem-cell research to projects that relied only on colonies of embryonic stem cells created before Aug. 9, 2001, the date that policy was announced.

Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean sharply criticized the veto, saying, "Bush once again put political posturing ahead of sound science, turning his back on the ... 100 million Americans suffering from debilitating diseases who could benefit from this life-saving science."

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York accused Bush of putting "ideology before science, politics before the needs of our families."

White House press spokesman Tony Snow responded, "This actually is putting science before ideology. There are many people who believe that you have to force taxpayers into making a choice of destroying human life — destroying an embryo in order to proceed with embryonic stem-cell research. That would be an ideological position."

"The president does not believe it's appropriate to put an end to human life for research purposes," he said. "That's a line he will not cross."

In his veto message to the Senate, Bush said since 2001 his administration "has made more than $130 million available for research on stem-cell lines derived from embryos that had already been destroyed. We have also provided more than $3 billion for research on all forms of stem cells, including those from adult and other nonembryonic sources."

Bush's order directs the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health to ensure that any human pluripotent stem-cell lines produced in ways that do not create, destroy or harm human embryos will be eligible for federal funding.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Bishop calls on Catholics to fight pending legislation

STEM CELLS, *from page 1*

"This bill violates a fundamental church teaching on the sanctity of life," said Bishop Jugis in a statement released June 21.

"A human life cannot be terminated in an attempt to find cures for diseases," he said. "Stem-cell research has made advances in the past 12 months that have not required the destruction of the human embryo. We remain supportive of these other methods of stem-cell research."

Adult stem cells from a variety of sources, including bone marrow, the placenta and umbilical-cord blood, have led to successful treatments for a number of diseases. Adult stem cells are called pluripotent because they have the power to turn into many of the 200-plus types of differentiated cells found in the body.

HOW TO HELP

Bishop Jugis asks Catholics to contact their N.C. legislators to oppose HB 1837.

To contact your legislator online:

1. Go to www.ncga.state.nc.us
2. Click "Who Represents Me"
3. Type in your 9-digit zip code
4. Click the representative's name to receive his/her phone number, e-mail address and mailing address.

To contact your legislator by phone:

1. Call (919) 733-7760 and ask for your representative's name and his/her contact information.

A proposed statement:

Dear Representative (name): I am a citizen living in your district. I am contacting you to express my opposition to House Bill 1837, which allocates $10 million in public funding for embryonic stem-cell research. Embryonic stem-cell research results in the destruction of the embryo. I believe an embryo is a human life. I cannot condone the destruction of human life for the purpose of research. Please vote against funding this research. Thank you.

In conjunction with the veto, Bush issued an executive order calling on federal agencies to strengthen the nation's commitment to research on pluripotent stem cells.

Bishop Jugis said he was saddened and disappointed by the N.C. House committee's vote. Earlier this year, he and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh called on all Catholics in North Carolina to learn the Catholic Church's teachings on stem-cell research and to help oppose any N.C. legislation for embryonic stem-cell research using taxpayer dollars.

The bishops sent letters to all pastors asking them to help mobilize their parishioners, along with documents on the teaching to be included in January parish bulletins.

Once again, the bishops are calling on their flocks to help defeat the bill.

"Bishop Burbidge and I are asking Catholics throughout the state to contact their legislators to express their opposition to this bill," said Bishop Jugis. "We will also contact other like-minded citizens who support life to join us in defeating this proposed legislation."

Timing is crucial, said Bishop Jugis.

"The House Appropriations Committee meets regularly as it attempts to hammer out a final proposed budget," said Bishop Jugis in a June 23 letter to parishioners. "It is critical that legislators be contacted this week."

The bishop's letter contained information on how to contact N.C. legislators.

Both Bishop Jugis and Bishop Burbidge have stated that the voices of more than 400,000 Catholics in North Carolina "can make a difference on behalf of the unborn."

"All life, including the human embryo, is sacred and must be protected at all cost," said Bishop Jugis.

Communications Director David Hains and Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

PURE *fashion*®
DO YOU WANT TO BE A MODEL OF STYLE & VIRTUE?
Don't miss your chance to model in the 2008 Pure Fashion show at the Westin Hotel in downtown Charlotte!
Enjoy the 6 month model training program and develop your personal beauty from the inside out. Log on to **www.purefashion.com** to learn more about the 2008 model training program and join the lucky group of young women from Charlotte who will discover their own dignity, style and beauty and how to foster it by living a life of virtue.

Dignity
Virtue
Modesty
Purity
Deadline September 15th, don't miss out!
Models must be 14 -18 years old, in grades 8 -12. **Apply online today!**

New pastor installed at Divine Redeemer Church

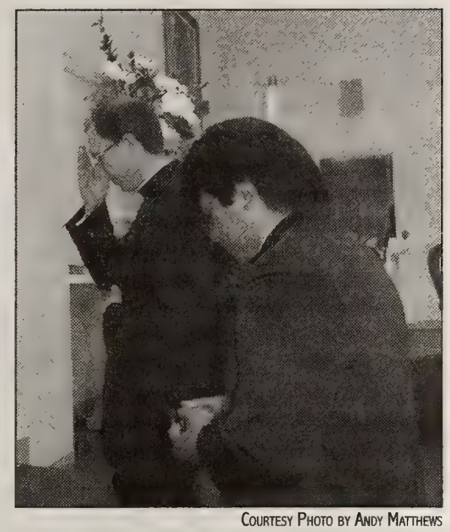
BOONVILLE — Behind a backdrop of colorful costumes and illustrious ceremony, Father Jose Enrique Gonzalez Gaytan, a 36-year-old native of Queretaro, Mexico, was officially installed as the new pastor of Divine Redeemer Church in Boonville June 10.

"I am your brother," Father Gonzalez Gaytan told an overflowing crowd at the predominantly Hispanic church, "but I also want to be your friend."

Bishop Peter Jugis J. Jugis presided over the ceremony.

Father Gonzalez Gaytan replaces Father Christopher Davis, who has been assigned to be pastor of St. Joseph Church in Asheboro.

Father Gonzalez Gaytan, ordained in 2003, has served at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem and Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANDY MATTHEWS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and Father Jose Enrique Gonzalez Gaytan kneel during a ceremony for Father Gonzalez Gaytan's installation as pastor at Divine Redeemer Church June 10.

Charlotte seminarian receives degree from Pontifical College Josephinum

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Joshua Voitus, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, recently received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Voitus was one of 30 students from 17 dioceses who were awarded degrees during the 108th Baccalaureate Mass and commencement exercises at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, May 12.

The Baccalaureate Mass was held in St. Turibius Chapel with Auxiliary Bishops Earl A. Boyea of Detroit, a former Josephinum rector, as celebrant and homilist.

"Each of you has played a unique role in making the Josephinum what it is today," said Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, school rector and president, to the 2007 graduating class.

"As our graduates bid farewell to the Josephinum, they will remain part of the community, united with each other in the Holy Spirit wherever they are," he said.

"May God who began his good work in them during their years at the Josephinum bring his purpose for them to fulfillment where they may serve him," said Msgr. Langsfeld.

COURTESY PHOTO

Joshua Voitus, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte, accepts his bachelor's degree from Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, rector and president of the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, during the commencement ceremony May 12.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER

As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:

Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Pastoral Appointments

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte announces the following pastoral changes:

APPOINTMENTS OF PASTORS

Effective June 1

Father Jose Enrique Gonzalez Gaytan
From: Chaplain, Charlotte Catholic High School and Holy Trinity Middle School
To: Pastor, Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

Effective June 18

Father Lawrence LoMonaco
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
To: Pastor, St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville, and Immaculate Conception Mission, Canton

Effective July 5

Father Brian Cook
From: Parochial Vicar, Holy Family Church, Clemmons
To: Pastor, St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

Father Carl Kaltreider
From: Ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte
To: Pastor, Holy Redeemer Church, Andrews, and Prince of Peace Mission, Robbinsville

Father Michael Kottar
From: Pastor, Holy Redeemer Church, Andrews, and Prince of Peace Mission, Robbinsville
To: Pastor, St. Mary Church, Shelby, and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain

Father Francis Cancro
From: Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Asheboro
To: Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont

Father Francis O'Rourke
From: Pastor, St. Ann Church, Charlotte
To: Pastor, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Father Timothy Reid
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Charlotte
To: Pastor, St. Ann Church, Charlotte

Father John Starczewski
From: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro
To: Pastor, St. James Church, Hamlet, and Sacred Heart Mission, Wadesboro

Father Johnathan Hanic
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem
To: Pastor, St. Joseph of the Hills Church, Eden

Effective Aug. 1

Father Christopher Davis
From: Pastor, Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville
To: Pastor, St. Joseph Church, Asheboro

Effective Sept. 1

Oblate Father James Turner
From: Ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte
To: Pastor, Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville

Effective Nov. 1

Augustinian Father John Denny
From: Ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte
To: Pastor, St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Maggie Valley

APPOINTMENTS OF PAROCHIAL VICARS

Effective July 5

Father Patrick Hoare
From: Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Father Patrick Cahill
From: Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Father Patrick Toole
From: Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew Church, Charlotte

Father Frederick Werth
From: Newly ordained
To: Parochial Vicar, Holy Family Church, Clemmons

Oblate Father Joseph Zuschmidt
From: Pastor, Queen of the Apostles Church, Belmont
To: Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point

Oblate Father Anthony Gilborges
From: Parochial Vicar, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

Father James Stuhrenberg
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Mark Church, Huntersville
To: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace Church, Greensboro

Father Jean Pierre Swamunu Lhoposo
From: Ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury

Father Luis Osorio
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Father Nohe Torres
From: Ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte

Father Alejandro Ayala
From: Parochial Vicar, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury
To: Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem

OTHER

Effective July 5

Father Richard DeClue
From: Newly ordained
To: In residence, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Charlotte (for summer, then continuing advanced studies in theology at Catholic University of America in fall)

Father Christopher Roux
From: Administrator, St. James Church, Hamlet, and Sacred Heart Mission, Wadesboro
To: In residence, St. Ann Church, Charlotte (while continuing as priest secretary to bishop)

Oblate Father James Byrne
From: Ministry outside the Diocese of Charlotte
To: In residence, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, High Point

Father James Ebright
From: Academic studies in canon law
To: In residence, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury (while continuing advanced studies in canon law at Catholic University of America)

Augustinian Father Robert Dueweke
From: Hispanic ministry, Smoky Mountain Vicariate
To: Reassignment by his order

Father Edward Sheridan
From: Pastor, St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte
To: Retirement at his request

Father Thomas Selvaraj
From: Pastor, St. Joseph of the Hills Church, Eden
To: Retirement at his request

Father Eric Houseknecht
From: Pastor, St. Mary Church, Shelby, and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain
To: Sabbatical year of study

Father Thomas Kessler
From: Pastor, St. Leo the Great Church, Winston-Salem
To: Faculty, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity, St. Paul, Minn.

Oblate Father Thomas Fitzpatrick
From: Pastor, Our Lady of the Highways Church, Thomasville
To: Retirement at his request

Oblate Father Paul Dechant
From: Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro
To: Reassignment by his order

Effective Aug. 1

Augustinian Father Doyle
From: Pastor, St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Maggie Valley
To: Reassignment by his order

Jubilarians, retirees honored at Mass

JUBILEE, *from page 1*

> “I am proud to have labored alongside these priests during their years of service in the diocese.”
>
> — Bishop Peter J. Jugis

Church in Eden, just recently announced his retirement and therefore was not included in this Mass.

Principal concelebrants for the Mass were Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, retired bishop of Charlotte; Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor for the diocese; Father Paul Gary, rector of St. Patrick Cathedral; and jubilarian and retiring priests.

“The Mass was a prayer of gratitude to God for having bestowed such exceptional blessings on our diocese through the ministry of these priests,” said Bishop Jugis.

“We experience the love, the compassion and the beauty of Christ reflected in their lives today, because of the daily contact they have had with Christ over the years of their pastoral ministries,” he said.

“I have not regretted one moment of these 50 years, and would change nothing,” said golden jubilarian Msgr. Joseph Kerin, who retired in 2003.

“However, nothing has developed as I had planned or dreamed, but with each experience I have grown and I have learned to appreciate the providence of God and his loving care for all of us, his children,” he said.

With more than half a millennia of experience, the jubilarians and retirees had some valuable advice for the five priests ordained in Charlotte June 2.

“Be present to the people — pastoral presence is very important,” said Father Edward Sheridan, retiring after 44 years as a priest. “The parish is where the church is and the priest must develop a deeper relationship with the people and be there in good moments as well as sad ones.”

“Be patient with yourself and be open to God,” Msgr. Kerin advised. “You will be amazed how you will grow in your priesthood.”

“Be willing to change and adapt — the Holy Spirit is with you,” he said.

Msgr. Kerin said one of the greatest challenges for today’s priests is continuing to “bring encouragement and the spirit of God to people who are struggling to adapt to a rapidly changing and diverse church in the midst of a general environment that is becoming more and more secularized and divided.”

Father Sheridan also said the laity plays an extremely important role in the Catholic Church.

“Lay ministry is essential; the voices of the people need to be heard and the laity need to be involved in the parish and church life,” he said.

For Msgr. Kerin, “the parishioners are my ministry. As I minister to them, they minister to me and provide inspiration, encouragement, purpose, energy and spirit to me.”

“With the Holy Spirit working through them and me — the church grows and flourishes,” he said.

“I am proud to have labored alongside these priests during their years of service in the Diocese of Charlotte,” said the bishop. “During the Mass, we prayed for vocations to the priesthood, asking the Lord of the harvest to send more priestly laborers for the scared ministry. The Lord will be generous to those who are generous to him.”

Looking back on his priesthood, Father Sheridan found it impossible to pinpoint one specific memory that stands above the rest.

“It has been great and very fulfilling in so many different aspects,” he said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.or

Photos by Karen A. Evans

Above: Father James Byer, Msgr. Joseph Kerin, Father Edward Sheridan and Franciscan Father Conall McHugh process into St. Patrick Cathedral June 1.

Below: Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin prays the prayer of consecration of the Eucharist.

Jubilarians and retirees

These priests were honored during the Mass June 1:

60 years
Msgr. Anthony Kovacic

55 years
Vincentian Father Joseph Elzi

50 years
Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin
Franciscan Father Conall McHugh
Father Joseph J. Waters

25 years
Father James M. Byer
Father Francis T. Cancro
Father Carl T. Del Giudice
Father William M. Evans
Father Jose Antonio Juya
Father Gnanapragasam Mariasoosai

Retiring priests
Oblate Father Thomas J. Fitzpatrick
Father Edward J. Sheridan

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

26th Summer Bible Institute

Sunday, July 15 – Friday, July 20

Old Testament Presenter: Father Larry Boadt, CSP — "The Book of Exodus"

Fr. Boadt is a member of the Paulist Fathers and long-time professor in Old Testament studies at Washington Theological Union. He currently is publisher for Paulist Press and continues to give lectures and retreats on topics in the Psalms, Prophets and Pentateuch. His writings are prolific, notably “Reading the Old Testament.”

New Testament Presenter: Dr. Pheme Perkins — "Reading the Synoptic Gospels"

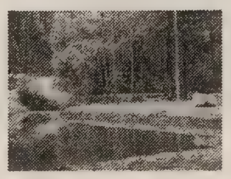
Dr. Perkins joined the theology department at Boston College in 1972. She has been active in writing and lecturing across the New Testament spectrum, especially in Pauline epistles, Johannine writing, Resurrection and early Christian eschatology, Gnosticism and Irenaeus. Her “Reading the New Testament” is widely known.

For further information, visit the web site or contact The Oratory: Center for Spirituality

We are your source for homes and lots in Buck Mountain and the beautiful mountains of Wilkes County —

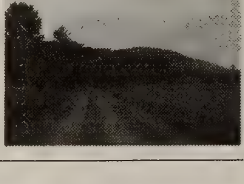
HUFFMAN
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
www.huffmanrealestate.com

Call Karen or Randy today!
Karen Huffman (336) 262-0208
Randy Huffman (336) 262-0480
karenahuffman@aol.com



MLS #50929: 2.5 acres at Buck Mountain with your own stream-fed fishing pond in gated community. $85,000/broker interest.

MLS #50227: 50 acres with pond, two bold streams, pasture, elevation with views. $299,000/broker related.



MLS #50974: Renovated historic home - large rolling lot with mountain views. Outbuildings include workshop, playhouse. Only 1/2 mile from town.
Priced to sell: $208,000.

A faith-filled journey

Father Sheridan retires after 44 years of priestly ministry

BY COLLEEN FORCINA
SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Edward Sheridan celebrates Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte in 2004.

> "Hopefully I've made a difference in peoples' lives ... Hopefully I've been there in some way and helped them experience God in their lives."
>
> — Father Edward Sheridan

COURTESY PHOTOS

Above left: Father Edward Sheridan pictured in 1962. Above right: Father Sheridan blesses animals outside St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte in October 2006.

CHARLOTTE — While reflecting upon his retirement, Father Edward Sheridan sat comfortably in his office, counting on his fingers precisely the number of assignments he has been on since being ordained a priest.

After having counted on all 10 fingers, he started over on his hands.

"I've had probably a total of 12 appointments in parish work," he said. "Also I have had some other assignments in schools."

After 44 years of priestly ministry, Father Sheridan is both retiring and celebrating his 70th birthday this year. He celebrated his farewell Mass June 24 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, where he served as pastor since 2004.

During the Mass, Father Sheridan received two standing ovations from the approximately 1,600 people in attendance. Many of them wore stickers that read, "We love Father Ed."

Father Sheridan said it was hard to describe the highlights of his priesthood, but that it has been a very rewarding experience.

"I enjoy being a priest and I would do it over again," he said. "The priesthood is so varied in so many things that I don't know if I can pinpoint any one particular thing — just the opportunity to help people sometimes find God, sometimes rediscover God, remodel a sense of peace in themselves, receive the sacraments."

Beginning the journey

Father Sheridan was born and raised in New York City, where he attended Good Shepherd Church. His parents had immigrated to New York from Ireland in search of a better life.

The Sheridans were faithful Catholics who never missed a Sunday Mass or holy day of obligation. In his youth, Father Sheridan served as a choir boy and sang at Mass.

While in sixth grade, inspired by the priests and religious brothers and sisters in his parish, Father Sheridan knew he wanted to become a priest. His parents were both inspirational and supportive of his decision.

"I just felt like that would be a wonderful way to spend my life: to be a priest and help the church, to help bring people closer to God," Father Sheridan said. "It's more lasting than a lot of other things you can do in life."

After completing high school, Father Sheridan attended St. Bonaventure University in New York, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy and master's degrees in theology and Scripture. Later, he also received a master's degree in education and administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

He completed his studies at Christ the King Seminary in New York and was ordained a priest at Infant of Prague Church in Jacksonville, N.C., May 23, 1963. The Diocese of Raleigh encompassed the entire state at the time, and it had the fewest Catholics of any diocese in the United States.

"It was less than 1 percent Catholic, so that's why I volunteered to come here," he said.

His first parish assignment was at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Newton Grove, located east of Fayetteville, where he served for two years. The Diocese of Charlotte was founded in January 1972 and he continued to serve there for the next 35 years.

"I've had assignments from the east to the west, and I've enjoyed ever assignment I've ever been on," he said. "There's never been an assignment I felt like I did not like it. It's mainly because of the people."

Father Sheridan returned to parishes in which he had already served — St. Aloysius in Hickory, where he served a total of nine years (1984-87, 1998-2004), and St. Gabriel Church, where he served a total of 12 years (1989-98, 2004-07).

"It's very, very rare that you return to a parish after you've left, and here it's happened to me twice," he said. "I've been blessed in both places. I would have gone back to any parish a second time."

B.J. Dengler, pastoral coordinator at St. Gabriel Church, said she has been privileged to work with Father Sheridan. A highlight of his ministry, she felt, was receiving converts into the Catholic Church, and helping those who had left the church to return.

"He has a gift for inviting and welcoming people by remembering their names," she said.

The parish currently has 3,650 families, or about 11,000 members.

Father Sheridan created a welcoming environment in the very large parish, according to parishioner Ana Lothspeich. His biggest accomplishment, she said, was to "incorporate and encourage the active participation of lay ministers to create and foster a true sense of a Catholic community, where everyone is welcome and everyone is an important part of the church's life."

To welcome the growing number of Hispanics in the diocese, Father Sheridan started a Hispanic ministry at St. Gabriel Church in 2004. He began celebrating Mass in Spanish and today the Spanish-language Mass averages 500 people a week.

During his time at St. Gabriel Church, Father Sheridan helped build St. Gabriel School and create dozens of ministries. Recently he added a "Guardian Angel Memorial Garden" for parents to remember their children who have died.

The days ahead

Following the farewell Mass, approximately 1,000 people celebrated at a reception in the parish hall, where they presented Father Sheridan with gifts, a video and a scrapbook filled with memories and pictures.

Lothspeich said Father Sheridan made a significant difference in her family's life and that they will miss him at St. Gabriel Church.

"We will miss his wonderful charisma and beautiful smile," Lothspeich said. "He has always made us feel loved. His words, guidance and example have set the pathways to many of the steps we've taken as a family."

On July 5, Father Sheridan will move to his 35-acre farm in Hickory, with a farmhouse that dates back to 1924.

"I will be there to revive my spirit and to enjoy the days ahead of me," Father Sheridan wrote in a letter in the parish bulletin. "I am going to try to respect this little area of God's earth, beautify it and work with nature and God to make it better."

He said he plans to build a chapel in one of the buildings on the farm, where he will say daily Mass.

However, farming will not absorb all of Father Sheridan's time.

"I'll be 70 in September and I'm still in good health," he said. "I'll still be celebrating Mass, still be helping out parishes."

In addition, he also plans to volunteer at a Catawba County school to assist children with reading.

"I also hope to be playing golf a little more," Father Sheridan wrote. "Over the past many years I have averaged around four to six times a year. I am not a good golfer, but perhaps I can improve."

During his time as a priest, Father Sheridan said he hoped that he has impacted the people around him.

"Hopefully I've made a difference in peoples' lives, helped them at times when there was sadness in the family, and when there was gladness," he said. "Hopefully I've been there in some way and helped them experience God in their lives."

Colleen Forcina is a rising sophomore at N.C. State University and an intern with The Catholic News & Herald.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

‘A symbol of all of us’

Priest says Christian perspective can be found in Harry Potter series

BY PEGGY WEBER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WESTFIELD, Mass. — July will be a big month for Harry Potter fans and Father Michael Bernier, parochial vicar at St. Mary Church in Westfield, proudly counts himself among the myriad of Potter devotees.

In fact, he described himself as a “Pottermaniac” at a talk he gave in May about God and Harry Potter.

And he, like millions more, is looking forward to July 21 when the seventh and final book, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” is released and July 11 when the fifth movie, “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix,” premieres.

“Pottermania” is once again expected to sweep through bookstores and movie theaters this summer, and Father Bernier told those gathered for his talk at St. Mary High School that Christians should not fear this devotion to stories about a boy wizard.

“On the surface level it does sound suspect and does raise red flags,” he said. However, he said the magic in Harry Potter is not sorcery.

And he noted that the original title of the first book was “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone.” The title was changed to “Sorcerer’s Stone” for the book’s release in the United States.

“I happen to be one of the people who believes that there’s a great deal of Christian imagery and symbolism in the books. And I think it answers, at least in parts, a longing that we have for Christ,” he said.

Throughout his talk, Father Bernier quoted from “Looking for God in Harry Potter” by John Granger which emphasizes that the Harry Potter books focus on the triumph of love over death.

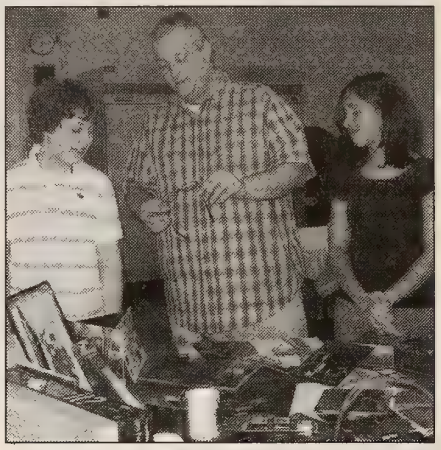
Father Bernier also said that many people believe that Pope Benedict XVI “came out against the Harry Potter books.”

“Pope Benedict has not said anything actually about the Harry Potter books themselves. I don’t know if he’s even read them,” he said.

He told his audience of about 25 people that before he became pope Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, responded to a book written about the dangers of Harry Potter. He sent a note to the author thanking her for the book and said if the accusations were true then they would be of grave concern.

A majority of those attending the priest’s talk were Harry Potter fans. A few joked that they arrived by “floo powder” or “platform 9 3/4” — referring to ways people travel in the wizard world.

James Madigan, 14, said he planned to be at a local bookstore at midnight July 21 to get his reserved copy of the latest Harry Potter book.



CNS PHOTO BY PEGGY WEBER, THE CATHOLIC OBSERVER

James Madigan (left), Father Michael Bernier and Lisa Miranda look over some of the items on display at a talk Father Bernier gave on God and Harry Potter at St. Mary High School in Westfield, Mass.

Lisa Miranda, 14, said she came away from the lecture realizing for the first time that the Harry Potter books had “religious ties.”

Father Bernier predicted that author J.K. Rowling would end the series not with Harry’s death but possibly Hagrid’s. He also predicted that Snape, who has always been portrayed in a dark light, would end up as a good character.

But above all the priest said he hopes readers embrace the goodness of the books and the enjoyment of reading.

“They’re wonderfully written books that appeal to kids and adults. They’re easy to read and they’re entertaining,” he said.

And he noted that Granger’s book praises the many good things in a series where “never has the Christian message been smuggled into hearts so effectively.”

Father Bernier said that Harry Potter is “a symbol of all of us as sons and daughters of God — humanity pursuing its spiritual perfection in Christ.”

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 8, 2007

July 8, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Isaiah 66:10-14c
Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
2) Galatians 6:14-18
3) Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Jesus’ ‘advance teams’ are models of discipleship

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

During a recent visit to New England, my wife and I spent several days in New Hampshire, traditionally home to one of the “make-or-break” primaries in the presidential election cycle.

Everywhere we went we found evidence of multiple campaigns in high gear. Every newspaper, every local newscast featured the candidates, household names and long shots, appearing at a dizzying variety of venues.

And for every gathering with potential supporters — at pancake breakfasts in diners, giving speeches in VFW halls, shaking hands at “meet and greet” cocktail parties in people’s homes — each candidate was preceded by what political pros call an “advance team.”

Advance teams travel ahead of their candidates to prepare people for his or her arrival and ensure a friendly reception and an enthusiastic turnout for the picnic, town hall meeting or fish fry.

In Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus commissioned 36 “advance teams” for a similar purpose, sending them “to every town and place he intended to visit.” Like the political advance men and women of today, Jesus’ disciples were tasked with preparing those they met for the day when Jesus himself would come to them and invite them to be his disciples too.

Unlike today’s political operatives, however, Jesus’ advance teams did not rely on phone banks and direct mail and the sophisticated machinery of mass communications to accomplish their tasks. These disciples were told, in fact, to travel light, relying only on the power of their message, the sincerity of their generosity and the inspiration of the Lord Jesus to accomplish their mission.

The 72 whom Jesus sent are models for all of us who are his disciples today. Everywhere we go, our conviction of the deep, abiding presence of God’s kingdom, made evident by the generosity and compassion to which that conviction moves us, prepares people for a more open hearing of the Gospel and a deeper, more personal encounter with Jesus himself.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 1-7

Sunday (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21, Galatians 5:1, 13-18, Luke 9:51-62; **Monday**, Genesis 18:16-33, Matthew 8:18-22; **Tuesday (St. Thomas)**, Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; **Wednesday**, Genesis 21:5, 8-20, Matthew 8:28-34; **Thursday (St. Anthony Zaccaria)**, Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday**, Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 65-67, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday**, Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29, Matthew 9:14-17.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 8-14

Sunday (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 66:10-14, Galatians 6:14-18, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20; **Monday**, Genesis 28:10-22, Matthew 9:18-26; **Tuesday**, Genesis 32:23-33, Matthew 9:32-38; **Wednesday (St. Benedict)**, Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24, Matthew 10:1-7; **Thursday**, Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5, Matthew 10:7-15; **Friday (St. Henry)**, Genesis 46:1-7,28-30, Matthew 10:16-23; **Saturday (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha)**, Genesis 49:29-32;50:15-26, Matthew 10:24-33.

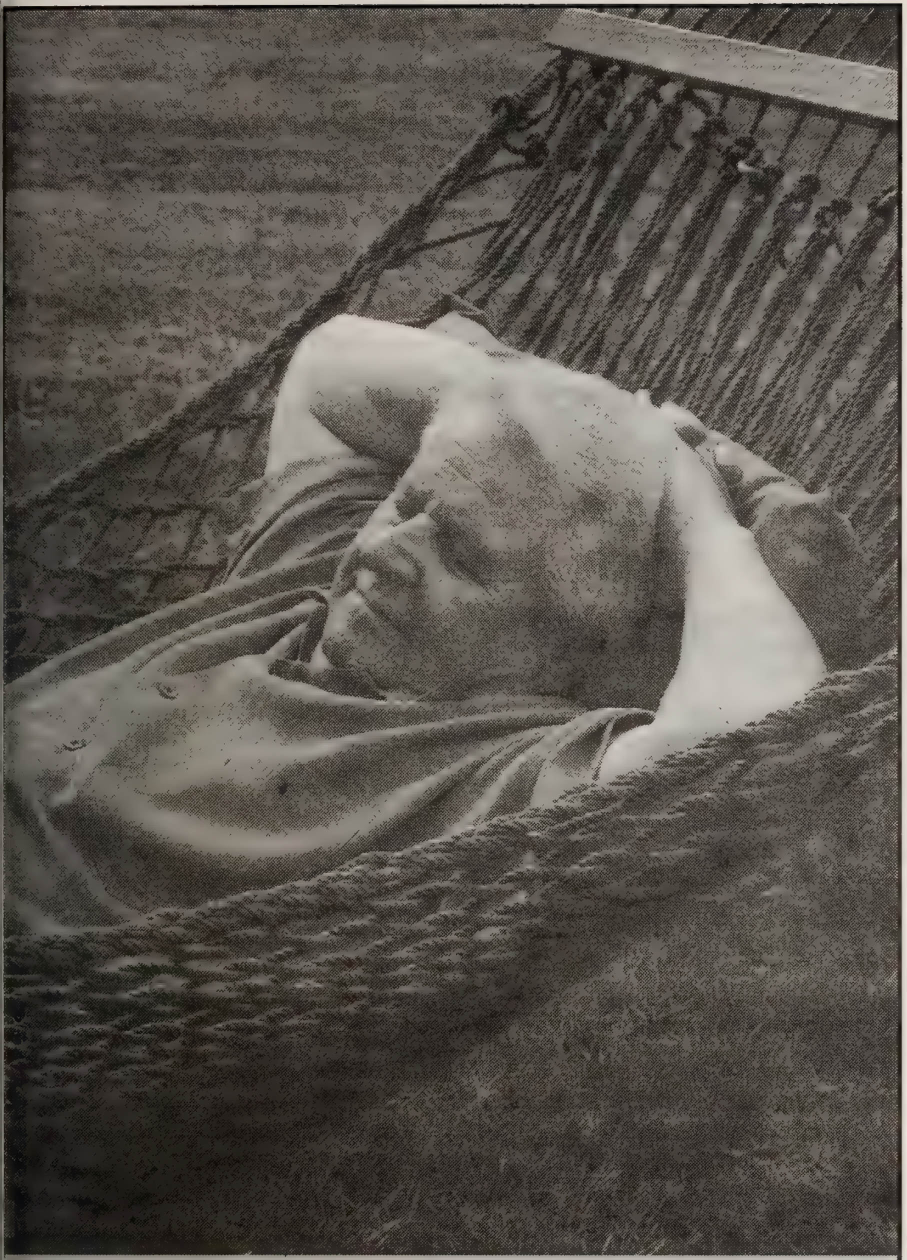
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 15-21

Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37; **Monday (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)**, Exodus 1:8-14,22, Matthew 10:34—11:1; **Tuesday**, Exodus 2:1-15, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday (St. Camillus de Lellis)**, Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday**, Exodus 3:13-20, Matthew 11:28-30; **Friday**, Exodus 11:10—13:14, Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi)**, Exodus 12:37-42, Matthew 12:14-21.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don’t Panic!...
“How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don’t Waste Time”

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won’t give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there’s a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don’t have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We’re The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church



Retired.
Not retiring.

For Phil, wellness means relaxing without a care in the world. Having more time to exercise his mind and listen to his spirit gives him a sense of inner harmony. It's the simple joy of living, and Phil knows he'll find it here. Because here, wellness is a way of life.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is opening soon and residence selection is becoming limited – act now!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260

(336) 886-4103 or (866) 627-9343
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Ret2

'Chocoholic' archbishop talks to Nestle execs about advertising

NICE, France (CNS) — U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley stood before an audience of executives of the Nestle corporation and confessed to being a "chocoholic."

The archbishop, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, also confessed to being an admirer of well-done advertising campaigns. However, the prelate did make a plug for Nestle's Pennsylvania-based competitor by pointing out that Milton Hershey "never advertised his products; he thought that their high quality and low price were sufficient advertisement, and he pulled it off for decades."

The archbishop's presentation to the Nestle executives in Nice June 22 focused on the power and pitfalls of modern advertising campaigns.

"Because you're really trying to get people's attention, advertising is among the best communication being done in the world today," he said.

Archbishop Foley told the executives that when his council decided to write its 1997 document on ethics in advertising, the text had to pass muster with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, as do all Vatican documents touching on faith or morals. At the time, the congregation was led by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI.

Archbishop Foley said the congregation "objected to our beginning with the benefits of advertising. They thought we should begin with the general moral principles which apply to advertising."

The archbishop said he met with Cardinal Ratzinger and explained that he thought people who work in advertising might read the document if it began with a recognition of the legitimate good advertising can accomplish: informing consumers or voters, promoting competition and lower prices, and creating jobs.

"Cardinal Ratzinger replied, 'You're right; keep it as it is,'" the archbishop told the Nestle executives.

Archbishop Foley also told the executives that advertising can cause great harm when it gives the impression that "having is more important than being."

The archbishop did not ignore the "public relations disaster" Nestle faced over its marketing of baby formula in poor countries.

"Women in the developing world thought — or were perhaps persuaded by advertising and peer pressure to think — that breast-feeding was not enough for their children," he said.

So they used formula, mixing it with water than often was unclean, and babies got sick and many died.

The archbishop told the executives he thinks Nestle's reputation still suffers because of the formula crisis.

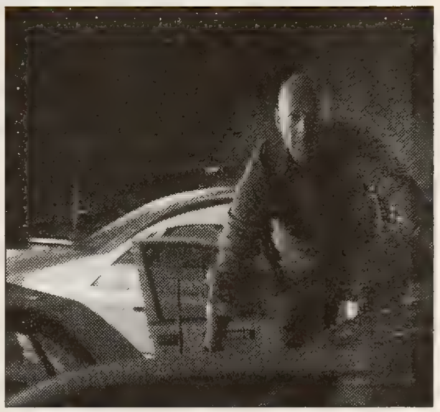
He asked Nestle executives to commit themselves to excluding all advertising that would make people feel bad or unworthy if they cannot afford to buy a certain product.

"Emphasize quality, emphasize efficiency, emphasize even better grooming and cleanliness and good appearance — but please do not suggest that a possession is going to make one person better than another," he said.

Willis still a 'Die Hard'

Bruce Willis stars in the action-packed thriller, "Live Free or Die Hard." The fourth installment in the durable series starts in formulaic mode, but builds in excitement, with some first-rate chase sequences, but repeated profanity and one outrageously vulgar line are unfortunate detriments.

Some crude and vulgar words and expressions, gratuitous profanity, innuendo, pervasive nongraphic violence including explosions and shootings, albeit with little gore.



CNS PHOTO BY 20TH CENTURY FOX

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience. The MPAA rating is PG-13. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Please pray for the following priest who died during the month of July

Rev. Bertrand Pattison
1992

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL:

Notary/Secretary – Pastoral Center, Charlotte

The Diocese of Charlotte Tribunal has an opening for a Notary/Secretary who will provide secretarial, clerical, and administrative support to the officials of the Tribunal. As an officer of the Court, the employee must be a practicing Catholic.

Requirements include: high school or business college graduate; three years of experience; ability to type 55 WPM accurately; ability to read, write, and speak English well; some ability with Spanish beneficial; strong verbal, computer, and interpersonal skills; ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL:

Advocate/Auditor – Pastoral Center, Charlotte

The Diocese of Charlotte Tribunal has an opening for an Advocate/Auditor whose duties will include supervising parish advocates, coordinating Advocate Training Program, serving as Advocate for Tribunal cases, investigating possible satellite Tribunal locations and providing Tribunal ministry to Asheville and Smoky Mountain Vicariates as needed. As an officer of the Court, the employee must be a practicing Catholic.

Requirements include: bachelor's degree in theology with willingness to pursue further studies in canon law; completion of Advocate Training Program; 1-2 years of experience in Tribunal ministry; ability to read, write, and speak English well; ability to read, write and speak Spanish is beneficial; strong verbal, computer and interpersonal skills; willingness to travel as required.

Interested applicants please contact:

Fr. John Putnam, Tribunal, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

or (704) 370-3341

Full-time Youth Minister

Vibrant 800-family parish seeking mature, qualified adult to head middle school and high school programs. This full-time position includes catechetical, social, service and spiritual well-being of youth in grades 6 - 12. Requirements: practicing Catholic, college degree, experience working with youth and teens, and references. Salary is negotiable depending on factors such as years of experience.

Send resume to Search Committee, St. William Parish, 2300 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, or stwilliamschurch@bellsouth.net.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Full-time Director of Major Gifts

Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, business administration or related field; five years experience in fund development and major gifts. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include developing strategies, events, and materials to inform, engage, cultivate and solicit current and prospective major gifts prospects.

Please submit resume to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by July 30, 2007. Questions to 704-370-3301 or email at jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

Grant Writer

Part-time grant writing position for Casa Guadalupe with possibility of full-time employment (with benefits). Research, identify, develop, and respond to public and private opportunities for funding in the area of Human Services. Bachelor's degree and writing sample required. Please submit resume and writing sample to Lisa Reyna at Catholic Social Services, P O Box 21314 Winston-Salem, NC 27120, or e-mail lcreyna@charlottediocese.org.

Applications must be postmarked by July 13, 2007.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY

Good Shepherd, Cumming, GA seeks full-time Director of Music and Liturgy to oversee 1600-family parish liturgical music program including adult choir, cantors and musical ensembles. Will work with parish staff on all liturgical needs and will assist in planning weddings and funerals as well as appropriate liturgical rites and prayers. Ability to implement additional musical ensembles required. Good working knowledge of Catholic liturgy with proven leadership skills and excellent musical abilities in keyboard and conducting. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Please fax resume and cover letter in c/o Fr. Peter J. Rau: 770-887-2241

ART TEACHER

Saint Pius X Catholic School is seeking a full-time Art Teacher, grades K-8, for the 2007-08 school year. Must have or be eligible for North Carolina Certification in Art Education. Please submit a resume and pick up an application at the school office from 9am - 1pm, M-F: Saint Pius X Catholic School, 2200 N. Elm Street, Greensboro, NC. **336-273-9865**

Catholic Social Services – Western Regional Office Director

CSS is seeking energetic individual to provide strong administrative and cooperative, team-building leadership for a regional office in Asheville. Position requires a graduate degree in social work or a related human services field of study and at least three years of experience in supervision and administration with a social services agency. Demonstrated fundraising skill and Spanish language ability are pluses. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package

Complete job description can be found at www.cssnc.org. Submit resume postmarked by 07/31/07 to: Gerard A. Carter, CSS, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Greensboro has an immediate opening for a full time Director of Music Ministry. Applicant needs a solid background in traditional Catholic Masses and music, vocal, organ and piano skills, and the ability to motivate, expand and lead both youth and adult choirs. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Full benefits available. Applicants who meet these requirements should send their resumes to: **Tom Johnson, Our Lady of Grace Church, 201 South Chapman St., Greensboro, NC 27403; or fax to: (336) 274-7326.**

Classifieds

FOR RENT

CONDO: Oceanfront – Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Two day minimum; weekly for under $1,000. Additional units available. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Receiving first Communion

Children in parishes and missions across the Diocese of Charlotte are receiving the sacrament of Communion for the first time this year.

They are among the more than 800,000 children in the United States expected to receive their first Communion this year.

In 1910, Pope Pius X decreed that children could receive their first Communion as young as seven years of age.

Courtesy Photo by Josie Carter-Zieglar

Joanna Zieglar, a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Greensboro, is pictured before receiving her first Communion at the church May 30.

RESUCITADO RISEN
ALLELUIA

Courtesy Photo by Carolyn Tazioli

Father Gnanapragasam Mariasoosai, administrator of Our Lady of the Angels Mission in Marion, and Francesca Hagerty are pictured with children who celebrated their first Communion at the church May 6.

Courtesy Photo by Ann Sheridan

Second-graders from St. Matthew School in Charlotte are pictured following their school Communion Mass May 23, in honor of their first Communion May 12.

Courtesy Photo by Joe Ordoyne

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Msgr. L.C. Newman Assembly 2208 in Charlotte served as honor guards during the first Communion celebration at St. Joseph Mission in Kannapolis May 20.

SAVE $100!
Register before July 29th —

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites **- PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE
Asheville & Arden
The Catholic Funeral Directors
828-252-3151

Congratulations to St. Joan of Arc on its new church!

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

From the Vatican: The Ten Commandments of Driving

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Catholics in the 'spin zone,' Part II

Column responses indicate need for more understanding

Catholics & the Media

DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

It seems a little bit odd to write a column about a column. But since my last missive about political pundit Bill O'Reilly ("Catholics in the 'spin zone,'" June 1), propaganda and name-calling has annoyed so many of you — many of whom took the time to write and call me names — I thought I should clarify a couple of things.

First, the name of this column is "Catholics & the Media." I write about the intersection of our great faith and the impact the media has on it.

The fact that Bill O'Reilly and Father Charles Coughlin were the subjects of a study that was published under the name of a leading academic institution, Indiana University, is noteworthy. The fact that they are both Catholic makes it a subject for "Catholics & the Media."

Many of the letter writers seem to feel that my O'Reilly column crossed a line and was political. Although I didn't write it with that in mind, I accept responsibility for any impressions my writing makes. While I received many compliments for the column, the critical e-mails and letters outnumbered the kudos.

It is clear that many respondents disagree with some of the conclusions that I drew. But that is one reason for columns being written in the first place — to generate discussion and foster a greater understanding of, in this case, how the media affects Catholics.

Some readers assumed that I didn't do any research and that I was somehow parroting what others have written. For me, an opinion column is a waste of time unless it reflects original thinking that is backed by dispassionate research.

Let me tell you what I did before writing the column. I spent time over a two-week period reading and thinking. I first came across the study when I read an op-ed essay in the Los Angeles Times. That piece, written by Ron Mitchell, a producer for Mr. O'Reilly, was critical of the Indiana University study.

I then read the original study. I knew about Father Coughlin's story from reading the book, "The Glory and the Dream," by William Manchester. I then used online sources to learn more factual information about Father Coughlin and O'Reilly.

And finally, I watched a half-dozen unedited O'Reilly's "Talking Points" segments on YouTube. Among these was the "Talking Points" segment that criticized the study.

I didn't want to be influenced by what others were writing about the study, and so I avoided reading essays on the topic. I spent the better part of a day writing the column and then revised it repeatedly for another two days before submitting it for publication.

I was not a regular viewer of O'Reilly's program or any other cable commentators. But I think I will start watching the "Talking Points" segment and the last few minutes of "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" on MSNBC to have a balanced, if not fair, exposure to a range of views.

My one regret about the column is that most of the people who took the time to criticize it didn't seem to get the point I was trying to make, which is: two Catholic men who have, or had, powerful media voices used that power in a negative way that does not reflect their faith.

And we who watch, listen and support these voices contribute to a growing shortage of civil discourse in our society.

But if there was a lack of understanding, I take the blame. I did find the amount of anger expressed in the letters, some of it aimed at me personally, to be a bit disturbing.

The difference between an opinion and propaganda is the effect each is intended to have. Opinion influences a point of view, while propaganda affects both the viewpoint and the behavior.

I am but one opinionated Catholic who would like to see the great compassion of our faith on display more often than the crowd-pleasing rancor that seems to be the central attraction of Bill O'Reilly's "Talking Points."

David Hains is director of communication for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact him at dwhains@charlottediocese.org.

A podcast of this column is available at www.charlottediocese.org.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Bequests – how to describe them

Guest Column

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST

When making your will or living trust, you may wish to leave a bequest to the Catholic Church — through your parish, Catholic school, the diocesan foundation, the diocese, Catholic Social Services or another Catholic institution.

Your bequest may take one of many different forms:

— A specific dollar amount: "I give $5,000 to ..."

— A specific property or asset: "I give 100 shares of ABC Inc. common stock to ..."

— A percentage of your estate: "I give 5 percent of my estate to ..."

— The remainder of your estate after your debts, estate administration expenses and other bequests: "I give the remainder of my estate to ..."

A specific dollar amount is the most common form of bequest in a will or trust. However, many factors affect the value of your estate, so think seriously about whether this is the best approach in your situation.

For example, if you leave a specific amount to the Catholic Church and a substantial portion of your estate is consumed through nursing home costs, the church may receive a substantially larger share of your estate than you intended.

Also, if the market value of your assets increases significantly, the church may not receive as much as you wish.

An alternative approach might be to estimate the percent of your present estate represented by your intended bequest.

For example, if the present value of your estate is $500,000 and you plan to leave $25,000 to your parish in your trust, your intended bequest is 5 percent of your estate.

If your trust agreement or will describes your bequest as 5 percent of your estate, your parish will receive 5 percent whether your estate increases or decreases in value. This way, both your family and the church will be treated according to your intentions.

Your bequest to the church is an excellent witness of stewardship. It should be considered carefully and prayerfully in gratitude for the gifts God gives us during our lives.

Judy Smith is the Planned Giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Letters to the Editor

A chance to be good Samaritans

In response to the letters to the editor from Ted Jaskot and Paul Deer ("Criticizing potential immigration reform," June 15), I only suggest they ask themselves one question: WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)?

These readers are seemingly unfamiliar with the teaching of Christ about the Good Samaritan. If the Samaritan was to uphold these readers' standards of righteousness, he would have walked straight past the beaten-down man because he was an "illegal" or, in those times, an "enemy" and deserved "no rights."

Or he would have considered the injustices caused him by helping another: "It will cost me money," "It may interfere with my trip" or "It may slow me down."

But no, the Samaritan helped the man regardless of what it cost him. Why do so many Americans ignore this basic teaching of Christ?

It is time all Christians recognize that this is our opportunity for our country to face the real test of loving our neighbor, regardless of what it costs. Let us rise to the occasion and make Jesus proud by being a current day Good Samaritan. It is time for each of us to become the Good American.

— Lisa Tolido
Waxhaw

"All God's Children" is the motto of a committee formed at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe. This group's mission is to educate non-Hispanics on the issues regarding immigration and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Justice for Immigrants initiative.

Father Shawn O'Neal (pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Cherokee), the diocesan liaison for the U.S. bishops on this initiative, spoke at the English-language Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes Church April 21-22.

We have been given a directive by God to "love one another as I have loved you." We cannot fulfill this commandment and, at the same time, chase our North American brothers and sisters back across an arbitrary boundary because we cannot process the paper work.

Lowering quotas, deporting family wage earners, separating parents and children and building walls do not conform with Catholic social teaching. From Pope Leo XIII's encyclical "Rerum Novarum" (on capital and labor) to Pope Pius XII "Exsul Familia" ("On the Spiritual Care to Migrants"), the popes consistently stated the Catholic Church's position that people have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families.

It is recommended that the Mr. Jaskot and Mr. Deer invite Father O'Neal to speak at their respective churches. Information about "All God's Children" may be obtained by contacting Our Lady of Lourdes Church office at (704) 289-2773.

Pope Leo XIII said, "No human devices can ever be found to supplant Christian charity, which gives itself entirely for the benefit of others." We are all God's children.

— Thomas Lalley
Indian Trai

Committing to an unwillingness to lie

'Ethical signposts' point only toward truth telling

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

I recall years ago in Washington coming out of a Senate committee hearing on organized crime and stepping nto the elevator in the Dirksen Senate Office Building with the committee's general counsel.

We just listened to extended estimony from a veteran, straight-as-an-arrow, state police chief from Michigan.

As the elevator doors closed, the counsel remarked, "My father told me ong ago that anyone who always tells the ruth doesn't have to worry about having a good memory. That's what you just witnessed in that hearing room today."

A hostile questioner, a senator who was later found guilty of ties to organized crime, did his best to trip up this good cop, but to no avail. Integrity, which his police officer possessed in generous supply, means living truthfully.

Veracity means speaking truthfully. Veracity is truthfulness, and the truth will always set you free.

It looks like Scooter Libby is going o jail for not telling the truth. Martha Stewart went to jail a few years ago for not telling the truth. Fudging the truth by persons famous and obscure is a familiar fact of American life.

Truth not just when convenient but in all circumstances is the only compass that works in an age of ambiguity. The truth teller is, we like to say, "trustworthy." He or she is a person you can count on, whose word is always good, whose character is the pledge behind the claim.

A lie, for such a person, matches up well with the concise Latin definition of a lie employed by medieval scholastic philosophers: "locutio contra mentem." The "locution," or external expression, is contrary to what the mind knows to be true, and that is unacceptable behavior.

(It also explains the physiological trigger that makes a lie detector work.)

Forgetful or confused persons are not necessarily liars when what they say is inaccurate; the problem is in their minds, not in the words or gestures that are consistent with their confused, uninformed or misinformed mind.

Truth telling, as difficult as it may be at times, is the only way to preserve an ethical corporate culture, a functional government, a happy family, a servant church, a happy human being.

Ralph Lancaster, a wise, experienced veteran lawyer from Portland, Maine, remarked to me a few years ago that "veracity and truthfulness are twins. Implicit in conformance to fact is a commitment to accuracy and honesty.

"But I think you establish confidence in a person's veracity if you can get that person to state it negatively and simply say that he or she is committed to 'an unwillingness to lie.'"

Now there's a good way to think about veracity — simply as an unwillingness to lie. It is also a good way to stay out of jail.

The young owe it to their future to run a little veracity check on themselves during the summer months. This can be by way of preparation for their return to school or as an assessment of their readiness for life in the world of work if their schooling ended with graduation.

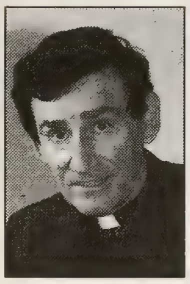
In either area — in school or on the job — and in social relationships while away from school or off the job, truth telling is the only way to go. There are no detours or alternate routes. The ethical signposts point just one way: Commit yourself to an unwillingness to lie.

Hispanic identity: Here to stay or go?

Immigrant traditions add to richness of America

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST



"Except for their younger ages and concentration in the West and the South, the assimilated Hispanic Catholics in our survey do not differ much from non-Hispanic Catholics. ... Hispanic Catholics have come to resemble non-Hispanic Catholics ever more as time goes by."

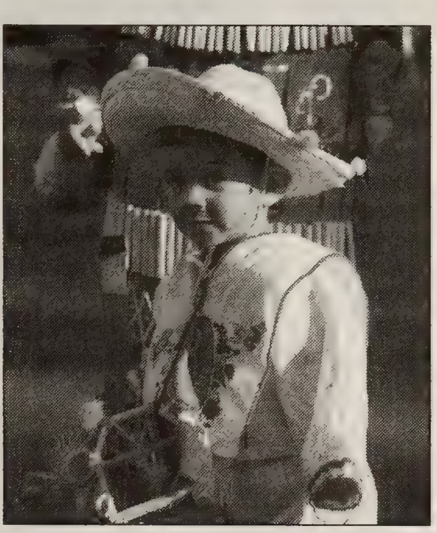
These results cited in the study 'American Catholics Today" (Sheed & Ward, New York), conducted by William D'Antonio, James Davidson, Dean Hoge and Mary Gautier, raise an all-important question: Is the apparent assimilation of Hispanics into the American way of life good or detrimental?

It is a sociological fact that people coming to America from other cultures more often than not assimilate into a style of life that is radically foreign to them. Evidence of this is seen, for example, in newcomers adopting American clothes, earning American idioms and becoming mmersed in American music and a hectic, day-to-day existence.

It is also true that when newcomers adopt American culture, benefits occur: moving up in social status, gaining better employment, living in better homes and being more educated.

It is equally true that cultural blending tends to create American solidarity: cultures not only work and bond together but learn from each other.

As true as this is, it is imperative for America's wellbeing that individual cultures maintain their uniqueness!



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL ALEXANDER, GEORGIA BULLETIN

Two-year-old Jesus Gonzalez dresses up as St. Juan Diego during a procession Dec. 12, 2004 through the Hispanic community surrounding a Georgia church on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas.

Why be so emphatic? Because their uniqueness contains values and traditions that enrich the United States and the church immensely.

Not long ago I spent considerable time in a Hispanic environment. As I listened to the music, it reminded me of tarantellas that make you want to dance forever. Unique to the music were Latin American melodies that not only delighted the ear but lifted one's spirit.

Another beautiful trait I experienced is the wonderful manner in which time is treated. The Hispanic liturgies I attended, for example, were lengthy and unrushed. Even after they concluded, they seemed to continue with people milling around and enjoying each other's company. We all could profit greatly from this unrushed custom in our frenzied millennium that gets more frantic by the year.

Years ago I worked at Fordham University with the revered researcher Jesuit Father Joseph Fitzpatrick. His deepest concern was young Hispanics losing their cultural traditions, especially reverence for family life. I couldn't agree more with this concern.

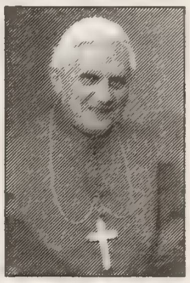
In almost all Hispanics studies, it is found that that Hispanics are unique in the way they nurture family life. For Hispanics in the United States, this solidarity reflects the immigrant neighborhood traditions of the past we all cherished.

No doubt Hispanics in the United States will continue to assimilate into the American tradition, to become more greatly Americanized. My hope is that just as others in the United States now are trying to resurrect their immigrant traditions, Hispanics will hold onto theirs and not leave themselves in the position of having to resurrect them in the future.

Pope says religious ed should help people integrate faith into lives

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Religious education programs should help people understand the doctrines of Christian faith, but also must help them integrate that teaching into every area of their lives, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Holding the 100th general audience of his pontificate June 27, Pope Benedict continued his series of talks about early Christian theologians, focusing on St. Cyril of Jerusalem, a fourth-century bishop.

After briefly greeting 6,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope moved into the Vatican audience hall, where he explained the treasure left by St. Cyril in "Catecheses," a series of lessons addressed to people preparing for baptism and to those who just had been baptized.

The pope said St. Cyril's text is "a model of an introduction to being Christian," one which addressed people's intellects, their experience and their behavior.

St. Cyril's catechesis was "profoundly biblical" and demonstrated the unity between the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament, demonstrating how salvation history began with creation and moved progressively toward fulfillment in Christ, the pope said.

In the early church, he said, "catechesis was an important moment inserted in the broad context of the entire life — particularly the liturgical life — of the Christian community in whose maternal womb, we can say, the gestation of the future faithful took place."

"This was an important moment; it was not a catechesis that was only intellectual, but a journey of learning how to live the Christian life always accompanied by the community," Pope Benedict said.

The communal nature of the candidates' formation, he said, helped them understand "they were entering into a large companion of travelers."

St. Cyril also explained to the candidates how the church's moral teaching was "anchored in deep unity" with its teaching about God and about Jesus Christ, he said.

"Doctrine and life are not two distinct things, but one journey of existence," the pope said. As a person grows in understanding the faith, he is prompted to transform his behavior to reflect his new life in Christ.

"We ask the Lord to help us learn a Christianity that really involves our entire lives so that we will be credible witnesses of Jesus Christ, true God and true man," the pope said.

2007

Diocese of Charlotte
IHS
Eucharistic Congress

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

www.GoEucharist.com

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2007

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

Free and open to the public

Signing for Hearing Impaired

FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Concert of Sacred Music
- Keynote Speaker
- Catholic Shops

Registration for Children's Track is open.
www.GoEucharist.com

SATURDAY 9 AM – 6:30 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour – Homilist – Bishop William Curlin
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass @ 4:30 pm –Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis
- General Track Speakers
- Hispanic Track Speakers
- Children's Track
- Middle School Track
- High School Track
- Music
- Catholic Shops

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JULY 13, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 34

Perspectives

Father Daly remembers a baby who mattered; Borchard examiens generosity vs. enabling

| PAGES 14-15

Bonds of hopes and prayers

Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Ann Peiffer and Orpha Russell, parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville, tie prayer knots on lap quilts for 16 men and women serving in the U.S. military July 1.

Parishioners craft 'prayer squares' for U.S. troops overseas

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

MOCKSVILLE — Catholics in Mocksville have created a special way to honor and pray for U.S. troops and their families.

Sixteen men and women from St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville, who are currently overseas serving in the U.S. military, were honored by their fellow parishioners with a Mass and reception July 1.

During the Mass, Father Andrew Draper, pastor and member of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, blessed specially-designed lap quilts for the families of the 16 troops.

Ladis Zimmerle, wife of Deacon John Zimmerle and

See QUILTS, page 5

Partners in caring

Catholic moms endeavor to help children in need

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

INDIAN TRAIL — These days, it seems like $20 doesn't buy a whole lot — a large pizza, a month's birthday cards or a T-shirt (if it's on sale).

But two Catholic stay-at-home moms have found a way to make $20 go a long way to help needy children in Mecklenburg County.

For Amy Barsanti and Cynthia Ladimir, what began as an idea for a small business creating and selling gift baskets has evolved into a mission to serve children whose families can't afford the small luxuries many middle- and upper-class children take for granted.

See CHILDREN, page 7

Defining 'church'

Vatican congregation reaffirms truth, oneness of Catholic Church

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a brief document, the Vatican's doctrinal congregation reaffirmed that the Catholic Church is the one, true church, even if elements of truth can be found in separated churches and communities.

See CHURCH, page 8

CNS photo by Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic

Father James Pereda celebrates a Tridentine Mass at St. Pius X Chapel in Uniondale, N.Y., July 8. Pope Benedict XVI has relaxed restrictions on the use of the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

The old is new again

Pope relaxes restrictions on use of Tridentine Mass

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a long-awaited overture to disaffected Catholic traditionalists, Pope Benedict XVI relaxed restrictions on the use of the Tridentine Mass, the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council.

The pope said Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal, commonly known as the Tridentine rite, should be made available in every parish where groups of the faithful desire it.

He said that while the new Roman Missal, introduced in 1970, remains the ordinary way of Catholic worship, the 1962 missal should be considered "the extraordinary expression of the same law of prayer."

"They are, in fact, two usages of the one Roman rite,"

See LATIN, page 9

IPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
)836#
P-1
COLLECTION
SON LIBRARY CB 3930
PEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Silver jubilee

Good Shepherd Mission celebrates anniversary

| PAGE 6

Uniting new families

CSS helps families adopt children from Russia

| PAGE 7

Culture Watch

Potter movie review; saint gets MySpace page

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

WHAT WOULD JESUS CHARGE?

CNS PHOTO BY JAMES BACA, DENVER CATHOLIC REGISTER

Brad and Libby Burky stand outside SAME Cafe in Denver. Their not-for-profit restaurant offers healthy, organic food with no set prices. The cafe invites patrons to pay what they feel their meal is worth, or more if they want to help pay for someone else's food. A person also can exchange an hour's work for a meal at SAME (So All May Eat).

Cafe's patrons pay what they think meal is worth or work to pay tab

DENVER (CNS) — If Jesus opened a restaurant, it might resemble Denver's SAME Cafe — a priceless joint where all the food is made from scratch and anyone's welcome to eat regardless of ability to pay.

SAME ("So All May Eat") is not a soup kitchen, with organic menu items such as "garlic and feta" or "eggplant and roasted red pepper" pizza. Yet there are no prices attached to anything.

Instead, customers see a donation box on the counter. They are asked to consider what the meal was worth and to pay what they can. Those who cannot pay are asked to consider busing tables after dining, or helping in some other way.

Sometimes, families with children are found washing dishes after a classy restaurant meal the parents normally couldn't afford.

Brad and Libby Birky, who opened the cafe last fall, have no system for policing their "pay-at-will or volunteer" system, and they're certain a small fraction of customers dine and dash with no donation of any kind.

But they also know that some customers pay far more than anyone would ask. One man ate a modest meal last fall and quietly left a $500 check in the box. Another man routinely walks in, refuses to eat and leaves a small cash donation. He's homeless.

"If Jesus ran a restaurant, would he use this model?" asked Brad Birky. "We'd like to think so. Not that we're comparing ourselves to Jesus or his work. We're just inspired by him and his work."

Which might explain why the Birkys welcomed in a dirty, smelly vagrant who was living in a park. He became a regular, and then a friend.

The man, known as Kidd, first came in during the winter and offered to sweep or mop the floors in exchange for hot food. He was trying to save up money to get back home to New Orleans and re-establish himself. He asked for nothing but food, and always worked for an hour after lunch.

"Then one day a very well-dressed man walked into the restaurant and acted like he knew the place," Brad Birky said. "He was clean-shaven and looked quite professional."

The sharply dressed man was Kidd. He had saved up money from shoveling snow, bought new clothes and a bus ticket home to New Orleans.

"He came in to say thanks, and to say goodbye. He was on his way home to make a success of his life," Brad Birky said.

Libby Birky, 30, earned a master's degree in gifted education and Brad Birky, 32, made good money in computer science; the couple was on the path to the perfect upscale life.

"It wasn't fulfilling," Brad Birky said. "It just wasn't what we were supposed to be doing with our lives. We had both been raised with the notion that we should give back and be involved in the community."

In 2002 the Birkys volunteered at the Catholic Worker House. Off hours, Brad Birky attended culinary school at Metropolitan State College. Then they came up with the idea that became their cafe.

The Birkys put about $50,000 into establishing the not-for-profit cafe and it's almost to the point of sustaining itself. Neither takes a paycheck from the cafe, and Libby teaches to pay the bills.

Brad Birky said their model could work for other businesses, such as medical and dental clinics.

"We're having fun and creating a social, fun place to hang out and build community. We absolutely love it," he said.

Argentine cleric becomes first priest on trial for 'dirty war' crimes

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — A former Argentine police chaplain became the first Catholic priest on trial for human rights violations against leftist dissidents during Argentina's "dirty war" in the 1970s.

Father Christian von Wernich went on trial July 5 on charges of complicity in seven murders, 31 cases of torture and 42 kidnappings during Argentina's 1976-83 dictatorship, in which an estimated 30,000 people died or disappeared.

Father von Wernich denied the charges and said his job was to provide pastoral care to police officers.

Argentine President Nestor Kirchner said priests such as Father von Wernich "dishonor the church."

The 126 witnesses in Father von Wernich's case accuse him of being involved in the organization of kidnappings and death squads. They say they saw him at two secret detention centers, where state security forces held and tortured alleged leftist opponents.

There, his role was to try to convince victims to talk during breaks in their torture. Some witnesses recalled him asking if victims had learned their lesson and urging them to talk "because God wants that."

Father von Wernich was the personal confessor of notorious former Buenos Aires police chief Ramon Camps, who was convicted of running a string of detention centers and for scores of cases of kidnappings, torture and murder, before being freed under amnesty laws in the late 1980s. Those laws were overturned by the Argentine Supreme Court in 2005, opening the way for a flood of trials.

Father von Wernich, who has been under arrest since 2003, said there were no detention centers at the police buildings. However, according to documents, Father von Wernich "had a conspicuous presence in the so-called Camps," and exerted "psychological and moral torture."

The Argentine bishops' conference has not commented on the case.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Academy, 564 Long Shoals Rd. Inquirers are welcome. For more information contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, at (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

BOONE VICARIATE

JEFFERSON — Father Matthew Buettner will present a lecture July 16 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 326 East Main St. The topic of the lecture will be related to his book, *"The Mystery of the Mass."* Please call (336) 246-9151 for more information.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — Brad Jones and David Miller, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte, will present various topics in *Wednesdays with Brad and David*. All sessions meet 7-8:30 p.m. in the reception room at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Jones will give "An Introduction to Catholic Liturgy" July 18. Miller will present "Why Catholics Pray to Mary" July 25 and "The Five Marian Dogmas: Defending the Truths of Christ" Aug. 1. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — All high school and college students are invited *to "How Not to Lose the Dating Game,"* an informative talk on the virtue of chastity by Dominican Sister Jane Dominic. The presentation will take place July 19, 7-9 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. Food and door prizes will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, e-mail marysample5@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — Dominican Sister Jane Dominic will speak on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical *"God is Love"* July 20 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. For more information, e-mail margaret_g_kennedy@yahoo.com.

CHARLOTTE — *"Celebrating the Role of the Laity: Called and Gifted,"* a workshop focusing on the role of lay Catholics in the world — at work, in the family, among friends and in parishes, will take place July 28, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. There is no charge to attend, but registration is required. Call (704) 554-9655 for more information and to register.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Matthew Summer Bible Institute* will take place Aug. 6-10,

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JULY 13, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 34

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican official says foreign aid must focus more on creating jobs

GENEVA (CNS) — Foreign investment and development aid must increase and be focused more on creating jobs and improving education in the world's poorest countries, a Vatican official said.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, Vatican representative to international agencies based in Geneva, told the U.N. Economic and Social Council July 4, "The question to be posed is not whether, but how additional aid should be given."

He said, "Poverty elimination demands an integration between the mechanisms that produce wealth and the mechanisms for the distribution of its benefits."

While decrying the fact that most wealthy nations are not meeting their pledges for foreign development aid, the archbishop said the international community also must ask why developing countries are not making greater progress with the aid they have received and with the foreign debt forgiveness they have been granted. Archbishop Tomasi called for more focused aid programs, particularly to create jobs and improve education. Work, he said, is the only way for a community to generate its own wealth and pay its way out of poverty.

When combined with education, which not only prepares people for the job market but also for good citizenship, "it is easier to reduce corruption — one of the plagues of poor countries — and to improve respect for law and property rights, crucial for the positive functioning of an economic system," he said.

The archbishop also urged the international community to take stronger action to ensure that companies doing business in poor countries create a higher level of local employment and provide local populations with access to better training and technology. The creation of wealth on a worldwide scale has not eliminated poverty and has increased the frustration of the poor, he said.

2006 Vatican budget closes with surplus; Peter's Pence up $42 million

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite a serious drop in the value of the U.S. dollar, the Vatican's 2006 budget closed with a surplus of more than $3.2 million, said Cardinal Sergio Sebastiani, head of the Vatican's general accounting office.

While salaries and pension contributions increased, a "brusque and accentuated" drop in the value of the U.S. currency was a big reason why the surplus was so much less than the 2005 surplus of $12 million, the cardinal said July 6.

Presenting the 2006 consolidated budget of just the Holy See, primarily the Roman Curia, Cardinal Sebastiani said the value of the Vatican's accounts was down an estimated $9.5 million solely because of the dollar's drop against the euro.

Most donations to the Vatican and some of its investments are in dollars, yet the Vatican's expenses are mainly in euros.

Cardinal Sebastiani presented the budget figures to the international Council of Cardinals for the Study of the Organizational and Economic Problems of the Holy See July 2. A July 3 press release noted a huge increase in 2006 donations to Peter's Pence, a fund placed at the personal disposition of the pope and used mainly for his charitable giving. The donations totaled almost $102 million, an increase of more than $42.4 million over 2005.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said July 6 that the figure included some "exceptional donations," although he would not specify how many or from whom. The Vatican does not expect a repeat performance in the 2007 Peter's Pence total, he said.

The Holy See budget results included the office in charge of Vatican property and investments, the papal household, Secretariat of State, nine congregations, 11 pontifical councils, three tribunals, 118 Vatican embassies around the world and the Vatican media operations: Vatican Radio, the daily newspaper, television production center, publishing house and printing press.

Their combined expenses added up to almost $307 million, while their combined income reached just over $310 million. The statement said 2,704 people, including 773 bishops and priests, 331 members of religious orders and 1,600 laypeople, are employed in the Holy See offices.

While Peter's Pence is not included in the Holy See budget figures, the figures do include donations from dioceses, religious orders and foundations given specifically to support the work of the central church offices.

Catholics in the United States still give more money to the Vatican than those from any other nation. The donations to the Holy See by all groups totaled almost $117 million in 2006, an increase of more than $16 million over the 2005 total.

The Vatican said the separate budget of Vatican City State, which includes the Vatican Museums and the Vatican's stamp and coin office, ended 2006 with a surplus of $29.7 million.

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the New Life Center banquet room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Susan Brady will present "Born From Above," based on the Gospel of John. To register, call (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — *New Creation Monastery* invites you to a day of silence and solitude in the presence of Almighty God. The monastery offers private spiritual retreats for lay people. Write to Father John Vianney Hoover at New Creation Monastery, 1309 Duncan Gardens Dr., Charlotte, N.C., 28206, stating why you want to go on retreat and when. For more information, call (704) 344-0934.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. The group will discuss the Books of Acts, through Sept. 18. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — As Christians we struggle daily with negative emotions such as anger, anxiety and despair. *"Spirituality of the Emotions"* offers an opportunity to bring together insight, prayer and group support in this struggle. Dr. Ronda Chervin will present this program Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m., through Aug. 8. These free classes will meet at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 413-4624 or St. Charles Borromeo Church at (828) 437-3108.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will begin Aug. 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Class dates are Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18. The Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP is safe and medically proven 99.9% effective. Couples with marginal fertility will also benefit from working with their natural mutual fertility instead of against it. Call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — The *Knitting Ministry* of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., meets Monday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., to pray, learn to knit, reflect on life's lessons and reach out to others in our community. Contact Rosemary at (336) 766-2315 or Carmel (336) 766-0650 for more information.

KERNERSVILLE — Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., hosts a *Senior Coffee House* the first and third Mondays of each month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., in Salesian Hall in the Child Development Building. Call the church office at (336) 996-5109 ext. 12 for directions or information.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Lucky 7s

CNS PHOTO BY TOM DERMODY, THE CATHOLIC POST

A shower of bubbles greets Jamie and Zac O'Brien as they leave St. Joseph Church in Pekin, Ill., after their wedding Mass July 7. That Saturday was a popular choice for weddings because of its 7/7/07 date. A number traditionally considered lucky, seven also has a religious significance. Bride Jamie O'Brien, however, said the date has a practical advantage: "Zac won't forget the anniversary."

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

July 17 — 5:30 p.m.
Catholic Social Services annual board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

July 29 — 11 a.m.
Installation of Father Francis T. Cancro as pastor
Queen of Apostles Church, Belmont

Parishioner honored for volunteer service at VA center

ASHEVILLE — Herbert Reith, a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, was recently honored for outstanding volunteer service.

Dr. Susan Pendergrass, director of the Asheville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, presented Reith with a mantel clock during a recent volunteer recognition dinner in Asheville. Reith has logged more than 22,500 volunteer hours at the center.

The Asheville VA Medical Center serves western North Carolina and portions of South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia with services including extended care rehabilitation, psychogeriatric care and general nursing home care.

Reith is an advocate in Knights of Columbus Council 8923 in Arden, immediate past president of Fleet Reserve Association Branch 361 in Asheville and commander of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1914 in Arden.

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Susan Pendergrass, director of the Asheville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, presents Herbert Reith, a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, with a clock in recognition of his volunteer service.

Honoring a catechist

COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs for the Diocese of Charlotte, presents a certificate of appreciation from Bishop Peter J. Jugis to Marie Martino during Mass at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory June 24. Martino is retiring after 12 years as a parish catechetical leader, 25 years as a youth minister and catechist, and three years as a member of the diocesan faith formation office's central region leadership team. A reception followed.

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

docPod

Tapping into theology

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Frank Villaronga, director of evangelization and ministry formation for the Diocese of Charlotte, takes questions from the audience during a Theology on Tap gathering at a Charlotte restaurant May 29. Villaronga spoke on the topic of "Faith in Action."

Theology on Tap, a speaker series for Catholics in their 20s and 30s, is an opportunity to explore Catholicism and issues and challenges faced by Catholic adults. Events usually feature a guest speaker — either clergy or lay — who answers questions.

The Archdiocese of Chicago's young adult ministry founded the speaker series almost 30 years ago to try to bring back young adults, who tend to drift away from the church. The program aims to reach young adults where they are, and takes place in a variety of settings from restaurants and bars to parish halls.

The program has grown in popularity over the years and has inspired others to initiate similar speaker series. Dioceses in approximately 44 U.S. states and a half-dozen other countries now offer Theology on Tap.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, Theology on Tap is held in Charlotte and Greensboro. For more info in Charlotte, visit www.charlottetot.org; in Greensboro, visit www.triadcatholics.org.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Parishioners craft 'prayer squares' for U.S. troops

QUILTS, *from page 1*

coordinator of the parish prayer quilt ministry, along with Laurie Snook, Fran Wilkie, Sue Starre and Margaret Mondlak, made the lap quilts, or "prayer squares," as a way of recognizing the service men and women's dedication to protecting their country.

Each lap quilt features a design representing the specific branch of service in which the Army, Marine, Air Force and Navy personnel are serving. The lap quilts were laced with heavy thread, which the parishioners tied into square knots — prayer knots — as they prayed for the troops.

The parishioners tied their prayer knots on the lap quilts after all weekend Masses June 30-July 1 before being blessed by Father Draper and presented to the families as a reminder that people are praying for their relatives overseas. The lap quilts can be displayed or folded and kept in a pocket, for example.

Bernard and Susan Gerstemeier received a lap quilt for their two sons and nephew.

"It's absolutely wonderful," said Bernard Gerstemeier. "We pray that all of these young men and women will come back safely."

Charles and Sandra Scholl received a lap quilt on behalf of their daughter.

"She will really appreciate this. She will be taking it to Iraq when she leaves on the 30th," said Scholl.

During Mass, Father Draper asked parishioners to join him in prayer for all the young men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Contact Correspondent Deacon Gerald Potkay by calling (336) 427-8218 or e-mail gpotkay@triad.rr.com.

PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Father Andrew Draper, T.O.R., pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Mocksville, blesses lap quilts in honor of 16 men and women serving in the U.S. military July 1.

Limited seats for direct flight — call NOW!
Deadline for deposit coming soon — Aug. 1!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL

January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with
Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

Deposits are due before August 1st and there is NO RISK to hold your space today – FULL REFUND before 7/31/07. Plus, early bookings receive best cabin choice.

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

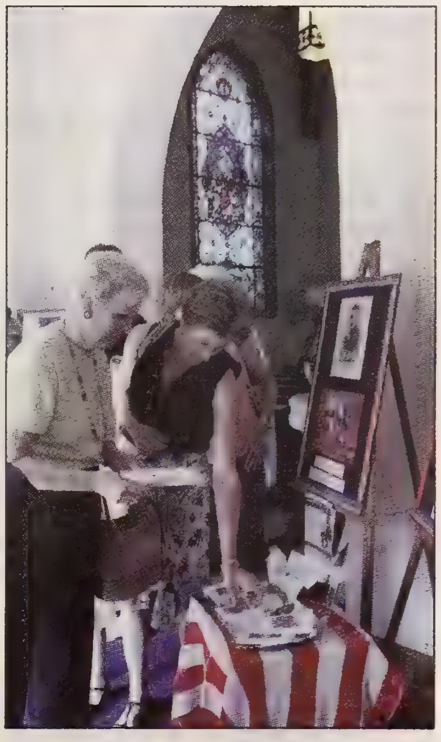
Honoring sacrifices

PHOTOS BY KAREN A. EVANS

Above: Marlene Williams (left) and Tara Boyce study photographs following a Mass for military personnel at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte July 8. About 100 people attended the Mass, which Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated for all those who are currently serving in the U.S. military or who have died or been injured while serving.

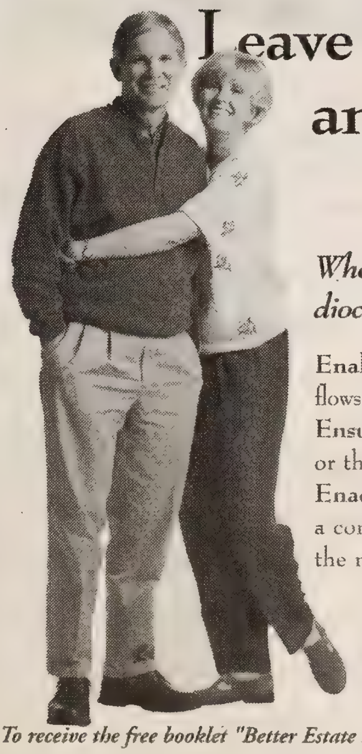
Williams' son Michael serves in the U.S. Marine Corps as an embassy guard in Rabat, Morocco.

Boyce's sons both serve in the Marine Corps — Owen Boyce is serving his second tour in Iraq and Patrick Wilson will be deployed to Iraq this coming fall.



(Right) Two women pick up prayer cards for Father Emil Kapaun and Maryknoll Missionary Father Vincent Capodanno following the Mass.

Father Kapaun and Father Capodanno both died serving as military chaplains. Father Kapaun died in a prisoner-of-war camp during the Korean War and Father Capodanno was fatally wounded while giving last rites to Marines during a battle in the Vietnam War. Each has been named a "Servant of God" by the Vatican, the first step in the canonization process.



Leave a Legacy Through an Endowment

When you establish an endowment with the diocesan foundation, you...

Enable Perpetual Support. Every year, your "legacy" flows with financial aid to the ministry you choose.
Ensure a Strong Future. Allow a parish, school, agency or the diocese to look ahead and plan with confidence.
Enact a Lasting Legacy. Provide your loved ones with a continuing reminder of your values – your faith and the mission of the church.

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Good Shepherd Mission celebrates silver jubilee

KING — The members of Good Shepherd Mission in King recently celebrated the church's silver jubilee.

Approximately 200 members and former members attended the Mass, Benediction and luncheon June 10.

Celebrating the Mass was Father Lawrence Heiney, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem and Good Shepherd Mission. Concelebrating was Father Eric Kowalski, pastor of Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy, and Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest of the diocese.

Assisting at the Mass was Deacon David Boissey, permanent deacon at Good Shepherd.

During the summer of 1981, then-Bishop Michael J. Begley established a Catholic mission in the small Stokes County town of King, north of Winston-Salem. Local Catholics met in the town's recreational center on Aug. 24, 1981, marking the first official assemblage of the community that would later become known as Good Shepherd Mission.

Good Shepherd became a mission of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem and Catholics began attending Mass at King Moravian Church in September 1981. By 1982, the mission had begun to organize ministries and outreach programs serving the Catholic and local communities.

Ten acres of land were donated in 1984 for the building of a Catholic church; construction began in 1988 and in November 1989, then-Bishop John F. Donoghue dedicated the building that could accommodate 95 people.

In August 1987, Jesuit Father Thomas Gaunt was named pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, and Good Shepherd Mission has been served by pastors from that parish since that time.

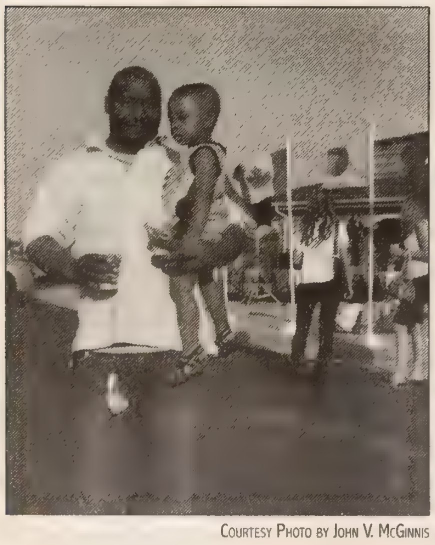
A growing religious education program prompted the need for a small classroom building to be added to the property, and by 1998, the Catholic community in King was comprised of parishioners from Stokes, Forsyth, Surry and Yadkin counties. The increase demanded a larger facility; during the holidays, the mission had to use the local elementary school gymnasium to accommodate everyone for Mass.

A capital campaign to expand the church began in 2000 and construction began in 2002. On April 28, 2003, then-Bishop William G. Curlin presided over the dedication of the expanded Good Shepherd Mission.

Father Heiney has served the mission since September 2004.

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Lawrence Heiney, pastor of Good Shepherd Mission in King, celebrates Mass recognizing the silver jubilee of the mission June 10. Concelebrating are Father Eric Kowalski (left), pastor of Holy Angels Church in Winston-Salem, and Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest.



COURTESY PHOTO BY JOHN V. MCGINNIS

Celebrating cultures

Troy Thompson and his nephew Kevin Oliver, 2, were among the hundreds of people who enjoyed the third annual International Festival at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point May 27. The festival featured dances, foods, games and singing groups representing the many diverse cultures in the parish.

Sharing the Word of God

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Brevard, carries the Torah as part of a procession during a Jewish Sabbath ceremony held at the Catholic church May 26.

Sabbath celebrated, Torah dedicated at Catholic church

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

BREVARD — For thousands of years, the Sabbath has been celebrated by Jews. Recently, both Jews and Christians united to celebrate the glory of God and the Word of God in Brevard.

The Brevard Jewish Community, which meets Fridays at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Brevard, celebrated its first regular Sabbath ceremony on Saturday, May 26. Approximately 100 people attended the multi-denominational gathering, during which the Jewish community dedicated a new Torah.

"You are a witness to history," said Michele Barg, a member of the Brevard Jewish Community, to those gathered.

Barg headed the committee to purchase the Torah — the Jewish name for the Book of Moses, the first five books of Scripture. Christians generally call it the Pentateuch. The Torah is the law and tradition governing Jewish religious life.

During the ceremony, the Torah — housed in the Ark of the Covenant in Sacred Heart Church — was brought outside to the parking lot, where members of the community were afforded the opportunity to carry the sacred Scripture.

Inside, the Torah was unrolled and read. The dedication ceremony moved many people to tears.

The relationship between Catholics and Jews in Brevard began in 2001, when Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, was approached by Pat and Jay White of the Jewish community's board of directors about using a meeting room in the church.

"Father Carl has played a strong role in our group," said Bossert, who co-celebrates the Friday night services for the Brevard Jewish Community at the church. "We are welcomed with courtesy, kindness and a truly ecumenical spirit."

Catholics in Brevard have experienced the need for a place to worship and the identity of being a minority in the community.

Sixty years ago, there were only a handful of Catholics in Transylvania County who were looking for a church in which to worship, said Father Del Giudice.

"Under this roof, God knows no boundaries. Every weekend, God is worshipped in Hebrew, English and Spanish," said Father Del Giudice.

"This church is not only a sacred heart, but an open heart," said Bossert.

Despite the differences in the two religions, the respect between the two faith communities is apparent in the interaction between the various members. Holiday greetings are exchanged, sacred seasons are acknowledged and events such as Seder meals are shared.

DID YOU KNOW?

The scroll of the Torah was written by hand by a scribe and required almost a year of dedication to the work. Many rules are followed in accordance with Scripture regarding the way the scroll is written, including that the parchment and the ink are both kosher; also if a mistake is made for any word used for God, that page must be removed from the scroll and destroyed, usually by burial.

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Youth Camps
Nursing
Retreats
Campus Ministry
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

Bringing families together

Russian Federation gives adoption accreditation to CSS

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte is now one of only eight agencies in the world approved to facilitate the adoption of Russian children.

The Russian Federation made the announcement July 5. Russia, formerly a republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, became the Russian Federation following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The decision regarding Catholic Social Services was the culmination of months of intense scrutiny to ensure that applicant agencies were prepared to conduct adoption services in accordance with new guidelines set by the Russian government.

Licensed as a child-placing agency since 1948, CSS in the Diocese of Charlotte provides professional domestic and international adoption services based on the highest children welfare standards. The CSS program emphasizes support, preparation and education.

The new accreditation from the Russian Federation allows CSS to continue its role as a leading international adoption agency, according to Elizabeth Thurbee, executive director of CSS in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"The mission of our international adoption program is to bring together children in need with loving families who can care for them," said Thurbee. "We appreciate the permission to continue that service within the Russian Federation."

Since founding its international adoption program in 1994, CSS has placed more than 600 Russian children in U.S. homes. CSS currently places between 80 and 100 children each year with families — couples married at least two years — and with single women who have been carefully screened and prepared to welcome their children.

Courtesy Photo

Marina and Olivia, sisters born and orphaned in Russia, show their smiles. Through Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office in Asheville, a midwestern couple adopted the sisters in 2006.

CSS is the only Catholic agency in the United States with a direct placement program in Russia. This means CSS deals directly with Russian authorities in placing children in U.S. homes, usually making the adoption process faster and less expensive than an agency without direct placement capability.

The CSS international adoption program, based in CSS's Western Region Office in Asheville, places children from several regions in Russia and assists in adopting children from China.

"Catholic social teaching directs our mission to be a part of the solution when there are children in great need," said Thurbee.

CSS adoption services are offered to any qualified family, regardless of religious affiliation, and CSS works closely with families of moderate means who are qualified to adopt. Adoptions are usually completed 12-18 months following application.

Contributing to this article was Communications Director David Hains.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about CSS international adoption services, visit www.cssnc.org/adoption.html or call (888) 990-4199.

We are your source for homes and lots in Buck Mountain and the beautiful mountains of Wilkes County —

HUFFMAN
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
www.huffmanrealestate.com

Call Karen or Randy today!
Karen Huffman (336) 262-0208
Randy Huffman (336) 262-0480
karenahuffman@aol.com

MLS #50929: 2.5 acres at Buck Mountain with your own stream-fed fishing pond in gated community. $85,000/broker interest.

MLS #50227: 50 acres with pond, two bold streams, pasture, elevation with views. $299,000/broker related.

MLS #50974: Renovated historic home - large rolling lot with mountain views. Outbuildings include workshop, playhouse. Only 1/2 mile from town.
Priced to sell: $208,000.

Moms help children in need

CHILDREN, *from page 1*

"I spent the past year praying about what I could do after my kids start school next fall," said Barsanti, who formerly worked as a social worker in Union County.

"I didn't necessarily want to go back to work full time, because it wouldn't allow me to help in my kids' classrooms," said the wife and mother of two.

Ladimir, who has a son and is expecting her second child early next year, was also looking for a way to earn money and still have the freedom to spend time with her husband and son.

Barsanti and Ladimir, both parishioners at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, had worked with children — Barsanti as a social worker, Ladimir as a high school English teacher — and saw firsthand the everyday needs of children living in poverty.

Last winter, Barsanti was shopping for greeting cards and was astonished at the price — as much as $4 each. What she found instead was a new mission.

"I started thinking about all the people who can't afford to even buy a birthday card, and how much more that $4 can actually buy," she said.

Barsanti and Ladimir scrapped the idea for a profitable business and instead developed a program for low-income children. They acquired a business license, and Forget-Me-Not was born.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Amy Barsanti and Cynthia Ladimir look over a sample Forget-Me-Not care package in Ladimir's home June 29. The Catholic stay-at-home moms developed Forget-Me-Not as a way of providing impoverished children with basic necessities.

The Forget-Me-Not program will sponsor children from three Charlotte-area non-profit organizations: A Child's Place, a local organization that provides education for homeless children; Communities in Schools of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, a national community-based dropout prevention organization; and YWCA's Youth Development Program.

"These children didn't choose where they live … they are victims of circumstance," said Ladimir. "The gifts these children will receive will include messages of hope — encouraging them to do well in school, to stay away from drugs, to commit themselves to violence-free lifestyles."

Each sponsored child will receive a Forget-Me-Not care package once a month during the school year — 10 packages in all. A package will typically contain basic necessities such as socks, toothbrushes and undergarments, and fun items like books, snacks and small toys.

"There are so many people who want to give back to their communities and be good examples to their children, but just don't have the time," Ladimir said. "We provide an outlet for those people — we do all the legwork, and they are able to help the less fortunate by agreeing to be a 'Partner in Caring.'"

As part of their research, Ladimir and Barsanti visited Communities in Schools, where children had drawn pictures completing the sentence, "If I found a pot of gold …."

The women were struck by the children's responses.

"If I asked my child, he'd say, 'I want to get drums, I want a new scooter,'" Barsanti said.

The students' responses included "I would spend it on a bed and get me a house," and "I would buy food. And I will buy me a car."

Barsanti and Ladimir plan to buy as many items as possible in bulk in order to stretch their money as far as possible.

"We want to be sure to be good stewards of our sponsors' money," Barsanti said.

Barsanti and Ladimir hope to be approved as a non-profit business this coming fall, which will allow them to apply for grants to cover overhead costs.

For their first year, Barsanti and Ladimir have set a goal for themselves to sponsor 100 children, for total of 1,000 packages.

Eventually, they would like to sponsor at least 1,000 children each month and expand to serve other groups, such as nursing home residents, cancer patients and children living in group homes.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information, visit www.sendforgetmenot.com or call (704) 684-0424.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Vatican congregation reaffirms truth, oneness of Catholic Church

CHURCH, *from page 1*

Touching an ecumenical sore point, the document said some of the separated Christian communities, such as Protestant communities, should not properly be called "churches" according to Catholic doctrine because of major differences over the ordained priesthood and the Eucharist.

The Vatican released the text July 10. Titled "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church," it was signed by U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and approved by Pope Benedict XVI before publication.

In a cover letter, Cardinal Levada asked the world's bishops to do all they can to promote and present the document to the wider public.

The text was the latest chapter in a long-simmering discussion on what the Second Vatican Council intended when it stated that the church founded by Christ "subsists in the Catholic Church," but that elements of "sanctification and truth" are found outside the Catholic Church's visible confines.

Churches and communities

The related discussion over the term "churches" surfaced publicly in 2000, when the doctrinal congregation — then headed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict — said the term "sister churches" was being misused in ecumenical dialogue.

In a format of five questions and answers, the new document stated that Vatican II did not change Catholic doctrine on the church. It said use of the phrase "subsists in" was intended to show that all the elements instituted by Christ endure in the Catholic Church.

The sanctifying elements that exist outside the structure of the Catholic Church can be used as instruments of salvation, but their value derives from the "fullness of grace and truth which has been entrusted to the Catholic Church," it said, quoting from Vatican II's "Decree on Ecumenism."

The text said the Second Vatican Council used the term "church" in reference to Orthodox churches because, although separated from the Catholic Church, they have preserved apostolic succession, the ordained priesthood and the Eucharist.

Nevertheless, they "lack something in their condition as particular churches" because they are not in union with the pope, it said.

The Christian communities born out of the Reformation, on the other hand, do not enjoy apostolic succession — the unbroken succession of bishops going back to St. Peter — and therefore "cannot, according to Catholic doctrine, be called 'churches' in the proper sense," it said.

True ecclesial realities

In his cover letter, Cardinal Levada said the document came in response to critical reactions to the teaching of "Dominus Iesus," another doctrinal congregation document of 2000, which said the Catholic Church was necessary for salvation, and to ongoing confusion over interpretations of the phrase "subsists in."

> "It is ... difficult to see how the title of 'church' could possibly be attributed to them ... they lack elements considered essential to the Catholic Church."
>
> — Vatican document

An authoritative commentary published July 10 in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the congregation had acted to protect the unity and uniqueness of the church.

The document, the commentary said, took aim at the notion that the "church of Christ" was "the sum total of the churches or the ecclesial communities" or that it exists only as a future goal.

"If this were the case, the church of Christ would not any longer exist in history, or would exist only in some ideal form emerging either through some future convergence or through the reunification of the diverse sister churches," it said.

What Vatican II intended was to recognize ecclesial elements in non-Catholic communities, it said.

"It does not follow that the identification of the church of Christ with the Catholic Church no longer holds, nor that outside the Catholic Church there is a complete absence of ecclesial elements, a 'churchless void,'" it said.

The council's wording does not signify that the Catholic Church has ceased to regard itself as the one true church of Christ but that it recognizes that true ecclesial realities exist beyond its own visible boundaries, it said.

As Christ intended

Regarding the doctrinal congregation's insistence that communities originating from the Reformation are not churches, the article said:

"Despite the fact that this teaching has created no little distress in the communities concerned and even among some Catholics, it is nevertheless difficult to see how the title of 'church' could possibly be attributed to them, given that they do not accept the theological notion of the church in the Catholic sense and that they lack elements considered essential to the Catholic Church."

The commentary said that, at first glance, Catholic ecumenism might seem somewhat paradoxical, because it holds that the Catholic Church has the "fullness" of the means for salvation, but recognizes the value of elements in other churches.

The Catholic Church's teaching, it said, is that the fullness of the church "already exists, but still has to grow in the brethren who are not yet in full communion with it and also in its own members who are sinners."

U.S. Dominican Father Augustine Di Noia, undersecretary of the doctrinal congregation, said the document does not call into question Pope Benedict's pledge to work for ecumenical progress.

"The church is not backtracking on its ecumenical commitment. But ... it is fundamental to any kind of dialogue that the participants are clear about their own identity," he told Vatican Radio.

Father Di Noia said the document touches on a very important experiential point: that when people go into a Catholic church and participate in Mass, the sacraments and everything else that goes on there, they will find "everything that Christ intended the church to be."

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Gerard Carter (Interim) (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

SAVE $100!
Register before July 29th —

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:
- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,399 (before July 29) from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Pope relaxes restrictions on Tridentine Mass

LATIN, *from page 1*

the pope said.

The pope's directive came July 7 in a four-page apostolic letter titled "Summorum Pontificum." The new norms will take effect Sept. 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

An accompanying explanatory letter from the pontiff to the world's bishops dismissed fears that the decree would foment divisions in the church or be seen as a retreat from Vatican II.

The pope said the new Mass rite undoubtedly would remain the church's predominant form of worship. Use of the old missal presupposes a certain degree of liturgical formation and some knowledge of the Latin language, and "neither of these is found very often," he said.

But the pope expressed sympathy with Catholics who are attached to the Tridentine rite and uncomfortable with the new Mass. In the post-Vatican II period, he said, excessive liturgical creativity often led to "deformations of the liturgy which were hard to bear."

"I am speaking from experience, since I, too, lived through that period with all its hopes and confusion. And I have seen how arbitrary deformations of the liturgy caused deep pain to individuals totally rooted in the faith of the church," he said.

The pope said it is clear that, in addition to Catholics from that era, young people are also being attracted by the older form of the liturgy.

The new decree

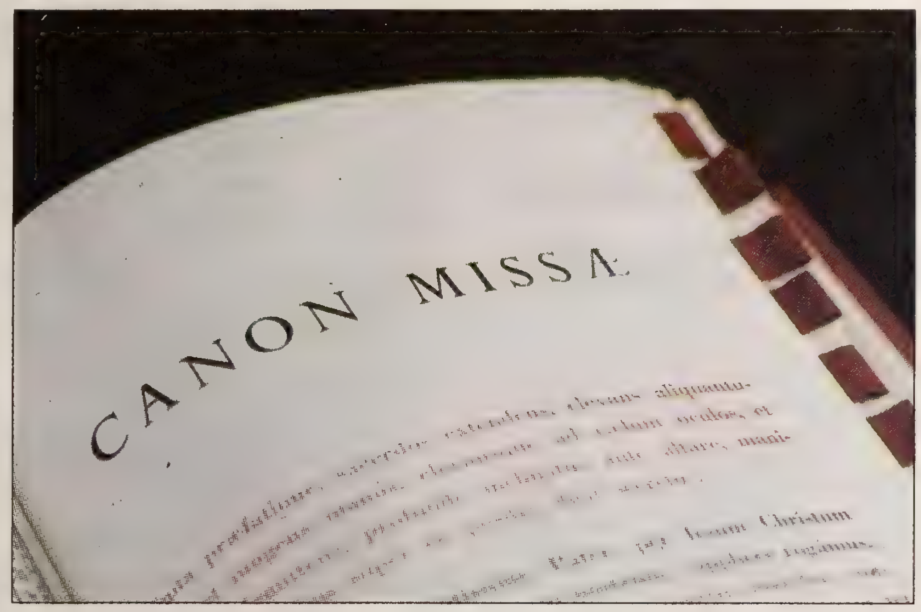
The Tridentine Mass has been allowed as a liturgical exception since 1984, but Catholics had to request permission from local bishops, who did not always consent.

The new decree significantly altered the bishop's role, maintaining his general oversight on liturgy but removing him from initial decisions on Tridentine Masses.

The document said a priest who wishes to celebrate the Tridentine Mass alone "does not require any permission," and lay Catholics who spontaneously wish to attend such semi-private Masses may do so.

Local pastors are to handle more formal requests for scheduled Masses, the document said. The text does not require all parishes to automatically establish a Tridentine Mass schedule, but it said that where "a group of faithful attached to the previous liturgical tradition exists stably," the pastor should "willingly accede" to their request to make the old Mass available.

The document stipulates that priests who use the 1962 Roman Missal must be qualified to do so. Some experts believe a lack of priests trained to say the old Mass could present problems, at least initially, in responding to local requests.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Shown is a page from a 1996 reproduction of the 1962 Roman Missal. Commonly known as the Tridentine Mass, the Mass of this missal is entirely in Latin.

In scheduling Tridentine Masses, the document said, local pastors should balance these special requests with the ordinary pastoral demands of the parish. It offered some guidelines: On Sundays and feast days, parishes may offer only one Tridentine Mass; the old Mass also can be celebrated on weekdays and in particular circumstances such as pilgrimages.

When a group of the lay faithful "does not obtain what it requests from the pastor," it should inform the local bishop, who is "earnestly requested to grant their desire," the document said.

If the bishop is unable to provide for this kind of celebration, the matter goes to the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," which is charged with "maintaining vigilance over the observance and application" of the new decree, it said. Religious orders may offer Tridentine Masses in conventual or community celebrations in their own oratories, it said.

Reconciliation efforts

The document said the 1962 missal can be used for the sacraments of baptism, marriage, penance and the anointing of the sick, if the faithful request it. Bishops may celebrate the sacrament of confirmation according to the old rite, too.

The document also gave bishops the power to erect a "personal parish" for celebrations according to the old liturgy.

The text allowed for Mass readings in local languages, even when the 1962 missal is being used, using a Lectionary, or book of Mass readings, that has been approved by Vatican. In his letter, the pope also suggested that new saints and new prefaces should be inserted in the 1962 missal; that question will be studied by the "Ecclesia Dei" commission.

Priests may use the Roman Breviary of 1962 to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, including morning prayer and evening prayer, the document said.

Unlike the 1984 indult offered by Pope John Paul II, the new decree did not explicitly state that those requesting permission for the Tridentine Mass must accept the legitimacy of the new Mass. Vatican sources said such acceptance would be presumed, however. In his letter, Pope Benedict said the priests who celebrate according to the Tridentine rite cannot, as a matter of principle, exclude celebrating the new Mass.

"The total exclusion of the new rite would not, in fact, be consistent with the recognition of its value and holiness," the pope said.

AT A GLANCE: POPE'S LETTER, NORMS ON TRIDENTINE MASS

— The current Roman Missal continues to be the "ordinary" form for celebrations of Mass in the Latin-rite church. The 1962 missal is now considered the "extraordinary" form of the Mass.

— Any priest can celebrate Mass in private using the 1962 missal, except for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Good Friday commemoration of the Lord's Passion and the Easter Vigil, which always must be celebrated with a congregation.

— Catholic laypeople may attend a priest's private Mass using the 1962 missal.

— If a recognized group of Catholic laity asks its parish priest to celebrate Mass according to the 1962 missal, he should do so. The 1962 missal can be used for Mass on any weekday, but no more than one Tridentine Mass should be celebrated in a given parish on Sundays.

— The 1962 missal can be used for baptisms, weddings, funerals and anointing of the sick, if requested.

— Even when the 1962 missal is being used, the readings can be proclaimed in the local language.

— If a parish priest refuses laypeople's request for the Tridentine Mass, they should go to their bishop for assistance.

— Bishops may celebrate the sacrament of confirmation using the rite that was in effect in 1962; the rite is found in a book called the "Roman Pontifical."

That could be an important point in the Vatican's ongoing reconciliation efforts with the Society of St. Pius X, founded by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who was excommunicated in 1988. The society rejects the new Mass and several important teachings of Vatican II.

In a statement July 7, the head of the Lefebvrite society, Bishop Bernard Fellay, welcomed the pope's decree and said it had created a "favorable climate" for ongoing dialogue with the Vatican.

But he said doctrinal differences must be settled before there can be reconciliation with the Vatican.

Charity and prudence

The pope invited bishops to report on implementation of the new decree after three years. If serious problems emerge, "ways to remedy them can be sought," he said.

The decree came after nearly two years of review. Although it was issued "motu proprio," a phrase that signifies a pope is acting on his own initiative, Pope Benedict consulted on the question with the world's cardinals and bishops.

The strongest apprehensions were voiced by French and German bishops, who worried that internal church unity — and their own authority — could be weakened by creating parallel worshipping communities.

Other bishops said the move could be seen as delegitimizing the liturgical reform of Vatican II.

The pope, in his explanatory letter, dismissed both fears as "unfounded." He blamed in part "news reports and judgments made without sufficient information" for confusion over his decision and for divergent reactions ranging from joyful acceptance to harsh opposition.

He emphasized that although the new Mass of 1970 was designed to replace the old liturgy, the 1962 Roman Missal was "never juridically abrogated." Its restoration as an extraordinary form of worship thus does not undermine the council's decisions, he said.

"There is no contradiction between the two editions of the Roman Missal. In the history of the liturgy there is growth and progress, but no rupture," he said. "What earlier generations held as sacred remains sacred and great for us too, and it cannot be all of a sudden entirely forbidden or even considered harmful."

As for church unity, the pope told the bishops that he had essentially freed them from having to decide on specific requests for the old liturgy, but was relying on them to maintain communion among their faithful.

In particular, he asked the bishops to demonstrate "charity and pastoral prudence" in dealing with and improving the attitude of Catholic traditionalists.

He urged the bishops: "Let us generously open our hearts and make room for everything that the faith itself allows."

Critical changes

In the Tridentine rite, the priest celebrated Mass with his back to the congregation. Since the promulgation of the new Roman Missal, the priest normally faces the congregation. And while Latin is the original language of both liturgical texts, the new missal permits use of the vernacular language; because it called for full, active participation, the use of the local language became customary.

The Roman Missal of 1962 raises an issue in Catholic-Jewish relations. Although the phrase "perfidious Jews" was no longer in the 1962 version of the missal, it does contain a Good Friday prayer for the conversion of Jews that asks God to end "the blindness of that people."

That led Abraham Foxman, U.S. director of the Anti-Defamation League, to call the papal decree a "body blow to Catholic-Jewish relations." He said it was disappointing and offensive to see such "anti-Jewish language" return to the liturgy after its removal nearly 40 years ago.

The Roman Missal of 1970 changed the wording, asking prayers that Jews, as the chosen people, "may arrive at the fullness of redemption."

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

St. Augustine joins the ranks of MySpace users

WASHINGTON (CNS) — St. Augustine of Hippo just got a whole lot hipper. The fifth-century doctor of the church, perhaps known best for "Confessions," an autobiographical account of his conversion to Christianity, now has a MySpace page.

Michael Dolan, director of communications for the Augustinians of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, started the page on St. Augustine's behalf as an engaging way to introduce visitors to St. Augustine and the Augustinians.

"The focus of the page is to give people a deeper sense of who Augustine was, but also to get them engaged in Augustinian spirituality," Dolan said.

The popular social networking Web site myspace.com allows users to post pictures and information about themselves on their personal pages. All users — and now St. Augustine — can add other users to their list of friends.

As of July 9, St. Augustine had 347 MySpace friends, including two named Pope Benedict XVI; two fellow saints, Sts. George and Brigid; some guy named Josh; and Canadian singer Celine Dion.

Since the site launched in early May, Dolan said the page has had more than 500 hits. Most of St. Augustine's friends requested his friendship. Users can either request friendship from a user or accept a friendship. Dolan said he doesn't know the true identity of the saint's online friends and guessed they just happened upon the page or heard about it from another venue.

St. Augustine's page features a picture of the saint and a welcoming message to visitors. If the volume is turned up on the computer, St. Augustine's page will play The Who's hit "Who are You."

St. Augustine is, according to his page, 42 years old, single, a Scorpio and looking for networking and friends. His interests include praying, writing and hanging out with friends.

St. Augustine is 42, Dolan said, because that was his age when he wrote "Confessions." Starting Aug. 28 — the saint's feast day — St. Augustine will begin a Web log, or blog, about his "Confessions" on the site. His entire book should be blogged over the course of the next school year.

Dolan hopes visitors to the site will include students and professors. He suggested they could post comments to the blog as part of classroom exercises.

To the best of his knowledge, Dolan said, none of the Augustinians he knows have MySpace pages. But the order seems to have embraced St. Augustine's page, he said.

Has St. Augustine rejected any friend requests?

A few, Dolan admitted, because the users appeared either inappropriate or fraudulent. But Dolan said the occasional strange friend request seems normal for MySpace.

As for St. Augustine's future on MySpace, Dolan said he has no concrete plans about adding features beside "Confessions."

But he said more photos, links and videos will probably be added to provide additional information about Augustine and the Augustinians to MySpace surfers.

WANT MORE INFO?

St. Augustine's MySpace profile can be viewed at www.myspace.com/saintaugustineofhippo.

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: JULY 22, 2007

July 22, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Genesis 18:1-10a
   Psalm 15:2-5
2) Colossians 1:24-28
3) Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Wise counsel, solutions appear in God's wisdom

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Jesuit Father Hubert Schiffer was a retreat master at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House on the eastern edge of the Diocese of Fort Worth. He liked to tell a sort of shaggy-dog-style story about counsel given a man riding a donkey.

After many doses of advice, all of it thought wise by those who should have tended their own business, the man ends up carrying the donkey.

Father Schiffer would tell the story when others gave him unsought advice. As a man who had survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, rescuing orphaned Japanese children and caring for them after picking innumerable shards of glass from his own flesh, he was a man to be listened to.

He had suffered for Jesus and gone on to perform valorous deeds.

If someone were to use today's Scriptures to give specific advice about specific problems, he just might end up making a man carry a donkey. The passages seem to conflict.

Then too a person would surely scratch her head reading about Paul offering the sufferings of his own body "for the lack in the sufferings of Christ" on behalf of the church, and then reading about Jesus saying to Martha that Mary has chosen the better part in sitting and soaking up his teachings rather than serving him as their guest.

Combine these two with the Genesis reading in which Abraham is to be rewarded for his extraordinary service to the three strangers in the desert and the confusion is compounded. It is impossible to give straightforward advice based on these readings — that is, unless the advice is to listen to God in each situation while holding fast to godly principles and governing one's behavior honorably.

Following that piece of advice would put you in the category of the just, which is described in the psalm.

The previous verse to this day's reading asks: "Who will be able to dwell on God's holy mountain?"

The reply begins with verse two: "He who walks blamelessly and does justice and thinks the truth in his heart ... and harms not his fellow man."

The Bible isn't a cookbook out of which we can draw perfect, specific solutions to every problem, but it does point us to wisdom and to ways to seek God's solutions to how to act in all situations.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 15-21

Sunday (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37; **Monday (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel),** Exodus 1:8-14,22, Matthew 10:34-11:1; **Tuesday,** Exodus 2:1-15, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday (St. Camillus de Lellis),** Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday,** Exodus 3:13-20, Matthew 11:28-30; **Friday,** Exodus 11:10-13:14, Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi),** Exodus 12:37-42, Matthew 12:14-21.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 22-28

Sunday (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Genesis 18:1-10, Colossians 1:24-28, Luke 10:38-42; **Monday (St. Bridget of Sweden),** Exodus 14:5-18, Exodus 15:1-6, Matthew 12:38-42; **Tuesday,** Exodus 14:21--15:1, Exodus 15:8-10, 12, 17, Matthew 12:46-50; **Wednesday (St. James),** 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20:20-28; **Thursday (Sts. Joachim and Anne),** Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20, Daniel 3;52-56, Matthew 13:10-17; **Friday,** Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 13:18-23; **Saturday,** Exodus 24:3-8 Matthew 13:24-30.

Attention: Homeowners... Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Join us on a Pilgrimage to
CLASSIC ITALY
with Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of
St. Michael Church, Gastonia and
Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley, deacon at St. Barnabas, Arden
October 30 – November 9, 2007

Special highlights include Mass daily plus escorted visits to Padua, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Sienna, Assisi and a Papal Audience in Rome!

Price including air fare and airport taxes from Charlotte, hotels, most meals, admission fees: $3,072.

Space is limited! Call today: 206 Tours at 800-206-8687 or group coordinator Nick Grasberger at grasbergjr@bellsouth.net.

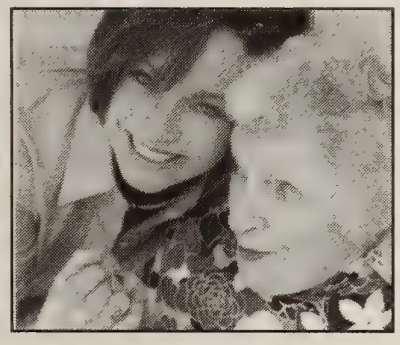
(This is a privately sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Pennybyrn at Maryfield Opens New Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Accommodations

"Pennybyrn at Maryfield is creating home for our residents in a revolutionary way of providing care and service," said CEO, Sister Lucy Hennessy. The full-service retirement community of Pennybyrn at Maryfield proudly announces the opening of Taylor Village Assisted Living and the David Hayworth House, the first of six new Maryfield Health Care Households. These unparalleled accommodations will soon be home to 60 residents, providing an enhanced quality of life where personal preferences are respected and honored. Each resident is empowered to make decisions about how they choose to enjoy daily life in their new home. Each will determine the nature of his or her day with staff assisting and honoring their individuality.

"This culture is unlike anything in traditional health care," said Rich Newman, President and Community Leader. "Nothing says institutional. Instead, everything says home, reflecting the same quality lifestyle of the entire Pennybyrn at Maryfield Retirement Living Community. Assisted Living and Independent Neighborhoods look and feel the same, and residents share the same exceptional amenities." Maryfield Health Care Households consist of a group of resident rooms which center around a homey kitchen, pantry, parlor, living room, dining room, sunroom, laundry room and even a porch and beautiful courtyard. Like any home, these households are designed to be the focal point of residents' lives.



"Here, residents know they are being listened to and cared for," said Newman. "The result is a warm, friendly community where days are meaningful and filled with life."

The new 71-acre Pennybyrn at Maryfield full-service retirement community also offers gracious independent living apartment and cottage residences with superior amenities and services. This opening is planned for Winter 2007. Contact Pennybyrn at Maryfield at(336)821-4000or visit www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com.

NPADVHHH707

'Order' commands attention

CNS PHOTO BY WARNER BROS.

Gary Oldman and Daniel Radcliffe star in "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." Teenage wizard Harry (Radcliffe) and his intrepid Hogwarts chums face an unexpected obstacle in their ongoing struggle with the malevolent Lord Voldemort: a repressive teacher from the Ministry of Magic who won't allow the practice of hocus-pocus that they need to defend themselves against the evil forces.

This fifth installment is arguably the best yet with its excellent performances, superior special effects, coherent narrative and sensible balance between action sequences and human drama, not to mention a meaningful subtext about the power of love and personal choice in doing good versus evil.

Some scenes of peril, moderate fantasy violence and scary imagery may preclude very young viewers.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

IMMACULATA CATHOLIC COMPANIES

NEW STORE GRAND OPENING
TUESDAY, SEPT. 4
AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER
1123 SOUTH CHURCH STREET, CHARLOTTE
(1 BLOCK SOUTH OF MOREHEAD STREET)
704-655-9090
Come and see all the new and exciting religious books, gifts and surprises awaiting you at our new, convenient location!

CORNELIUS STORE CLOSING SALE – NOW UNTIL JULY 31ST. VISIT US SOON AT JOHNSBURY SQUARE, NEXT TO THE GOODWILL, FOR THE BEST BARGAINS ON REMAINING BOOKS AND GIFTS!
maryimmaculata.com

Join Your Catholic Chaplain Fr. Mathew

Hawaii Cruise

15-Day Vacation Departs April 12, 2008

Travel with other Roman Catholics including your YMT Chaplain Father Mathew Kappalumakkel. This will be Father Mathew's third trip as a YMT Chaplain. He is Associate Pastor at *St. Mary's Star of the Sea* in Unionville, CT. You'll depart April 12, 2008, and visit the beautiful Hawaiian Islands during their spectacular spring-time, with flowers all in bloom! This 15-day vacation includes a 10-day cruise on NCL's ***Pride of Aloha*** with four hotel nights in Waikiki, with an included Honolulu city tour. Aboard ship visit Kahului, Maui; Hilo, Hawaii; Nawiliwili, Kauai; Lahaina, Maui; and Kona, Hawaii. Complete prices start from only $1598 (per person/double occupancy) and includes a flower-lei, aloha greeting, ship transfers, the 10-day cruise, four nights hotels, Honolulu city tour, and baggage handling. Add $900 for round trip airfare from Charlotte. Mass will be celebrated once in Honolulu and some days on ship.

$100 deposits are now due. Family & friends welcome.

For information reservations, brochure and Fr. Mathew's letter call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Mercy Sister Higgins, 1905-2007

Lifetime of devotion, service mark Sister Higgins' life

Mercy Sister Margaret Mary Higgins

BELMONT — Mercy Sister Margaret Mary Higgins died June 18, 2007, at Marian Center at Sacred Heart Convent in Belmont. She was 102.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held June 20 at the Cardinal Gibbons Memorial Chapel, with burial following at Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

She was received into the Sisters of Mercy on Jan. 31, 1926, and was in her 81st year as a Sister of Mercy when she died.

Sister Higgins was born May 29, 1905, in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland. She earned a degree from Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in 1932 and began a lengthy ministerial career in health care as a registered nurse. Her first assignment was as a supervisor at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte.

Over the years she served at St. Joseph's Sanitarium (later St. Joseph's Hospital) in Asheville and at Mercy Hospital. She also held membership in the North Carolina State Nurses Association.

Sister Higgins also served as superior of St. Joseph's Convent from 1968-69 and again from 1972-76. She retired from nursing in 1977.

Until October 2000, Sister Higgins remained an active presence at St. Joseph's Hospital, where she assisted as needed. She maintained an active prayer ministry up until her death and especially enjoyed painting.

She was profiled by the media shortly before her 102nd birthday, when her artwork was featured in "Freedom of Expression: Art in America."

MEMORIALS

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, NC 28012- 4805.

HOLY ANGELS

CHERUBS CANDY BOUQUET MGR / JOB COACH

1st shift, full-time, includes every other Saturday. Voc program for adults w/MR. Manage inventory, staff supervision, customer service, candy bouquet production. Req: valid DL, 4-year degree in business admin., special ed. or human services. Prefer retail, supervisory, arts/crafts, MR experience.

CHERUBS JOB COACH

Serve as a job coach for adults with mental retardation in a full service restaurant/cafe & candy bouquet shop. FT, including every Saturday. Req: valid DL. Prefer restaurant/retail experience. Apply at Holy Angels: 6600 Wilkinson Blvd., Belmont, NC; info@holyangelsnc.org; 704-825-4161 or Fax: 704-825-0553. Resumes accepted.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Full-time Director of Major Gifts

Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, business administration or related field; five years experience in fund development and major gifts. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include developing strategies, events, and materials to inform, engage, cultivate and solicit current and prospective major gifts prospects.

Please submit resume to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by July 30, 2007. Questions to 704-370-3301 or email at jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

ART TEACHER / SPANISH TEACHER

St. Pius X Catholic School has full-time (K-8) teaching positions available in Art and Spanish for the 2007-08 school year. Must have or be eligible for NC Certification in Art Education/Spanish Education. Please submit a resume and pick up an application at the school office from 9am-1pm, M-F: St. Pius X Catholic School, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC. Phone: (336) 273-9865.

DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL:

Notary/Secretary – Pastoral Center, Charlotte

The Diocese of Charlotte Tribunal has an opening for a Notary/Secretary who will provide secretarial, clerical, and administrative support to the officials of the Tribunal. As an officer of the Court, the employee must be a practicing Catholic.

Requirements include: high school or business college graduate; three years of experience; ability to type 55 WPM accurately; ability to read, write, and speak English well; some ability with Spanish beneficial; strong verbal, computer, and interpersonal skills; ability to maintain strict confidentiality.

DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL:

Advocate/Auditor – Pastoral Center, Charlotte

The Diocese of Charlotte Tribunal has an opening for an Advocate/Auditor whose duties will include supervising parish advocates, coordinating Advocate Training Program, serving as Advocate for Tribunal cases, investigating possible satellite Tribunal locations and providing Tribunal ministry to Asheville and Smoky Mountain Vicariates as needed. As an officer of the Court, the employee must be a practicing Catholic.

Requirements include: bachelor's degree in theology with willingness to pursue further studies in canon law; completion of Advocate Training Program; 1-2 years of experience in Tribunal ministry; ability to read, write, and speak English well; ability to read, write and speak Spanish is beneficial; strong verbal, computer and interpersonal skills; willingness to travel as required.

Interested applicants please contact:

Fr. John Putnam, Tribunal, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

or (704) 370-3341

Full-time Youth Minister

Vibrant 800-family parish seeking mature, qualified adult to head middle school and high school programs. This full-time position includes catechetical, social, service and spiritual well-being of youth in grades 6 - 12. Requirements: practicing Catholic, college degree, experience working with youth and teens, and references. Salary is negotiable depending on factors such as years of experience.

Send resume to Search Committee, St. William Parish, 2300 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, or stwilliamschurch@bellsouth.net.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS: Requirements: High school diploma/GED; Clean criminal record; Noteworthy employment history. Excellent pay and benefit package. Apply to: The Wackenhut Corporation, 1 Centerview Drive, Suite 105, Greensboro, NC 27407, 1701 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 or in Asheville area at 9-H Walden Drive, Arden, NC 28704. www.wackenhut.com EOE M/F/D/V Security Guard & Patrol 753-GP

FOR RENT

CONDO: Oceanfront – Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Two day minimum; weekly for under $1,000. Additional units available. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!

Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)

Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication

How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:

Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

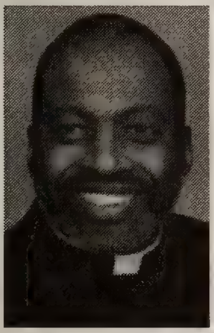
REVIVAL

"REVIVAL OF THE SPIRIT 2007"

Theme: "Tough Talk for Tough Times!"

With Rev. Edward B. Branch, B.A., M.Div., D.Min. – Revivalist

Catholic Chaplain for Atlanta University Center; Ordained priest and minister of evangelization; Nationally-known Catholic revivalist; Published author



Friday night: "Fishing Lessons" – Luke 5:1-11
Baptism is our call to leave everything to take care of Jesus' business in the world, not in the church building.

Saturday night: "Mission Readiness" – Luke 4:1-13
A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. The Sacrament of Reconciliation assumes we feel ourselves to be a community. But ... do we? We aren't ready for the mission unless we really are a "we."

Sunday morning: "The Shortest Sermon Ever Preached and the Longest Meditation on It." – Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Luke recalls the three ages of human salvation. We are the third and final age. What ought we be doing?

ALL ARE WELCOME !

Sponsored by

African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte

To be held at: Our Lady of Consolation Church
2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte, NC

Friday, August 3 *through*
Sunday, August 5

The Revival is an opportunity to publicly worship our God in the spirit of the Black church while at the same time breaking down traditional misconceptions of Catholicism held by our Protestant brothers and sisters. Come and bring your family, friends and neighbors!

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, Aug. 3 and Saturday, Aug. 4

7 pm — Praise and Worship
8 pm — Preaching by Fr. Edward Branch

Fr. Branch, Musician Joe Priester, and the F.L.O.W. Liturgical Dancers of Our Lady of Consolation Church will enhance your spiritual experience throughout the weekend!

Sunday, Aug. 5

11 am — Closing Worship

Celebrant
Fr. Jude Duffy, OFM Cap.
Pastor, Our Lady of Consolation Church
Homilist
Fr. Edward Branch

For more information, please call 704-370-3267. Someone will return your call.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

A baby whose life mattered

Every life — long or short, poor or powerless — matters to God

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

It was a beastly hot day. We clustered under the shade of a tree in our parish cemetery. We were there for the burial of a baby.

It was a very young baby, stillborn at only three months gestation. So small, it was hardly the length of an index finger.

At that tender age it was hard to tell if the baby was male or female. The parents named the child Jose-Maria (Joseph-Mary) since they weren't sure of the gender.

The parents are good people. They are hardworking immigrants from central Mexico. They support a lot of family back home. The father does landscaping; the mother works in a restaurant.

A little group from our local Latino community was at the burial with them. The parents sat on folding chairs set up by the Catholic Cemeteries office near the grave. They held hands.

The week before, I had asked the mother if she had a box to bury little Jose-Maria in. She told me yes, a plastic box. They carried the box to the grave in a fancy paper gift bag with colored tissue paper sticking out. I had not seen it before.

I lifted the box out of the bag to place it on a table near the grave. I saw that it was a plastic "Huggies" diaper box.

Tears came down my face. My throat closed up. I was overcome by the sadness of it all.

These were poor people. This was the best they could do. I thought of Mary and Joseph, also poor people.

How Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple for his presentation with the offering of the poor, two pigeons. I thought of how Mary had to depend on the kindness of a stranger to bury her son Jesus in a donated tomb.

What a lesson this simple couple was teaching our community. Neither parent had gone beyond the sixth grade back in Mexico, yet they knew better than our "sophisticated" culture the true meaning of this moment and of this young life.

They knew that Jose-Maria was a baby. It was their baby.

They did not care that scientists might call this baby by another name: blastocyst, embryo or fetus. They knew that it was a baby.

When she had miscarried at the hospital, the hospital staff told her that they would dispose of the "tissue" if she wanted them to.

She said, "No, give it to me." She took him home in a baggie packed in ice. Our culture might have thrown this tiny child away, like just so much trash.

So there we were on a hot summer day, commending this tiny body to the earth and this young soul to God.

I stumbled through the prayers in my bad Spanish. They were understanding of my errors. We are old friends. Friends make allowances.

A few cars passed. I thought to myself, "This is an important lesson," especially for the children in our group.

This burial reminded us that every life matters. Every life, no matter how short, how poor or how powerless matters to God. Every person can be a prophet of the Most High.

Somebody will be saved by the short life of young Jose-Maria; I am sure of it. In God's eyes, that life, no matter how short, will have been a huge success.

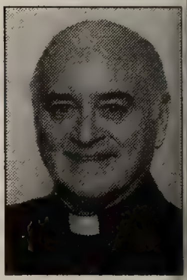
Jose-Maria may have been laid in the earth in a plastic diaper box but went to God on the wings of angels, assisted by the prayers of the parents and the church.

This life mattered.

Do not be afraid

'Joy hygiene' can kill fear, self-pity before they fester

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

There are some fears that are harmless, amounting to nothing more than the normal worries of life. They can keep you alert and help you meet your responsibilities.

But there are those exaggerated fears that can become obsessive. They must be controlled if you are going to have peace of mind.

The first thing to keep in mind is that you are not your fears. You are the observer of your fears. The mind only has room for one set of thoughts at a time.

The best psychologists tell us that we can lessen the impact of emotional distress by thinking things through. Control your thoughts and you will gradually lessen your inner disturbance.

Fear is a belief that you are somehow in danger. Mental health professionals tell us that most of the things we worry about never happen.

Most of the time the feeling of danger is not a fact; it is merely the product of a belief.

We spend so much wasted time worrying! If there is no objective danger, change your belief system and you will be free.

A few years ago I wrote about one woman's approach to needless worry. She happened to be a dentist.

She reasoned, "Just as I use antiseptics to get rid of the bacteria around the teeth, I must also learn to use mental toughness to chase away the dark thoughts that plague me."

Here is her plan of action:

"As a dentist, I try to train my patients to focus on prevention. It's not that far-fetched to connect the idea of oral hygiene to mental hygiene. Most days I just don't realize how much control I have over my feelings.

"Thoughts control feelings. I can actually decide if I want joyful thoughts or dark thoughts to take over my mind. Dark thoughts always lead to sadness or fright, and I don't want that. Jesus doesn't want it either.

"So I decided to keep better guard over my thoughts. I never realized how many negative thoughts I allowed into my mind. Through the exercise of my will I now work harder at keeping out irrational fear. With God's help, I try to maintain a beautiful garden of joy in my mental landscape.

"We all come from a joyful God who created us for eternal joy; therefore, it follows that he wants us to eliminate anything that destroys or diminishes our joy.

"In the same way that we protect our bodies against germs, we can also work to protect our souls against mental poison. Sadness and discouragement are the fruits of negative thinking.

"Go for help to straighten out your thinking patterns if you need it. By exercising the proper JOY HYGIENE, as I call it, you can kill fear and self-pity before it festers."

That is such good advice. If you have developed the bad habit of allowing toxic thinking to dominate your mind, at least know that you can do something to help yourself.

First, turn to the Lord. Jesus said, "In this world you will have many troubles, but cheer up, for I have overcome the world. ... Do not be afraid."

Turn it all over to Jesus, who said, "I have told you all these things that your joy may be full."

Letters to the Editor

Gratitude for nonviolence program

I am very thankful to find out that there is an active program to support a desperately needed movement to counteract the alarming growth of violence

in America today ("Resisting evil," June 29).

I find it almost impossible to sit and watch television, especially the evening news, because of the steady diet of violence and horror to which millions of innocent living beings are being subjected every moment of every day. Ditto for secular newspapers and news magazines as well.

At the age of 79 I can look back over the years to a truly more gentle time before the "drug culture" and the breakdown of ethics and morals that followed. How wonderful to read of the program ("The Nonviolence of Jesus: Living the Gospel Today") at Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

Because of age and physical limitations, I am not able to attend wonderful programs such as this one, but I can at least support all positive efforts like this with my prayers that all Christians, regardless of denomination, will work to try, once again, to make our world the beautiful, peaceful and Christ-centered world that he intended it to be.

— Doris Spivey
Belmont

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

‘Happy anniversary’ time

Reflecting a way to unlock elements to making marriages work

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER
WILLIAM J.
BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

If “love is what you’ve been through with someone,” wedding anniversaries have a way of tempering idealism with the realism (the day-to-day, year-in-and-year-out, practical, down-to-earth, “being through”) of marriage.

“Would you do it all over again?” is a question not for the faint of heart; it could ruin the anniversary celebration! Very few, if any, couples I know would have anything but a strong, affirmative answer to that question.

They’ve been blessed, and they are grateful. And so they celebrate when anniversary time rolls around.

The famous jurist Benjamin N. Cardozo, when officiating at a wedding in 1931, said: “Three great mysteries there are in the lives of mortal beings: the mystery of birth at the beginning; the mystery of death at the end; and, greater than either, the mystery of love. Everything that is most precious in life is a form of love.”

Thinking back on love and marriage from an anniversary perspective can indeed produce inspiring words. But anniversary time also opens the reflective mind to the real struggles any marriage project entails.

Marriage takes a lot of work. How satisfying, therefore, to look back with gratitude at the whole project when any anniversary of an intact marriage is celebrated!

Anniversaries unlock the sorrows together with the joys and, as most anniversary celebrants will smilingly admit, the joys redeem the sorrows every time.

That’s the way it has been for Martie and Bob Gillin, friends of mine since high school days. I was in the seminary when they were married, but I’ve officiated at the weddings of five of their children and assisted at the funeral of one son.

Martie and Bob heard a priest say to them in the opening “exhortation” in their own wedding ceremony in 1957 that their future “with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life, and are to be expected in your own.”

All those elements have been part of the Gillin family experience.

So with Martie and Bob in mind as they celebrate their 50thh this year, I repeat words from a song that I incorporated into the homily I gave at the wedding of their son Steve and his bride Leslie in 1999.

The words are from the song “Voyage,” by Johnny Duhan:

“Life is an ocean/ and love is a boat /In troubled waters,/ it keeps you afloat./ When we started the voyage,/ there was just me and you./ Gathered around us,/ we now have a crew.”

The “crew” of family gives us the security and support we need on our transit through life. What a joy it is to have the crew gather round for those anniversary celebrations that come in the evening of life when the voyage is closer to the end than to the beginning, and, thanks be to God, the marriage is still afloat!

The crew members — the children and grandchildren — get both example and instruction from parents who agree to renew their vows in their presence at the anniversary celebration. That’s an opportunity not to be missed.

The “for better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and health” dimensions of the marriage commitment with its “until death do us part” declaration constitute powerful prose that holds the promise of additional anniversary joy for generations to come.

A ‘Good Samaritan’ or an enabler?

Thin, tenuous line exists between generosity and enabling

Our Turn

THERESE J.
BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

Here’s a dilemma not just for young adults but for any Christian passing a homeless man on the street: What’s the right thing to do?

If he reeks of alcohol and stares at you cross-eyed, do you still give him a buck? Or is that enabling his addiction?

I threw out that question to my readers of Beyond Blue (my blog on Beliefnet.com) and I discussed it on the Catholic Channel of Sirius radio, inviting people to call in with their opinions.

Some listeners said that it is not our right to judge a person’s intentions. We give out of generosity and kindness and, if those we give to buy drugs or alcohol our gift, it’s on their conscience. It’s between them and God. We have done the right thing.

Others said that, after being taken advantage of numerous times, they have decided to give only to organizations — non-profits known to be good stewards of donations.

But there was a third group that came up with creative solutions to the problem. One man said he and his wife tithe five percent to their church. They then tithe another five percent to persons who are working very hard for cash.

They will tip waiters two or three times the average amount (50-to-60 percent) to reward their work. Another woman said that she walks around giving away coupons from McDonalds or Whole Foods.

The bigger problem for me in all this is that I find the line between enabling/codependency and generosity/compassion to be very thin and tenuous.

A few summers ago I met a woman at a bookstore who needed extra cash, so I hired her daughter to be a mother’s helper. (My son David was just a baby.) But it ended up a raw deal for me.

I got to baby sit the clerk’s daughter. She was unable to assist with any caretaking of David, and I paid the clerk five bucks an hour to take care of her daughter.

If this were an isolated event, I could chock it up as a bad experience. But I consistently get myself into these messes in an attempt to be compassionate, to be the Good Samaritan in Luke’s Gospel. When two guys knock on my door trying to sell me a subscription of Parenting magazine for three times the cost of the cover price, I have difficulty saying no.

They look at me with droopy, puppy-dog eyes while telling me that they aspire to have the good life that I have.

“It’s a scam,” my husband Eric says, telling the solicitors to get lost with absolutely no guilt. But Eric wasn’t raised by the Sisters of Charity; he’s not afraid of being the self-absorbed Levite in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

I, on the other hand, have a bit of baggage in this area.

I used to be able to give generously, asking nothing in return. But then I built some boundaries. Today I give when it feels good and right.

If a woman who is high as a kite begs me for three bucks because she has just had a bad accident and my gut says that she is being less than contrite, I spend the money on coffee instead.

Although I want to be the Good Samaritan as often as possible, I also want to be sincere — and sincerity and enabling/codependency don’t mix well.

Benedictine monasteries: Models of redeemed creation

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE
HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

Pope Benedict XVI suggests in his latest book “Jesus of Nazareth” that we see the beauty of Benedictine monasteries as a model of redeemed creation. What does he mean by this?

As a young priest, Pope Benedict was deeply influenced by the Benedictines. Because of his contact with them, he was far ahead of the Second Vatican Council in developing meaningful liturgical practices.

One of the most revered traditions of the Benedictines is their liturgy. Anyone who has experienced Benedictine liturgy’s melodious chant cannot help but agree that it points to the wonderment of God, beautifully lifting minds and hearts to heavenly thoughts. Even the liturgy’s sacred quietness encourages us to turn from outside distractions and listen to God’s voice within ourselves.

Noted liturgist Father Romano Guardini says the Benedictine liturgy fosters the stillness the world desperately needs: “Tranquility of the inner life, the quiet at the depths of its hidden streams. It is a collected, total presence, a being ‘all there,’ receptive, alert, ready. ... It is when the soul abandons the restlessness of purposeful activity.”

The tranquility of which Father Guardini speaks is the foundation of peace, and peace, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, is one of the main qualities of love. Peace is also the foundation of a redeemed world.

The Benedictine tradition emphasizes meditation and prayer. Two words in particular help us to understand their meaning: ruminating and pondering.

The image of the ruminant animal quietly chewing its cud was used in antiquity as a symbol of the Christian pondering the word of God. And Christians have always seen a scriptural invitation to ponder in the example of the Virgin Mary “pondering in her heart” what she saw and heard of Christ.

For us, these images are a reminder that we must take in the word of God and while gently repeating it to ourselves, allow it to interact with our thoughts, our hopes, our memories, our desires.

In pointing to Benedictine monasteries as models of redeemed life, Pope Benedict implies that much of today’s life reflects the opposite of redemption: brutality, slander, corruption and chaos. Their continual barrage destroys peace of mind, often shattering the human spirit’s ability to reflect on what is sacred.

The pope points us to one of the most valuable means we have for living Christ’s redemption on earth: peaceful environments for prayer and meditation. The end result of these is the heavenly wisdom needed to combat the forces of chaos that are antithetical to redemption.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2007

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

2007

Diocese of Charlotte

IHS

Eucharistic Congress

TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

www.GoEucharist.com

Free and open to the public

Signing for Hearing Impaired

FRIDAY EVENING 7 PM

- Concert of Sacred Music
- Keynote Speaker
- Catholic Shops

Registration for Children's Track is open.

www.GoEucharist.com

SATURDAY 9 AM – 6:30 PM

- Eucharistic Procession through Uptown Charlotte
- Holy Hour – Homilist – Bishop William Curlin
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Vigil Mass @ 4:30 pm –Homilist Bishop Peter J. Jugis
- General Track Speakers
- Hispanic Track Speakers
- Children's Track
- Middle School Track
- High School Track
- Music
- Catholic Shops

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

JULY 27, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 35

Perspectives

Father Dietzen discusses baptizing the deceased; Father Catoir reveals the rewards of forgiveness

| PAGES 14-15

Big hearts in Brevard

Small mountain parish fosters large endowment goal

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

BREVARD — Tucked away in the mountains of Transylvania County, Sacred Heart Church in Brevard is home to about 1,500 Catholics.

One might think that a relatively small parish would be content with an active parish council, enough funds to maintain the church and a few outreach committees. But in less than five years, Sacred Heart Church parishioners have donated nearly $1 million to the parish's planned giving and endowment programs.

An endowment is a permanent fund in which the principal is never used. The income from the interest generated may be used in accordance with the wishes

See GIVING, page 6

Divided by laws and land

CNS PHOTO BY RAFAEL CRISOSTOMO, EL PREGONERO

Diego Lino stands with his children, Jonathan, 12, Judith, 5, Juliana, 5, and Britzy, 6, during a press conference and prayer service on the plaza at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington July 17. Dozens gathered to speak out for families across the United States whom they say are being torn apart by deportation.

Families, human rights report tell stories behind deportations

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Children wearing T-shirts reading "Born in the USA, Don't take my mommy, daddy away" talked knowledgeably about deportation to reporters on the plaza at the Supreme Court July 17, explaining what happens when family members are sent away to another country.

The same day, Human Rights Watch issued a report estimating that 1.6 million children and adults, including perhaps 540,000 U.S. citizens, have had a family member deported since a 1996 law reclassified many minor crimes as deportable offenses and eliminated judicial discretion in waiving the penalty.

Joshua James, 9, from Jersey City, N.J., was 6 when

See STORIES, page 9

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands outside St. Joseph Church in Charlotte before its dedication Mass May 2, 2004. The church was one of four missions elevated to parish status in the Diocese of Charlotte July 1, 2007.

A diocese on the rise

Bishop Jugis elevates four missions to parish status

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Four missions in the Diocese of Charlotte have recently been elevated to parish status.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and St. Joseph Church in Charlotte, St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis and Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe-Candor were designated as parishes July 1.

In early 2007, Bishop Peter J. Jugis commissioned a study to determine which of the 23 missions in the diocese might be ready for parish status. The study, conducted by the diocesan planning office, took into consideration the missions' registered households, Mass attendance and recommendations from the diocesan strategic plan.

"The study pointed to four missions as being ready to be elevated to parish status," said

See PARISHES, page 5

Clarifying the church's teachings

Document on nature of church aimed at Catholics, U.S. cardinal says

BY DAN MORRIS-YOUNG
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO — The recent Vatican document emphasizing that only the Catholic Church possesses the fullness of the means for

See CHURCH, page 7

#BXHPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-6 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese

Students clean, pray; Sisters of Mercy reconfigure

| PAGE 4

Hands raised in faith

Study: Hispanics drawn to charismatic churches

| PAGE 8

Culture Watch

Project for imprisoned moms; actor visits Catholic school

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CATHOLIC CONNECTIONS

CNS PHOTO BY RENI NEWSPHOTOS, COURTESY OF BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson pose with daughter Luci, a convert to Catholicism, before her Aug. 6, 1966, wedding at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

President, Lady Bird Johnson had long association with Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Lady Bird Johnson, an Episcopalian, died just after a Catholic priest finished reciting the litany of the saints with her family at her bedside in Austin, Texas.

This ecumenical interaction July 11 was not unusual for the former first lady or for her husband, former President Lyndon B. Johnson, a member of the Disciples of Christ.

Their closest Catholic relationship was with their daughter, Luci Baines Johnson Turpin. It was Turpin who called Paulist Father Robert Scott of St. Austin Church in Austin, Texas to come to the LBJ Ranch when it became clear her mother was close to death.

Father Scott has known Turpin and her family for 25 years. He said Johnson attended every first Communion, confirmation and graduation for her Catholic grandchildren.

And when Turpin's daughter, Nicole Nugent, was preparing for her confirmation, Johnson invited the whole class out to the LBJ Ranch for a retreat.

In the shock and confusion following the assassination of the nation's first and only Catholic president, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson took the oath of office as chief executive Nov. 22, 1963, placing his hand on a Catholic Bible aboard Air Force One.

Like Kennedy before him, Johnson seemed to be popular among Catholics. A Gallup Poll in 1963 said nine out of 10 Catholics questioned said they would vote for President Johnson, a Democrat, over Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater in a presidential election.

Johnson's association with Catholics dates back to his vice presidency, when he met with Pope John XXIII. Luci Johnson converted to Catholicism at age 18; she was the first daughter of a president to marry in a Catholic church. Her marriage at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception also marked the first time a president had visited the church.

According to the 1982 book "The Politician: The Life and Times of Lyndon Johnson," Luci encouraged her father to pray to her "little monks" at St. Dominic Church in Washington when he was worried about the progress of the war in Vietnam.

President Johnson was known for making nocturnal visits to Washington area churches, such as St. Dominic, during his presidency. He also occasionally attended Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Stonewall, Texas, when he was at his ranch.

He would typically attend a second, Protestant service on the same day.

When President Johnson met with Pope Paul VI, he asked him to pray for U.S. efforts for world peace. The pope did so, and also prayed for the U.S. leader's quick recovery after his 1965 gall bladder operation.

When he died, several Catholic leaders spoke highly of the former president.

Upon hearing of Lady Bird Johnson's death, Austin Bishop Gregory Aymond honored the lifelong environmentalist by saying she was "truly a Texas treasure."

"She found and spread God's beauty in the simplicity of wildflowers and nature," he said. "In faith, we trust she is resting in comfort in the Lord's garden."

Bishops to discuss efforts to end war in Iraq with House Democrats

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops have agreed to meet with a group of Catholic House Democrats to discuss how to pursue the goal of a "responsible transition" to end the war in Iraq.

They also reiterated their call for members of Congress and the Bush administration to break the political stalemate in Washington and "forge bipartisan policies on ways to bring about a responsible transition and an end to the war."

"The current situation in Iraq is unacceptable and unsustainable," wrote Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Policy, in a July 17 letter to Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio.

Bishop Wenski's letter was a response to a June 28 letter Ryan wrote to Bishop Wenski and Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., USCCB president. Ryan's letter on behalf of himself and 13 other Catholic House Democrats, urged the bishops to increase their involvement in efforts to end the war in Iraq.

"Throughout our nation's history Catholics have been at the forefront of the fight for social justice. Now, at another critical moment, we respectfully urge the USCCB to join with us in mobilizing for Congress's efforts to end the war," Ryan wrote.

Bishop Wenski said the bishops "share your deep concern for the dangerous and deteriorating situation in Iraq," and would welcome the opportunity "to meet with you and other policymakers to discuss ways to pursue the goal of a 'responsible transition' to bring an end to the war."

"Too many Iraqi and American lives have been lost," he wrote. "Too many Iraqi communities have been shattered. Too many civilians have been driven from their homes."

He also added that church and government officials should use their "shared moral tradition" to guide their dialogue with other leaders in seeking a way to "bring about a morally responsible end to the war."

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

CANDLER — Preston Smith will perform a free *Organ Concert* at St. Joan of Arc Church, 768 Asbury Rd., Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. A reception will follow. For more information, call Andrew Huska at (828) 285-9678 or e-mail eahuska@charter.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Matthew Summer Bible Institute* will take place Aug. 6-10, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the New Life Center banquet room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Susan Brady will present "Born From Above," based on the Gospel of John. To register, call (704) 541-8362, ext. 4.

CHARLOTTE — Brad Jones and David Miller, seminarians for the Diocese of Charlotte, will present various topics in *Wednesdays with Brad and David*. All sessions meet 7-8:30 p.m. in the reception room at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Miller will present "The Five Marian Dogmas: Defending the Truths of Christ" Aug. 1. For more information, call the church office at (704) 554-7088.

CHARLOTTE — *The Vietnamese Cursillo* of Charlotte School of Leaders meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, contact Nam Le at (704) 549-1525.

CHARLOTTE — *The Young Widowed Group* meets at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact facilitator Sister Therese Galligan at (704) 362-5047, ext. 216.

CHARLOTTE — A *Support Group for Caregivers of a Family Member with Memory Loss* meets the last Monday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m., at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, contact Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — *The 50+ Club* of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., meets the second Wednesday of each month at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish hall. For reservations and more information, call Elaine at (704) 847-2835.

CHARLOTTE — *The Happy Timers* of St. Ann Church meet the first Wednesday of each month with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the Msgr. Allen Center, 3635 Park Rd. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — *First Saturday Devotions* take place on the first Saturday of each month at Belmont Abbey Basilica, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Devotion begins at 9:30 a.m. with the recitation of the rosary, followed by reconciliation and Mass. For more information, call Phil or Terri at (704) 888-6050.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — As Christians we struggle daily with negative emotions such as anger, anxiety and despair. *"Spirituality of the Emotions"* offers an opportunity to bring together insight, prayer and group support in this struggle. Dr. Ronda Chervin will present this program Wednesdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m., through Aug. 8. These free classes will meet at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 413-4624 or St. Charles Borromeo Church at (828) 437-3108.

MORGANTON— The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

JULY 27, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 35

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Cardinal calls Chinese Catholic reaction to papal letter positive

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has not had any official comment from the Chinese government on Pope Benedict XVI's letter to Chinese Catholics, but the reaction has been "positive from the faithful and the bishops," said the Vatican secretary of state.

The 55-page letter, released June 30 in Chinese, has led to "an extraordinary movement of meditation and reflection, especially through the Internet, by the official patriotic community and the clandestine community," said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

The pope's letter urged cooperation between Catholic communities officially registered with the government and those that have continued clandestinely since the 1950s, when the Chinese government began closing churches.

While the papal letter criticized Chinese government limits on church activities, it also invited civil authorities to open a new dialogue on several key issues, including the appointment of bishops.

The letter, said Cardinal Bertone, was an attempt to demonstrate "confidence in the Chinese people and in their government so that they would reconsider a bit their position toward the Catholic Church, which wants to work for the good of the Chinese people."

The cardinal also said that the pope tried to tap into and build on a Chinese cultural sensitivity to moral questions that comes from Confucianism. From the viewpoint of its moral code, Confucianism has roots that are close to Christianity's, he said.

The Catholic Church wants to build on the strong moral code emphasized by traditional Chinese culture, showing how Christianity emphasizes not only correct behavior, but also solidarity, love and forgiveness, which benefit the entire society, he said.

wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Parka and Campgrounds Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass at 12 p.m. Please bring covered dish and a 2-liter drink. Other events include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks, and hiking/nature trails for children. For more information and directions, call Kathy Hack at (704) 548-1834.

HENDERSONVILLE — *The Widows Lunch Bunch*, sponsored by Immaculate Conception Church, meets at a different restaurant on the first Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are necessary. For more information and reservations, call Joan Keagle at (828) 693-4733.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

SALISBURY — *Our Lady Rosary Makers* of Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., are making cord rosaries for the missions and the military. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month in the church office conference room, 10-11 a.m. For more information, call Cathy Yochim at (704) 636-6857 or Joan Kaczmarezyk at (704) 797-8405.

MOORESVILLE — A *Support Group for Parents Who Have Lost a Child of any Age* meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd. We draw strength from others' experience of loss and grief. For more information, call Joy at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Fridays at 3:30 p.m. in the Glenmary House of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd. join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and laying on of hands for those in need. For more details, call Gery Dashner at (828) 494-2683.

WAYNESVILLE — *Adult Education Classes* are held the first three Wednesday evenings of each month beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the St. John the Evangelist Church Social Hall, 234 Church St. For more information, call Charles Luce at (828) 648-7369 or e-mail luce54@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will begin Aug. 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Class dates are Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18. The Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP is safe and medically proven 99.9% effective. Couples with marginal fertility will also benefit from working with their natural mutual fertility instead of against it. Call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., has *eucharistic adoration* each Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m. For more details, call Donna at (336) 940-2558 or Carole at (336) 766-4530.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

July 29 — 11 a.m.
Installation of Father Francis Cancro as pastor
Queen of Apostles Church, Belmont

Aug. 4 — 9 a.m.
Mass for Crossroads Walkers
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Aug. 5 — 12:30 p.m.
Holy Sepulchre Scrolls Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Aug. 6 — 6 p.m.
Seminarian and priests' reception
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

Aug. 9 — 5 p.m.
Serra International Convention opening Mass
Atlanta, Ga.

Aug. 10 — 10 a.m.
Finance council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Aug. 10 — 2 p.m.
Vocation Discernment Day Mass
St. Dorothy Church, Lincolnton

Aug. 10 — 7:30 p.m.
Couples for Christ National Conference
Westin Hotel, Charlotte

Vatican spokesman: Pope concelebrates daily Mass using current missal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI concelebrates his daily morning Mass in Italian using the current edition of the Roman Missal, the Vatican spokesman said.

Claims that the pope celebrates his private Mass using the Tridentine rite are incorrect, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said July 17.

The Tridentine Mass is the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council; it was last revised in the 1962 edition of the Roman Missal.

Less than 10 days after Pope Benedict July 7 issued his letter and norms providing greater opportunity for the celebration of the Tridentine Mass, news reports claimed Pope Benedict already had been celebrating the old rite privately.

"The confusion probably was caused by our footage of the pope celebrating facing the altar, which is due to the fact that the altar is against the wall" in the private chapel of the Apostolic Palace, Father Lombardi said.

With the altar against the wall, the concelebrants in the private chapel end up having their backs toward the congregation during the eucharistic prayer. The congregation at the morning Mass generally is made up of the pope's valet and the consecrated women who staff the papal apartment.

The images Father Lombardi referred to were released by the Vatican to coincide with celebrations of Pope Benedict's 80th birthday April 16. Father Lombardi heads the Vatican Television Center, which produced the footage, as well as serving as director of the Vatican press office and Vatican Radio.

Father Lombardi also said the fact that the pope's two private secretaries concelebrate the Mass with him each morning "obviously means he is using the new Missal," since the Tridentine Mass strictly limits concelebration.

At public Masses with an international congregation, Pope Benedict uses the post-Vatican II Mass with most of the prayers in Latin. However, on occasions such as the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, which is considered a Rome diocesan celebration although there is an international congregation, the pope recites the prayers in Italian.

'To nourish the spirit'

CNS PHOTO BY L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI admires the scenery in Lorenzago di Cadore, Italy, July 23. The pope is on vacation in the Alps until July 27.

"Before this scenery of meadows, forests and peaks reaching toward the sky, the desire to praise God for the marvels of his works rises spontaneously from the soul and our admiration of this natural beauty easily transforms itself into prayer," said Pope Benedict July 16. "Every good Christian" knows that a vacation is a time not only for physical relaxation, but also "to nourish the spirit through greater space for prayer and meditation, to grow in a personal relationship with Christ and to conform oneself ever more closely to his teaching."

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters in Lorenzago di Cadore that Pope Benedict was spending most of his vacation time working on the next volume of his book, "Jesus of Nazareth." Father Lombardi said the pope also was spending time on his next encyclical, which, like "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), would focus on a topic related to Catholic social teaching. He said, however, that the encyclical was still in the earliest stages of development.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.
2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.
3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

HEART AT WORK

Courtesy Photo

Catholic Heart Workcamp volunteers spruce up the front porch at House of Mercy in Belmont July 2-3.

Students volunteer at House of Mercy

BELMONT — Middle school students from four states recently made a difference at House of Mercy in Belmont.

The students traveled from Delaware, Louisiana, South Carolina and Tennessee to participate in the Catholic Heart Workcamp held at Charlotte Catholic High School. The Orlando, Fla.-based workcamp provides teens opportunities to carry out service projects during the weeklong camp held at locations around the country.

During the week in Charlotte, the group camped at House of Mercy July 2-3, where they cleaned windows and walls.

House of Mercy was established in 1991 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide compassionate 24-hour nursing care to persons living with advanced AIDS.

After the cleanup, the students learned about the ministry and visited with residents.

The staff and residents were grateful for the students' hard work and interest.

"Thanks to the Catholic Heart Workcamp volunteers who contributed 'heart work' to House of Mercy," said Marjorie Storch, director of development.

Since its founding in 1991, 238 men and women have made House of Mercy their home.

Sisters of Mercy approve governance plan for new community

CINCINNATI — Approximately 500 sisters recently assembled to set goals for the newest community of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Approximately 500 Sisters of Mercy from 18 states, Guam and Jamaica gathered at Xavier University in Cincinnati July 26-28 to approve a governance plan for the new South Central Community.

The new community — comprised of more than 750 sisters, 590 associates and one Companion in Mercy from regional communities based in Baltimore, Md.; St. Louis, Mo.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Jamaica; Guam; and Belmont, N.C. — will become official Sept. 1, 2008.

The governance plan signifies an important step in the reconfiguration process for the sisters, as it establishes structures and processes for the new community.

With fewer sisters than in years past, the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in 2001 announced plans to gather 25 regional communities and missions into six communities to strengthen their ministries and mission.

Mercy Sisters and associates based in Buffalo, N.Y.; Erie and Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rochester, N.Y.; and the Philippines assembled in Buffalo July 20 to announce they are forming The New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community.

That new community will become official Jan. 1.

By restructuring, the Sisters of Mercy will develop strategies for combining and using their resources to better serve persons suffering from poverty, lack of education and insufficient health care, according to a press release.

The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy is an international community of Catholic women religious vowed to serve people who suffer from poverty, sickness and lack of education with a special concern for women and children.

The institute includes more than 4,400 members and 2,800 associates who serve in North, South and Central America, the Caribbean, Guam, and the Philippines.

Members of the South Central Community will gather in July 2008 to elect leadership and set new goals.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Sisters of Mercy in North Carolina, visit www.mercync.org.

Rallying around the rosary

Courtesy Photo

Seanna, Mariah, Stephen, Matthew, Mercedes and Michaela Dalley are pictured in first Communion attire during the Semi-annual Rosary Rally at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte May 20. The 33-year-old tradition included recitation of the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. It is held in January to commemorate Respect Life Month and in May, as the month of May is devoted to Mary and is traditionally celebrated with a crowning and praying of the rosary.

The youths above took part in the event by helping to carry a float of the Virgin Mary during a Marian procession, by throwing rose petals before the monstrance during a eucharistic procession, and by serving as altar servers.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

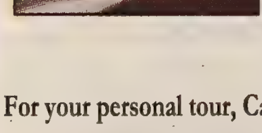
1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com



ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Four missions elevated to parish status in diocese

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Young men carry the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe down the aisle during the dedication Mass of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe in June 25, 2006. Our Lady of the Americas Church was one of four missions recently elevated to parish status in the Diocese of Charlotte.

PARISHES, *from page 1*

George Cobb, diocesan planning director.

All four of the new parishes began as missions that were to serve immigrants to the diocese, primarily Hispanic and Vietnamese. Keeping with the diocese's policy of not creating "national" parishes – parishes exclusive to one nationality or culture – the four new parishes are to be territorial, with membership consisting of all Catholics within the parish's geographical boundaries.

St. Joseph Church in Charlotte will serve the Steele Creek community, while Our Lady of Guadalupe Church will serve primarily northwestern Mecklenburg County. St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis will serve the entire Kannapolis area. Our Lady of Americas Church will serve Catholics in Montgomery County.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishes must have sufficient numbers of faithful to carry out the mission of the church and have the financial capabilities of maintaining themselves.

Other factors may include geographic considerations and whether there are a sufficient number of priests to staff the parish, now and in the future.

The pastor, the canonical head of a parish, is charged by the bishop to exercise pastoral care of the community entrusted to him.

In a letter to the new pastors, Bishop Jugis told them they would "direct the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish."

"As pastor … you will carry out the functions of teaching, sanctifying and governing the faithful under the authority of the diocesan bishop," wrote Bishop Jugis. "The model for your pastoral ministry is the Good Shepherd himself, Jesus Christ."

Bishop Jugis instructed the pastors to ensure that all parishioners — adults and children alike — are taught the truths of the faith; that evangelization occurs within and outside the church; and that the faithful are encouraged to "promote the spirit of the Gospel through works of charity and social justice."

The new parishes will be working with the diocesan planning and finance offices to establish pastoral and finance councils, if they don't already have them. These councils will advise the pastors concerning policies and pastoral matters of the parishes.

"The laity are charged with cooperating with the leadership and direction of the new pastors in carrying out Christ's mission in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Cobb.

Cultural catechesis

Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph churches in Charlotte began as cultural centers for Hispanic and Vietnamese populations, respectively.

Formerly known as the Catholic Hispanic Center, Our Lady of Guadalupe was dedicated by then-Bishop William G. Curlin in June 2002. At the time, the facility was regularly packed for each of its seven weekend Masses.

Calling the facility a positive step forward for both Hispanics and the Catholic Church, Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, pastor, said in 2002 that plans were already in the works to expand the facility to accommodate population growth.

There were only about 20 Vietnamese Catholic families in Charlotte in the early 1980s. By the late 1990s, there were 1,500 Vietnamese attending Mass at the newly acquired cultural center under the patronage of St. Joseph.

Bishop Jugis dedicated a new 22,300-square-foot facility in May 2004, to serve the more than 9,000 Vietnamese in the area.

"The church allows Charlotte's Vietnamese community to have a place of worship, a place of education for young people and a place for us to preserve the mother language, tradition and morals of our culture," Father Tan Van Le, pastor, said in 2004.

Both Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe-Candor and St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis were mission churches with predominantly Hispanic populations.

In the late 1980s, Oblate Father Gerard Clarke, then-chaplain at the Hispanic Center of Charlotte, became administrator of the new Our Lady of the Americas Mission in Biscoe, then a mission of Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle.

Thousands of immigrants, many from Mexico, have moved to the area since then, prompting the construction of a new 24,000-square-foot facility dedicated by Bishop Jugis in June 2006.

The emphasis on community is strong in the parish, with ethnic lines disappearing in a cooperative effort involving both Hispanic and Anglo parishioners.

Sixteen parishioners comprised the original parish in Kannapolis in 1954. As the area and its industry grew, so did the number of local Catholics. In August 1969, the St. Joseph community became a mission of St. James the Greater Church in Concord.

By 2001, more than 500 Hispanic families were worshipping regularly at the mission and then-Bishop Curlin dedicated a larger facility that year. By 2005, the congregation had a ratio of three Hispanics to one Anglo.

A bilingual staff, including Redemptorist Father Alvaro Riquelme, pastor, helps bridge the gap between the Hispanic and Anglo parishioners.

The four new parishes are a positive sign of the constant growth in the Diocese of Charlotte, which includes more than 150,000 registered parishioners at 92 parishes and missions.

Bishop Jugis is continuing to study additional areas of the diocese where new parishes may be justified.

SPACE IS LIMITED— CALL TODAY

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND

November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

*** Price: Only $2,499 from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Join us on a Pilgrimage to

CLASSIC ITALY

with Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor of St. Michael Church, Gastonia and Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley, deacon at St. Barnabas, Arden

October 30 – November 9, 2007

Special highlights include Mass daily plus escorted visits to Padua, Venice, Bologna, Florence, Sienna, Assisi and a Papal Audience in Rome!

Price including air fare and airport taxes from Charlotte, hotels, most meals, admission fees: $3,072.

Space is limited! Call today: 206 Tours at 800-206-8687 or group coordinator Nick Grasberger at grasbergjr@bellsouth.net.

(This is a privately sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Teaching stewards Down Under

COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office, addresses parish leaders in the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Australia, June 16.

Diocesan development director speaks to bishops, parishes in Australia

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office, recently spent four weeks in Australia teaching parishes how to foster stewardship programs.

Kelley, who also serves as chairman of the International Catholic Stewardship Council, gave 60 talks at stewardship events in several cities. He addressed more than 2,000 people, mostly bishops, priests and parish leaders.

The Brisbane Archdiocesan Stewardship Support Committee and the Diocese of Wollongong co-sponsored Kelley's visit, titled.

"Stewardship is a relatively new concept in Australia, even though it is mentioned in the Bible," said Kelley. "The parishes were very excited about the idea of stewardship — it's a new lens for them to view their Christian life through."

Kelley has spoken on the subject of stewardship at nearly 90 dioceses in the United States. In 2004, he made a two-and-a-half week speaking tour of Australia.

During his most recent visit, Kelley spoke on 17 different topics, including, "How to start a stewardship program in your parish," "Stewardship as a way of life," "Stewardship in action" and "How stewardship changes parish life."

"The audience members were excited about the concept of stewardship," he said. "It's going to change the Catholic Church in Australia."

Kelley said stewardship in U.S. dioceses received a considerable boost when the U.S. bishops issued the 1992 pastoral letter, "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response."

"The letter advocated that stewardship be made a priority in all parishes," Kelley said.

In 2004, the Australian bishops issued the Oceania edition of "Stewardship: A Disciple's Response." Oceania is comprised of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the islands of the South Pacific.

"Stewardship can transform the life of a parish and the lives of its parishioners," said Kelley. "It encourages a spiritual conversion to a more Christian way of life."

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information on promoting stewardship as a way of life in your parish, contact Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development, at (704) 370-3302 or visit www.charlottediocese.org/stewardship.

Join Your Catholic Chaplain Fr. Mathew

Hawaii Cruise

15-Day Vacation Departs April 12, 2008

Travel with other Roman Catholics including your YMT Chaplain Father Mathew Kappalumakkel. This will be Father Mathew's third trip as a YMT Chaplain. He is Associate Pastor at *St. Mary's Star of the Sea* in Unionville, CT. You'll depart April 12, 2008, and visit the beautiful Hawaiian Islands during their spectacular spring-time, with flowers all in bloom! This 15-day vacation includes a 10-day cruise on NCL's ***Pride of Aloha*** with four hotel nights in Waikiki, with an included Honolulu city tour. Aboard ship visit Kahului, Maui; Hilo, Hawaii; Nawiliwili, Kauai; Lahaina, Maui; and Kona, Hawaii. Complete prices start from only $1598 (per person/double occupancy) and includes a flower-lei, aloha greeting, ship transfers, the 10-day cruise, four nights hotels, Honolulu city tour, and baggage handling. Add $900 for round trip airfare from Charlotte. Mass will be celebrated once in Honolulu and some days on ship.

$100 deposits are now due. Family & friends welcome.

For information reservations, brochure and Fr. Mathew's letter call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Brevard parish fosters large endowment goal

GIVING, *from page 1*

of the donor organization or individual. Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund.

"Parishioners have contributed more than $900,000 in varying sizes — some modest, some substantial," said Father Carl Del Giudice, pastor. "Some parishioners have made memorials in honor of loved ones."

The parish now has a "living, working corpus of funds to provide for ministries now and in the future," said Father Del Giudice.

"We don't see it as the primary source of our operating funds, but as a way to augment ministries in the parish for charitable outreach, education and faith formation opportunities, and other similar needs," he said.

In March 2002, then-parish finance council chair Giles Flanagan suggested to Father Del Giudice that the parish begin an endowment program.

That same year, Sacred Heart Church established the first planned giving committee in the Diocese of Charlotte. Shortly thereafter, the committee embarked on an ambitious and active campaign to build their endowments.

The Sacred Heart planned giving committee initially set a goal to collect $1 million by 2010. Through their marketing campaigns, that goal will likely be met by the end of 2007.

"Parish leaders must not be afraid to aim high," said Flanagan. "A challenge brings out the best in your people."

The committee uses bulletin announcements, special mailings, brochures and estate-planning seminars to educate Sacred Heart parishioners about planned-giving opportunities.

"Endowments grow the most in parishes that actively market their planned giving and endowment programs," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office.

"Every Catholic church should aggressively move to establish an endowment program," said Flanagan.

"Due to the constant changing and addition of new members to the parish, it is essential that a parish building an endowment fund constantly advertise this fact by using special mailings urging members to include the church in their estate planning," he said.

Kelley also said that endowment programs do not negatively impact other types of giving, such as weekly tithing and special collections.

"Another aspect of an endowment program is the fact that the diocese does the investing and reporting," Flanagan said. "This gives the parishes professional expertise, simplifying administrative work and fund management."

The Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte was incorporated in 1994 to provide endowments for the diocese and its parishes, agencies and organizations.

Through the creation of endowments, the foundation provides a means to generate future and sustainable income for Catholic entities in the diocese.

"I'm overwhelmed that our parish is willing to commit a portion of their estates and assets to the church," said Father Del Giudice. "They love their church, and this is their way of helping to fulfill the church's mission."

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

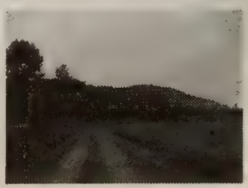
We are your source for homes and lots in Buck Mountain and the beautiful mountains of Wilkes County —

HUFFMAN
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
www.huffmanrealestate.com

Call Karen or Randy today!
Karen Huffman (336) 262-0208
Randy Huffman (336) 262-0480
karenahuffman@aol.com

MLS #50929: 2.5 acres at Buck Mountain with your own stream-fed fishing pond in gated community. $85,000/broker interest.

MLS #50227: 50 acres with pond, two bold streams, pasture, elevation with views. $299,000/broker related.



MLS #50974: Renovated historic home - large rolling lot with mountain views. Outbuildings include workshop, playhouse. Only 1/2 mile from town.
Priced to sell: $208,000.

Document on nature of church aimed at Catholics

CHURCH, ***from page 1***

salvation was created primarily as an instructional tool for Catholics and should not be read as a diminishing of other faith communities, according to the churchman who signed it.

On the contrary, said Cardinal William J. Levada, who heads the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith which issued the document July 10, the narrative itself points out that "outside the Catholic Church elements of holiness and truth do exist and that the Holy Spirit is working in those other communities and churches as well."

During a July 17 interview while visiting San Francisco, Cardinal Levada commented on his congregation's work, Pope Benedict XVI's recent instruction on the Tridentine Mass, emerging themes of the papacy and challenges facing the universal church today.

The former archbishop of San Francisco described as "purely coincidental" the fact that his congregation's document on the nature of the church was made public only three days after the pope's announcement of his decision to allow broader use of the Tridentine rite.

"Many have tried to see it as some kind of one-two punch," Cardinal Levada said with a laugh, "but the truth is that it is simply a coincidence that they were published in such proximity."

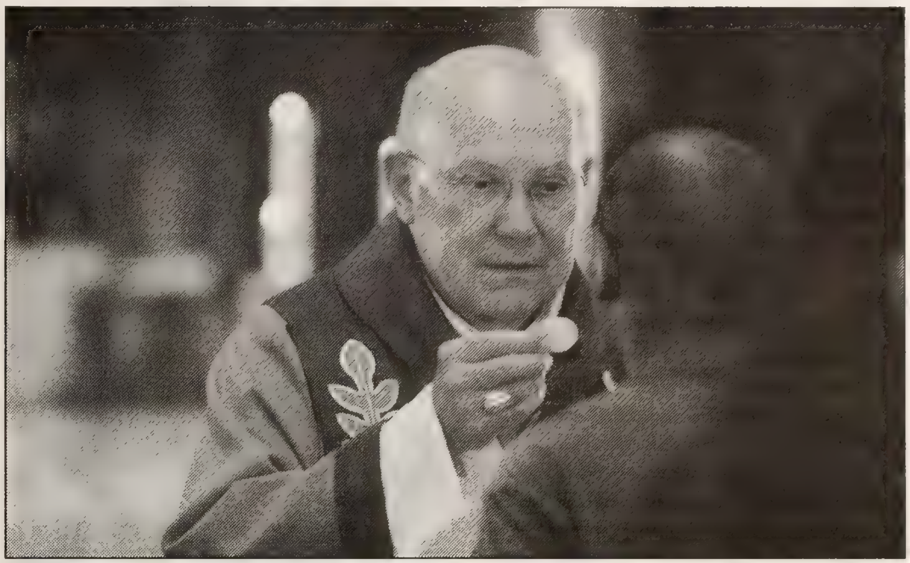
In restoring easier access "to the principal way of worship in the church for more than 400 years," Pope Benedict "expressed a great generosity" toward those intensely devoted to the Tridentine Mass, the cardinal told Catholic San Francisco, the archdiocesan newspaper.

The Tridentine Mass is the Latin-language liturgy that predates the Second Vatican Council; it was last revised in the 1962 edition of the Roman Missal.

The papal directive "was not primarily aimed at the United States," he said, adding that he feels it will have more impact in France, Germany and Switzerland and little effect in Latin America or Italy.

Turning to the doctrinal congregation's recent "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church," the cardinal said it addresses five questions about the nature of the church "and all five are a commentary on Vatican II documents."

"It has the advantage of collecting all that has happened since Vatican II up to the present time" and explaining how church articulation of its own nature as well as its views of other Christian communities have developed, he added.



CNS PHOTO BY GREG TARCZYNSKI

Cardinal William J. Levada distributes Communion during Mass at the Cathedral of St. Mary in San Francisco July 23, 2006. In a document released July 10, 2007, the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, led by Cardinal Levada, reaffirmed that the Catholic Church is the one, true church.

He has been "somewhat surprised" at the amount of "ecumenical commentary" the document has generated.

"It is primarily a document addressed to Catholics as believers and teachers and is intended to clarify the teachings of the Second Vatican Council," he said, "especially the teaching on the nature of the church."

Reaction to the document on the church's nature in the United States, where many religious persuasions exist side by side, clearly reflects the nation's "egalitarian approach to society and therefore to churches," he said, "where for you to say that your church is the one true church of Christ, and that another's is not quite, is considered not to be the American way."

"Underlying a typical American idea of what a church is," Cardinal Levada said, "is the idea that we are the ones who make the church, we create the church.

"There is the slogan, 'We are the church.' And, of course, there is the sense of the church being made up of all the baptized," he continued. "But we do not make the church. God makes the church. We receive the church as a gift."

He said the congregation's document could be "very helpful" to Catholics in the United States who are "culturally conditioned" to accepting self-organized groups of worshippers as churches.

In its emphasis on Vatican II teaching, the congregation's document was in step with what Cardinal Levada said is one of the clear themes of Pope Benedict's papacy — underlining that the council represents a continuity of church life, not a point of discontinuity. At the time of Vatican II, there was a temptation and a tendency to place church practices and teachings in preconciliar and postconciliar "baskets," he said.

"I know I did it. I think many of us regret that," said Cardinal Levada.

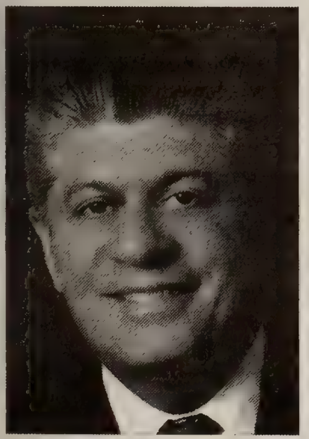
Challenges facing the universal church include "the disconnect between faith and reason in the modern world" cited by the pope in his address in Regensburg, Germany, last September, Cardinal Levada said.

He said the pope "rightly identified as a very significant challenge" a growing view that modern civilization "makes religion no longer necessary, or some would say, even possible."

Another challenge, he said, is to infuse "into the body politic" an active "love of neighbor and the service we are called to give each other" by Christ to address global issues of war, starvation and disease.

The pope, he said, "often returns to this theme" and exhorts Christians "to use our human ingenuity and creativity to overcome these evils."

You're Invited!
Room At The Inn's
Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet
"Hope for the Future"



Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Featured Speaker
FOX News Channel's
Judge
Andrew P. Napolitano

Judge Napolitano appears daily on *The Big Story with John Gibson,* co-hosts *FOX and Friends* once a week and is a regular on *The O'Reilly Factor.* A graduate of Notre Dame Law School, he is informative, entertaining and absolutely pro-life!

Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm
**** Reservations are FREE, but required.**

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@carolina.rr.com by **September 17th.**

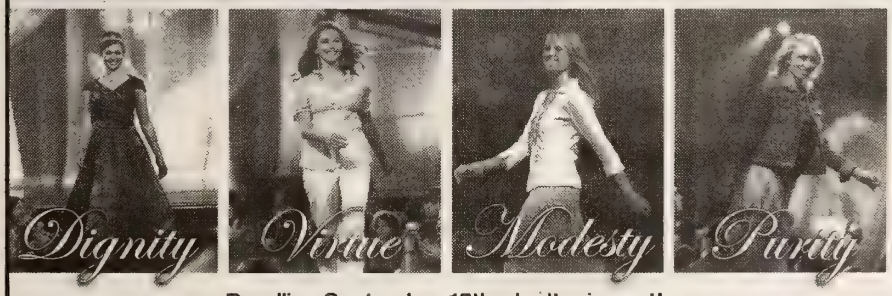
Room At The Inn, Inc. is a Catholic maternity and after-care program for pregnant mothers in Charlotte, N.C. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.

PURE fashion®

DO YOU WANT TO BE A MODEL OF STYLE & VIRTUE?

Don't miss your chance to model in the 2008 Pure Fashion show at the Westin Hotel in downtown Charlotte!

Enjoy the 6 month model training program and develop your personal beauty from the inside out. Log on to **www.purefashion.com** to learn more about the 2008 model training program and join the lucky group of young women from Charlotte who will discover their own dignity, style and beauty and how to foster it by living a life of virtue.



Deadline September 15th, don't miss out!
Models must be 14 -18 years old, in grades 8 -12. **Apply online today!**

Hands raised in faith

Study finds U.S. Hispanics drawn to charismatic churches

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Worshippers sing during a Spanish Mass at St. Martin of Tours Church in Gaithersburg, Md., last year. A Pew Hispanic Center study shows that Hispanics are influencing U.S. religious practice, especially Catholicism.

WASHINGTON — The church familiar to and preferred by Hispanic Catholics in the United States is a livelier, more charismatic place than the one most American Catholics are used to, finds a new survey on Hispanics and religion.

A detailed survey by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released April 25 says about a third of U.S. Catholics are Hispanics and that they are bringing a more evangelical style of faith into the broader church as their numbers grow.

Despite an overall drop in the percentage of U.S. Hispanics who are Catholic — due largely to those who joined evangelical and Pentecostal churches — Hispanics will continue to represent an ever-larger share of the U.S. Catholic population because of immigration and high birthrates, it said.

About 68 percent of U.S. Hispanics say they are Catholics.

While in many respects Hispanics differ little from the general U.S. population in their religious attitudes and activities, Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, said analysts were surprised to see the depth of what he called "renewal Christianity" among people of Hispanic origin or descent.

In a telephone press conference about the study, "Changing Faiths: Latinos and the Transformation of American Religion," Suro said Hispanics are much more likely than the general U.S. public to be involved in churches where an enthusiastic, hand-clapping, arms-raised style of worship and prayer is typical.

Fifty-four percent of Hispanic Catholics were identified as charismatics on the basis of what religious practices people said they have in their churches, the survey said.

Among the characteristics the survey used to classify people as charismatics was participation in prayer groups where participants pray for miraculous healing or deliverance or where people speak in tongues. The survey found that 62 percent of Catholic Hispanics say the Masses they attend at least occasionally have "displays of excitement and enthusiasm, such as raising hands, clapping, shouting or jumping."

Among non-Hispanic Catholics, only about 12 percent consider themselves charismatics, Suro said.

Luis Lugo, director of the Pew Forum, said at the same teleconference that becoming involved in the charismatic style of religious practice strengthens people's religious identity.

Whether Catholic, Anglican or mainline Protestant, Hispanics who adopt a more charismatic style of practicing their faith remain within their original church and become stronger in their religious commitment, he said.

"There's absolutely no evidence that it's diminishing or undercutting their Catholic orthodoxy or their connection to parish life," he said.

Hispanic Protestants were proportionally even more likely to belong to "renewal" churches, with 57 percent in that category. Thirty-one percent of Hispanic Protestants said they were Pentecostals and 26 percent described themselves as charismatics.

"The contrast to the non-Hispanic population is stark: Fewer than one in five non-Hispanic Protestants are renewalists," the survey said.

About 18 percent of all Hispanics said they had changed churches or stopped considering themselves members of a faith altogether. Former Catholics (13 percent) were the majority.

Conversion was much more common among second- and third-generation Hispanics than among recent immigrants, the survey found. And the majority left Catholicism to join evangelical churches.

Forty-three percent of evangelical Hispanics said they formerly were Catholic. Just 2 percent of Hispanic converts became Catholics.

Catholics who became evangelicals were asked to discuss their feelings about the Catholic Church and why they left.

The greatest dissatisfaction was voiced about liturgy.

Sixty-one percent of former Catholics said they found the Mass "unexciting," although only 36 percent said that was a factor in why they left. Forty-six percent said they disapprove of church restrictions on divorce, but only 5 percent said that was why they left.

In response to questions about other possible areas of dissatisfaction, majorities of former Catholics said they think the church respects women at least as much as men (66 percent) and is welcoming toward immigrants (75 percent).

Among all Hispanics surveyed, 83 percent of those who converted said their main reason for changing faiths or churches was a desire for a more direct, personal experience of God.

The second most common reason, given by 35 percent, was the inspiration of a particular pastor, followed by 26 percent who said it was related to a personal crisis and 14 percent who converted because of a marriage.

The study counted as a conversion any change such as leaving one Protestant church for another, moving into or out of the Catholic Church, or dropping out of religious practice altogether.

A personal invitation also was important. Among all Hispanic converts, 74 percent said they first heard about their new church from a family member or friend.

The study of 4,016 Hispanic adults was conducted by telephone between August and October 2006. The sample size was larger than is typical in sociological surveys to get a better sense of what non-Catholic Hispanics had to say, Suro and Lugo said.

The margin of error for the entire survey is plus or minus 2.5 percent; plus or minus 3.3 percent for Catholic respondents; and plus or minus 4.8 percent for evangelicals. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending upon the preference of the person being interviewed.

The survey also delved into connections between religious beliefs and politics, the role of ethnic churches and religious practices and beliefs.

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"
You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.
Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:
Parishes Youth Camps Nursing
Retreats Campus Ministry Hospital Chaplains
Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

docPod
It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
Athletics and Virtue
with Dr. Bill Thierfelder,
President of Belmont Abbey College
Subscribe today — it's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Families tell stories behind deportations

STORIES, *from page 1*

his dad, Calvin James, was deported to Jamaica three years ago.

At a press conference and prayer vigil at the Supreme Court, Joshua carried a poster reading "Another fatherless child" and bearing photos of himself and his family in happier times. He took the microphone to describe what it's like to be apart.

Others at the event urged Congress to pass legislation such as the Child Citizen Protection Act, which would give immigration judges more discretion in deciding when deportation is not in the best interest of children who are U.S. citizens. They also asked the Bush administration to stop immigration raids and deportations.

The Supreme Court and the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights both have pending cases about the rights of U.S. citizen children of immigrants who are in deportation proceedings.

Troublesome technicality

Diego Lino of Chicago and his children, Jonathan, 12, Britzy, 6, and twins Juliana and Judith, 5, talked to reporters about their fears of their wife and mother being deported to Mexico.

All five of the other Linos are U.S. citizens, but an error made in filling out the application form for Francesca Lino to legalize her status could force the whole family into a two-country existence, with the children and their dad shuttling across the border every few months for school and work.

Diego Lino explained that when his wife applied to legalize her status as the spouse of a U.S. citizen, the aide at a church agency helping her fill out the paperwork didn't accurately take down her response to a question about whether she had been arrested for illegal entry.

Her answer was "yes." But the caseworker wrote down "no." The government caught the mistake as her application proceeded through background checks.

Lino's wife was arrested. While answering "yes" to the arrest question would not have prevented her from getting a "green card," lying on the application form is a deportable offense.

For now, Francesca Lino remains in Chicago, awaiting final deportation orders. When those arrive, "we'll have to go," even though in her home state of Zacatecas, Mexico, good jobs are scarce and schools are not as good as in Chicago, Diego Lino said.

Born in th
U.S.A.
Don't Ta
my momm
daddy

CNS PHOTO BY RAFAEL CRISOSTOMO, EL PREGONERO

Edwin Plata, 6, displays an American flag in his backpack during a press conference and prayer service on the plaza at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington July 17.

He said they would sell their home in Chicago and he, and maybe the children, would shuttle back and forth every six months or so, enabling him to work at higher paying jobs in the United States.

'Forced Apart'

The Linos' case is typical of many of those studied by Human Rights Watch for the report "Forced Apart: Families Separated and Immigrants Harmed by United States Deportation Policy."

Since a 1996 immigration law criminalized many minor crimes and made their status as deportable offenses retroactive, the United States has deported 673,000 immigrants because of criminal convictions.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement data showed that 65 percent of immigrants deported for crimes in 2005 were convicted of nonviolent offenses, including petty crimes such as shoplifting, the report said.

Extrapolating census data about immigrants and their families, Human Rights Watch estimated that as many as 1.6 million people have been affected by those 673,000 deportations. Of those, about 540,000 people are U.S. citizens, the organization estimated.

The report included anecdotal stories of people who were deported decades after committing minor crimes for which they had served only probation or minor jail time and had lived without legal trouble since then.

"When these members of American society are deported," the report's executive summary said, "their absence is felt because shops close, entrepreneurs lose their business partners, tax revenues are lost, and, most tragically, U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident children and spouses are forced to confront life without their fathers, mothers, children, husbands and wives."

Love knows no bounds

For three years, Joshua James and his mother, Cathy McArdle, have had a two-country family.

Joshua and his mom have visited their father and husband, Calvin James, in Jamaica over the summer. But he's unable to get work there that pays as much as he earned in the New York area, so it's more of a financial struggle and such trips must be rare.

"We considered moving with him but there are not a lot of ways to make a good living there," McArdle said.

Instead, the whole family is considering moving to Canada so they can be together.

To immigrate to Canada, Calvin James would need to provide a letter of evidence that he has been rehabilitated from his early 1990s crime that triggered his deportation, she said. But there isn't a way to accomplish the same thing to enable the family to live in the United States, where both McArdle and Joshua were born, she said.

At the very least, she said, her son has a good attitude about the separation.

"He told me, 'Mom, at least we still have Daddy's love.'"

Calling for reform

The Senate's failure to pass a recent bill to reform the current immigration system has frustrated many U.S. Catholic leaders around the nation. They said reform would have addressed a moral concern, since millions of immigrants live in fear of deportation and separation from their families.

The Senate's inability to agree on comprehensive immigration reform is a "monumental failure for our country," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA.

In a June 28 statement, he lamented the unchanged fate of illegal immigrants living in fear of deportation.

"Today's action to give up on the bill leaves in place the status quo — a deeply flawed, untenable and much-criticized immigration system that is (in) desperate need of reform," he said.

Had it passed, the bill would have established a path toward citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants living in the United States and would have strengthened security along the U.S.-Mexico border. Many Republicans and some Democrats voted against ending discussion on the immigration bill June 28, effectively blocking its passage.

Opponents of the immigration bill argued that the U.S. borders must first be secured before expediting the citizenship process for the 12 million illegal immigrants in the country.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte joined other bishops of the Province of Atlanta in a 2006 letter to the senators and representatives for their respective states, urging the passage of "comprehensive and fair" immigration reform at a national level.

The bishops expressed strong belief that "immigration is a moral concern, impacting the human dignity and human rights of every person."

The ultimate goal of the letter is political action to enact legislation to "help heal our communities and provide for a secure and prosperous future for all our children," said the bishops' letter.

Bishop Jugis said that in discussions about undocumented immigrants, "we must remember that they are still fellow human beings, our brothers and sisters."

Contributing to this article is Editor Kevin E. Murray, Kaitlynn Riely and Ellie Hidalgo.

CALL TODAY
LAND ONLY FOR $2,460!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with
Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES air fare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Through the bars

Project Storybook helps imprisoned mothers stay close to their kids

CLINTON, N.J. (CNS) — Once a month, Pat Brisson enters the gates of the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton to spend an evening with as many as 60 inmates.

To Brisson, however, they are not just convicted criminals; they are also loving mothers.

Brisson, who has been writing children's books for more than 20 years, volunteers at the prison to coordinate Project Storybook, a program that allows women serving their sentences to be recorded reading books to their children, grandchildren or other family members.

Brisson recalled being struck at an early age by the passage in the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus says, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; ... I was in prison, and you came to me."

"I would think, 'Well, I see how we do all those other things, but when does anybody ever go visit anyone in prison?'" said Brisson, a parishioner of St. Philip and St. James Church in Phillipsburg.

"I never heard of any kind of prison ministry in the church. I just thought it was totally ignored," she said.

As an adult, discussions with a friend working as a psychiatrist at a men's prison led her to think even more deeply not only about those in prison but the families they had left behind. These questions inspired her to write the book "Mama Loves Me From Away," about a young girl whose mother is in prison.

"I felt like I was being called to step up and do something," she said.

"Whatever you think about the women, yes, they've made bad choices and they're in prison for a reason, but their children didn't make any bad choices," she said. "The children are missing their mothers through no fault of their own."

In 2003, Brisson began the Project Storybook program, which has since grown to one of the most successful programs at the facility.

Inmates are able to choose from a variety of donated books for children of all ages and are given 15 to 20 minutes to record their readings. Volunteers assist the women in completing the recordings and then package the tapes along with letters from the inmates to the children.

Heather Lindorff said the program has helped her to maintain a relationship with her two sons, whom she has not seen in 11 months.

"My boys absolutely love it," Lindorff said. "The first tape they got they played over and over again. My son said that when he feels like he wants to be close to me, he plays the tape so he can hear my voice."

Milagros Candelaria, a first-time participant in the program, said she hopes Project Storybook will familiarize her 1-year-old son with her voice while she cannot be with him.

"When I first got locked up, he was only six days old. It was heartbreaking," said Candelaria. "He knows my voice, he knows that I am his mother, but I just want to know him a little better."

Brisson said the response of the women participating in the program is often emotional.

"We see these women at their most vulnerable," she said. "They are in a very tender moment in their lives. We see them in tears. We see them get choked up doing these recordings."

Although Brisson and her volunteers, who come from a variety of different religious backgrounds, do not discuss their faith with the prisoners, she feels their actions will do more to teach the inmates about the meaning of the Gospel than preaching.

"I feel that they will know we are Christians by our love, whether we mention Jesus to them or not," she said. "I hope that when they see us there, they see God present in us, because I know we see God present in them."

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic
Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Learn Rosary Making

A Catholic Tradition

Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer!

LEWIS & COMPANY
Dedicated to Rosary Making!

rosaryparts.com
(800) 342 - 2400

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 5, 2007

Aug. 5, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Ecclesiastes 1:2 and 2:21-23
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
3) Gospel) Luke 12:13-21

Practice makes perfect

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My teenage son and I recently attended a traveling show featuring some of the country's best drum and bugle corps.

Since he is a drummer, he was quite inspired by the sights and sounds, so after the performance he and some fellow drummers gathered for the better part of the night to jam and share drumming tips.

When my bleary-eyed but invigorated son came home the next morning, he enthusiastically demonstrated a newly acquired method of practicing rudiments ("paradiddles," nine-stroke rolls and flams, to be exact), strokes that are absolutely essential to master but which are incredibly tedious to practice over and over.

The drum session spent with friends and the new method removed a lot of the tedium from the repetition and gave him a new perspective on the formerly dreaded practicing.

All of today's readings are about changing one's perspective from the "vanities" of earthly life — especially greed and its companions impurity and immorality — to a view that places God's priorities at one's center. Jesus' rather sobering parable echoes Qoheleth's warning against the acquisitive practices of working to excess and amassing wealth for its own sake — habits that have become almost sacred in contemporary materialistic society.

The more one practices these culturally sanctioned habits, the more ingrained they become and the more difficult they are to "put to death" through Christian practices of gratitude, simplicity and generosity.

But St. Paul's letter maintains, equally firmly, that those who are in Christ have in fact died to their former selves and are being renewed in the image of their Creator. The psalmist prays for "wisdom of heart" that teaches the proper perspectives on time, work and prosperity. And through the support of Christian community we can encourage one another to persist in those life-giving and corrective practices that can be challenging, unattractive and tedious, but which also can become the paths to joy and gladness.

Questions:

What Christian practice have I found to be particularly burdensome lately? How do today's readings and the support of my fellow believers encourage me to find a new perspective?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 29-AUG. 4
Sunday (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13; **Monday (St. Peter Chrysologus)**, Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34, Matthew 13:31-35; **Tuesday (St. Ignatius Loyola)**, Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5-9, 28, Matthew 13:36-43; **Wednesday (St. Alphonsus Liguori)**, Exodus 34:29-35, Matthew 13:44-46; **Thursday (St. Eusebius of Vercelli)**, Exodus 40:16-21,34-38, Matthew 13:47-53; **Friday**, Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday (St. John Mary Vianney)**, Leviticus 25:1, 8-17, Matthew 14:1-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 5-11
Sunday (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Ecclediates 1:2, 2:21-23, Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11, Luke 12:13-21; **Monday (Transfiguration of the Lord)**, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19, Luke 9:28-36; **Tuesday (St. Sixtus and Companions St. Cajetan)**, Numbers 12:1-13, Matthew 14:22-36; **Wednesday (St. Dominic)**, Numbers 13:1-2, 25--14:1, 26-29, 34-35, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)**, Numbers 20:1-13, Matthew 16:13-23; **Friday (St. Lawrence)**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; **Saturday (St. Clare)**, Deuteronomy 6:4-13, Matthew 17:14-20.

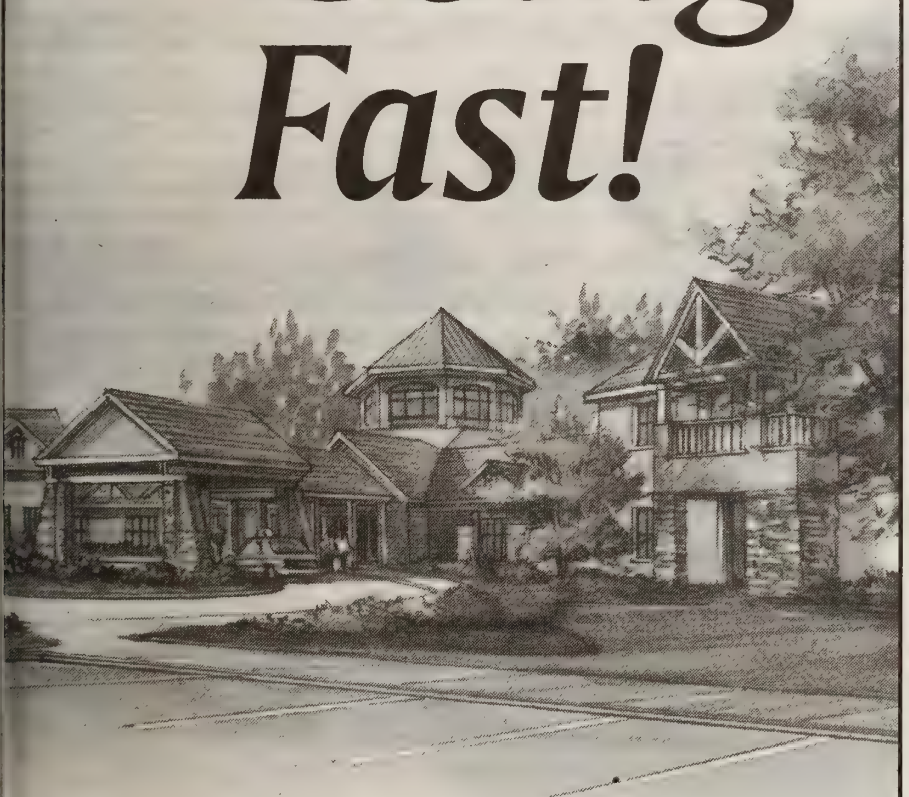
K OF C ®

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of August

Rev. Henry J. Becker	*1992*
Rev. Msgr. Felix R. Kelaher	*1998*
Rev. John F. Parsons	*1993*

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Coming Soon... Going Fast!



The exciting Pennybyrn at Maryfield is 86% reserved—that means only a few more can take advantage of pre-opening pricing. Will you be one of them?

This architecturally stunning new community is scheduled to open in Winter of 2007. An active, modern lifestyle that offers you gorgeous private residences, superior amenities and a professional staff to provide unparalleled services... it's the retirement lifestyle that you've been waiting for!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by.
Call (336) 821-4050 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 today...
prices will never be this low again!

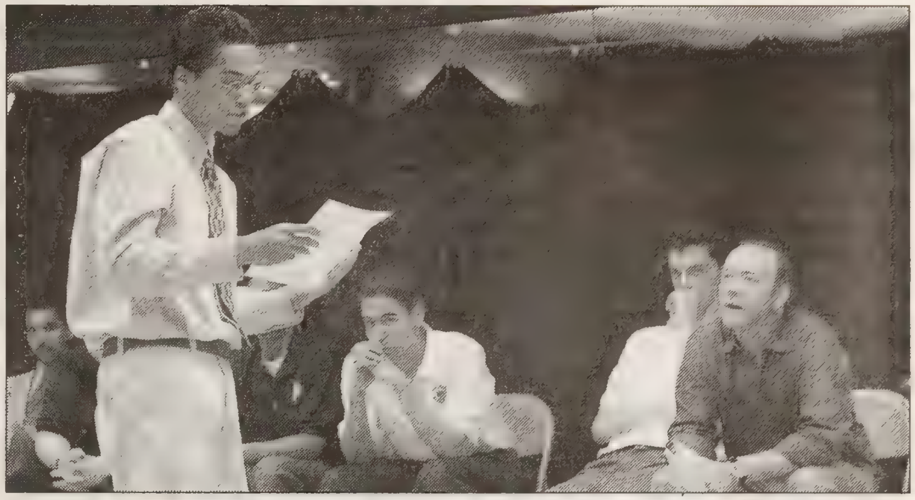
PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Urg0707

Faith, film and fun



CNS PHOTO BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

Actor Kevin Spacey (seated at right) looks on with other students as Amin Fernandez acts out a part in Theatre Row Studios in the Manhattan section of New York in late May. The students, who are all part of the advanced-placement English class at All Hallows High School in the Bronx, were chosen to meet the award-winning actor by the Theatre Development Guild.

Kevin Spacey gives acting tips to N.Y. Catholic school students

BY JULIANN DOSSANTOS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — If you didn't recognize him from his movies or theater work, you would never have known he wasn't just another drama teacher.

Kevin Spacey, the actor who has won both Oscar and Tony awards, nonchalantly walked into the theater studio in jeans, a gray button-down shirt and sneakers. The boys in the room continued to warm up with acting exercises as Spacey watched.

Spacey, who is also the artistic director of the London-based Old Vic Theatre Company, was the lead male in the Broadway production of "Moon for the Misbegotten," which the students recently saw.

The students, part of the advanced-placement English class at All Hallows High School in the Bronx section of New York, met with Spacey at Theatre Row Studios in Manhattan May 22.

The Christian Brothers' school was chosen by the Theatre Development Guild, which has a partnership with the Old Vic Theatre Company.

Paul Fontana, the advanced-placement English teacher, noted that most of the students had never been to a Broadway play before because they couldn't afford it.

He thought "Moon for the Misbegotten" was a good choice because the playwright, Eugene O'Neill, is a "great troubled Irish Catholic New York writer, so he deals with the goodness and hardship that goes with being a Catholic."

Spacey told the boys that he wanted to be available for the workshop with them because when he was taking drama classes the professional actors he met gave him confidence and taught him about collaboration.

"I'm just a guy like the rest of you," he told them.

And after hearing the boys read essays they had written about the play, he told them that they really understood it.

When the students acted out scenes from the play, he told them to react to what someone else does, saying "that's truly at the heart of acting."

Ronnie Garcia, a senior at All Hallows, said he enjoyed the workshop, but added, "It's hard to act, even in front of my friends."

He said that acting in front of Spacey was also intimidating at first.

Another student, Andrew Padilla, said he liked the casual atmosphere Spacey created in the workshop.

"I've been to acting workshops before," he said, "but this one's been really fun."

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?
A Lifeline for Marriage
September 12 - 14 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "retro-vi"). Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.

Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaille@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: www.retrouvaille.org.

Confirming faith

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis questions confirmands on St. Margaret of Scotland Church's lawn in Maggie Valley prior to confirmation June 9.

The confirmands are from the three Catholic churches in Haywood County. From St. Margaret of Scotland Church: Wade Barboza, Megan McLeod, Christopher Peterson and Joshua Turner; from St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville: Joseph Beckner, Kelly Escaravage, David Greene, Joshua Huber, Samantha Huppe, Daniel Pelletier and Kaitlyn Raber; from Immaculate Conception Mission in Canton: Norma Brown and Maria Averza.

Below: Bishop Peter J. Jugis stands with Knights of Columbus honor guard from the Great Smoky Mountain Assembly 3001 in Maggie Valley following the confirmation at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Maggie Valley June 9.

Courtesy Photo

PART-TIME COUNSELOR

Catholic Social Services is seeking a part-time counselor (approximately 20 hours per week) for the Western Regional Office in Asheville. Position requires graduate degree in counseling, social work, or related field and possession of LPC, LMFT, or LCSW. To be considered for this position, resumes must be postmarked by August 20, 2007 and mailed to: Elizabeth K. Thurbee

Catholic Social Services 1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Full-time Director of Major Gifts

Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, business administration or related field; five years experience in fund development and major gifts. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include developing strategies, events, and materials to inform, engage, cultivate and solicit current and prospective major gifts prospects.

Please submit resume to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by July 30, 2007. Questions to 704-370-3301 or email at jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

Full-time Youth Minister

Vibrant 800-family parish seeking mature, qualified adult to head middle school and high school programs. This full-time position includes catechetical, social, service and spiritual well-being of youth in grades 6 - 12. Requirements: practicing Catholic, college degree, experience working with youth and teens, and references. Salary is negotiable depending on factors such as years of experience.

Send resume to Search Committee, St. William Parish, 2300 Frederica Road, St. Simons Island, GA 31522, or stwilliamschurch@bellsouth.net.

ART TEACHER / SPANISH TEACHER

St. Pius X Catholic School has full-time (K-8) teaching positions available in Art and Spanish for the 2007-08 school year. Must have or be eligible for NC Certification in Art Education/Spanish Education. Please submit a resume and pick up an application at the school office from 9am-1pm, M-F: St. Pius X Catholic School, 2200 N. Elm St., Greensboro, NC. Phone: (336) 273-9865.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS: Requirements: High school diploma/GED; Clean criminal record; Noteworthy employment history. Excellent pay and benefit package. Apply to: The Wackenhut Corporation, 1 Centerview Drive, Suite 105, Greensboro, NC 27407, 1701 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 or in Asheville area at 9-H Walden Drive, Arden, NC 28704. EOE M/F/D/V www.wackenhut.com Security Guard & Patrol 753-GP

SERVICES

COUNSELING: Individuals, couples, family, depression, anxiety, relationships, spiritual issues. Lucille Moses, Licensed Professional Counselor. Charlotte. 704-366-6507

FOR RENT

CONDO: Oceanfront – Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Two day minimum; weekly for under $1,000. Additional units available. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

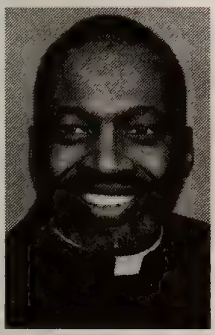
REVIVAL

"REVIVAL OF THE SPIRIT 2007"

Theme: "Tough Talk for Tough Times!"

With Rev. Edward B. Branch, B.A., M.Div., D.Min. – Revivalist

Catholic Chaplain for Atlanta University Center; Ordained priest and minister of evangelization; Nationally-known Catholic revivalist; Published author



Friday night: "Fishing Lessons" – Luke 5:1-11
Baptism is our call to leave everything to take care of Jesus' business in the world, not in the church building.

Saturday night: "Mission Readiness" – Luke 4:1-13
A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. The Sacrament of Reconciliation assumes we feel ourselves to be a community. But ... do we? We aren't ready for the mission unless we really are a "we."

Sunday morning: "The Shortest Sermon Ever Preached and the Longest Meditation on It." – Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21
Luke recalls the three ages of human salvation. We are the third and final age. What ought we be doing?

ALL ARE WELCOME !

Sponsored by
African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte
To be held at: Our Lady of Consolation Church
2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte, NC

Friday, August 3 *through*
Sunday, August 5

The Revival is an opportunity to publicly worship our God in the spirit of the Black church while at the same time breaking down traditional misconceptions of Catholicism held by our Protestant brothers and sisters. Come and bring your family, friends and neighbors!

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, Aug. 3 and Saturday, Aug. 4

7 pm — Praise and Worship
8 pm — Preaching by Fr. Edward Branch

Fr. Branch, Musician Joe Priester, and the F.L.O.W. Liturgical Dancers of Our Lady of Consolation Church will enhance your spiritual experience throughout the weekend!

Sunday, Aug. 5

11 am — Closing Worship

Celebrant
Fr. Jude Duffy, OFM Cap.
Pastor, Our Lady of Consolation Church
Homilist
Fr. Edward Branch

For more information, please call 704-370-3267. Someone will return your call.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Baptizing the deceased?

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. Somewhere in the letters of St. Paul I came across a reference to baptizing the deceased. The passage as I recall comes somewhat in the form of a question: "If x-y-z isn't true, why are you baptizing those who have died or gone before you?"

I don't have the quotation right, but the idea is that Christians (like Mormons?) can baptize the dead who were never baptized.

I am a deacon in a Catholic Newman Center, and obviously doubt all this is true. But what could St. Paul have had in mind? (Massachusetts)

A. The subject is surely a puzzling one. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul describes at length how the resurrection of Jesus is essential to our faith. If Christ has not been raised, he said, our whole religion is absurd. "So too in Christ shall all be brought to life" (15:22).

At one point, he uses a baffling argument. If we are not raised from the dead, he writes, "what will people accomplish who have themselves baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, then why are they having themselves baptized for them?" (15:29).

Through the centuries these verses have provoked endless speculation. One of today's theories argues that the passage is not authentic. Baptizing the living for the dead is so foreign to Paul's theology he would never have alluded to such a practice even as an argument.

Perhaps the more predominant interpretation is that some early Christians did have themselves baptized for deceased non-Christian, perhaps their own family members. (This was true of the Marcionites, a Christian sect which appeared, however, long after Paul.)

This is not to say, of course, that Paul promoted or approved the practice. At any rate, it never became part of Christian liturgical practice.

The Mormon policy of baptizing the living for the dead grows out of their theology of faith and salvation that is alien to other Christians. (Mormons often seem to wish to identify themselves in some way as Christians.)

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was founded, or as they say, "restored," in 1830 by Joseph Smith. According to Smith's testimony, he discovered near Palmyra, N.Y., a set of golden plates on which was inscribed the Book of Mormon, sometimes erroneously called the Mormon Bible.

According to Mormon belief, there is not one God; there are several gods who, through countless generations, produce innumerable "children." Through a sort of sexual relationship with female counterparts, these gods, or Fathers, bring into existence other beings, including Jesus and other earthly inhabitants, who take bodies here, after (for some, at least) a pre-existence in heaven.

Those who reach the most exalted states of "salvation" become in their own right gods, or Fathers, to others, in and through the continuation of the family unit in eternity (see "Mormon Doctrine and Covenants," pp.131-132).

For adherents, "there is no salvation of this type outside the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints" ("Mormon Doctrine," p. 670). This explains the well-known Mormon promotion of the family, and why devout Mormons want their deceased ancestors to be baptized, even by proxy.

Ancestors entering the Mormon Church this way, it is believed, will have the opportunity to reach the "celestial" level of eternity.

On June 5, 2001, the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ruled that Mormon baptisms cannot be considered valid. Among other reasons given, their baptism formula is not a true invocation of the Trinity because, according to Mormon teaching, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three gods who formed a divinity when they decided to unite; and God the Father has a wife with whom he shares responsibility for creation.

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Letters to the Editor

Gratitude for Tridentine Mass

It was with great joy that I received the Holy Father's "motu proprio" concerning the Latin-language Mass ("The old is new again," July 13). I am not old enough to remember it, being 39 years old and a convert since 1991, but I have been assisting at this immemorial Mass since that time.

It is wonderful that the Tridentine Mass is finally being recognized as having not been juridically abrogated and that any priest can celebrate it. It is truly the most beautiful thing this side of heaven and truly expresses Catholic doctrine, without question, on the holy Eucharist and the sacrificial nature of the Mass.

It is the Mass of the saints, martyrs, missionaries and is truly universal — the same everywhere. The Tridentine Mass shows a mystery and a common tongue, regardless of who or where one lives. It is not hard to follow — all one needs is a Latin-English missal and a little study. Anything worthwhile takes a little effort! My 9-year-old can follow along easily and is learning to serve at the Mass.

For those who desire the Tridentine Mass as a regular feature in the Winston-Salem area, now would be the time to approach Bishop Jugis.

— Emmanuel Kafant
Winston-Salem

Caution urged when offering support

While I appreciate Bishop Jugis' call for Catholics to fight pending legislation that would provide public funding for embryonic stem-cell research in North Carolina ("Defending all life," June 29), I wonder if any consideration has been given to the financial support Catholics may inadvertently be providing for such research via individual private donations.

The promise of improved treatments and/or cures for chronic, debilitating and deadly diseases has many well-known and well-respected health advocacy organizations supporting embryonic stem-cell research. Surely donations collected via private funding to such organizations are being used right now to promote the passage of N.C. House Bill 1837 even as we voice our opposition.

Sadly in this way, we may accidentally find ourselves ultimately on both ends of this debate.

— Tracy Webb
Charlotte

The 'just war' theory rebuttals

A recent conference in Maggie Valley indicated that the Iraq War is not "just" ("Resisting evil," June 29). The conference on nonviolence seemed to condemn the war mainly because of the violence generated. However, for a just war, the present administration took a page directly from the Catholic Code of Canon Law (No. 2309). The conditions for a just war listed in the article's sidebar were all met.

Jesus was big on convincing anyone that violence was not the typical solution. But in Iraq, one out of every six Iraqis was either killed or tortured by Saddam Hussein; women were raped; those who spoke ill of Hussein had their tongues cut out. Would Jesus have stood by and allowed that to happen if he were there?

Jesus said the best anyone could do is to lay his life down for a friend. The U.S. troops who have died have done so for every American who would have been killed by future terrorist attacks in our country.

In Iraq, Americans are building schools, allowing better water and electrical access, setting up a democratic government; we have eliminated Hussein's torture and rape rooms.

Jesus knew when physical conflict was necessary. He cleansed the temple with a whip (John 2:15) of those bartering in his Father's house. There wasn't much of a choice 2,000 years ago, and neither is there now.

— Kevin Roeten
Asheville

Editor's note: The article's author responds to the above letter to the editor:

My article lays out the conditions for a just war. Have all the conditions been met in Iraq? Type "Iraq War Timeline" into your Internet search engine and see what you think.

Paragraph 2309 isn't in the Catholic Code of Canon Law. Paragraph 2309, on "the strict conditions for legitimate defense by military force," is in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1997 edition).

The article's point is that a Christ-centered life means nonviolence: "Jesus is the nonviolent lamb of God, who shows us God's face: justice, mercy, compassion, and steadfast love."

Mr. Roeten says that, "Jesus was big on convincing anyone that violence was not the typical solution." No — Jesus taught that violence was never the solution. None of the buyers and sellers died when he drove them out of the temple (and it isn't recorded that he actually hit anybody).

After describing atrocities in Iraq, Mr. Roeten asks, "Would Jesus have stood by and allowed that to happen if he was there?" Jesus did not pick up a sword, raise an army and go to war against Israel's enemies, including the Romans.

Rather, Jesus said, "This is my commandment: love one another as have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:12–13).

How did Jesus love? Nonviolently How did he lay down his life? Withou killing anyone.

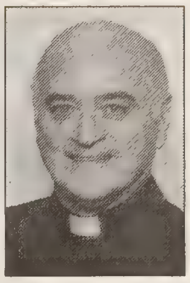
My article quoted Pope Benedic XVI, who said, "It is understood tha nonviolence for Christians is not just tactic. It's an entire way of being."

— Joanita M. Nellenbac
Clyd

The rewards of forgiveness

Letting go anger, bitterness makes room for God's joy

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Forgiveness purifies your soul and brings relief to your wounded spirit. Forgiveness reconciles your mind and heart with God, with neighbor, and, most of all, with self.

In countless ways it helps both the one who forgives and the one who is forgiven.

Pope John Paul II said this about forgiveness:

"The forgiven penitent is reconciled with himself in his inmost being, where he regains his own true identity. He is reconciled with his brethren whom he has in some way attacked and wounded. He is reconciled with the church, and he is reconciled with all creation."

The Lord stands ready to forgive everyone; you in turn must be ready to forgive others and yourself, as when you pray in the Our Father: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

These words tell us all we need to know about the obligation to forgive neighbor and self.

A true Christian prays for the grace to forgive. Jesus forgave his tormentors before they asked: "Forgive them, Father, they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34).

You can forgive yourself simply by turning your guilt over to God's mercy. You can forgive another simply by willing it, without ever going through a painful confrontation.

Once you decide to forgive, you will gradually be released from all resentment and hurt.

Do not wait until you feel like forgiving or it may never happen. Forgiveness is in the will. Forgive now — and get on with your life.

Repeat this over and over again: "I forgive and I am forgiven." Feelings will follow in time. Do not wait for good feelings to spur you on; simply forgive. You give it before you feel like giving it. You "fore-give." Do it now.

Forgiving someone who has hurt you, even if you do it secretly, will be good for your mental health. Once you decide to forgive, pay no attention to those feelings of resentment that will surely return.

Angry feelings will subside in time. Once you let go of them you will be able to make room for God's joy.

Accept the negative feelings that come into your heart, and learn to laugh at them. Just will to forgive — and be patient. The good fruits of peace and joy will return in time. Just knowing that you did God's will and not your own will bring relief and solace.

Mysteriously, by God's grace, you will begin to change as your angry spirit gradually calms down. Gradually your joy will return. "A cheerful glance brings joy to the heart" (Prv 15:30).

Cultivate too a joyful smile. A smile on your lips can change the hurt in your heart. Cultivate positive, healthy thoughts.

The poet Yeats once alluded to a special moment of joy in his life, a time when he experienced an unexpected elation: "My body, of a sudden, blazed." He had forgiven someone and was free once again to dance.

You can tap into the spiritual reservoir of joy within your soul by forgiving others, and especially by forgiving yourself.

Meister Eckhart, the German mystic, wrote, "For this joy is close to you, it is in you. None of you has a spirit so heavy, nor an intelligence so feeble, none of you is so far from God so as not to be able to find joy in him."

A marvel way beyond iPhone

Unlike latest gadgetry, the Eucharist offers real blessings

Guest Column

THOMAS J. DERMODY
GUEST COLUMNIST

It fits in the palm of your hand. It connects people around the world. And people were lining up for it in late June in dioceses across the nation.

No, we're not speaking of the iPhone, the latest "must have" techno-gadget released in stores June 29 on the crest of a giant wave of publicity. But that weekend it seemed nearly everyone else was talking about the new product from Apple.

The anticipation of the tiny marvel's arrival sent tens of thousands of consumers into near frenzy, eager to be among the first to own the device that seems capable of doing everything but the laundry.

It's a mobile phone. And a camera. And a music source, able to hold enough songs to fill a library. Oh yes, it plays videos too, like those from YouTube.

Finally (or more likely not), it's a connection to the Internet offering e-mail, Web browsing, maps, etc., at the owner's fingertips wherever he or she goes.

But enough about the iPhone.

We want to talk about something far better — so much better that the two don't belong in the same sentence. In fact, hundreds of thousands of Catholics lined up to hold this miracle in the palm of their hands that same weekend.

Still, we're willing to wager that few went home and excitedly told family, neighbors and friends that they were privileged to receive this incredible gift. Sadly, we doubt that many gave another thought to what is considered the church's greatest treasure—the Eucharist—15 minutes after receiving it.

And it makes us wonder: How filled would our churches be if Catholics behaved like what we claim to believe about the Eucharist is true?

That Jesus Christ, the Son of God and savior of the world, is really present — body, blood, soul and divinity — in the consecrated host. Shouldn't we be telling others? That, while an iPhone may connect us with someone living on the other side of the world, the Eucharist connects us with every believer not only on earth but even in heaven.

You want time travel? The Eucharist takes us back to Calvary, to the foot of the cross. It can change the future.

Can the iPhone heal? The Eucharist can. On Sunday, I was privileged to witness as Christ began to heal broken hearts in LaSalle, Ill., as members of Resurrection Parish came forward to receive Communion during the final Mass at their church.

"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord," they sang, even as they dabbed their eyes with tissues.

The Eucharist offers peace. And hope.

It is love.

There isn't enough space here to write about all the wonders of the Eucharist, even if we could. The Eucharist, after all, is a mystery. But how can we watch as the nation goes gaga over a gadget and remain mysteriously silent when we have been given a marvel as far beyond the iPhone as that device is beyond two tin cans linked by string?

Americans love their gadgets. Catholics must love their Eucharist. And we must share that love.

"We should always be ready to promote this life-changing reality to our children, our relatives, our friends, our neighbors and even to strangers," wrote Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, of the Eucharist in his 2006 festival letter to the Diocese of Peoria. When is the last time we did so with enthusiasm befitting the reality?

Let's behave like what we believe is true. Let's start this week.

Thomas J. Dermody is editor in chief of The Catholic Post, diocesan newspaper of Peoria, Ill.

Old? It's only a matter of opinion

Coming of Age

KAREN OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST

Old things. In the city of Rome, they're everywhere. Walk down one street and you're peering at a palace from the Renaissance or a third-century fresco. Turn the corner and you're face to face with the majesty of the Imperial Forum.

Before coming here for vacation, I used to refer to my circa 1870 house as "old," but that's small potatoes compared to the Renaissance-era Palazzo Spada. A church in my town established in the late 1600s is now regarded as a historical landmark. But old?

Only if you ignore the open-air ruins of the sixth-century Christian basilica in Ostia Antica, Rome's ruined port city. Rome, it seems, likes to teach people that "old" is really only a matter of opinion.

American culture has a tendency to push aside things that are considered "old." Americans raze blocks and forests to construct new big-box stores instead of renovating older buildings.

It is unlike parts of Rome where people still live in apartments whose foundations date back to the 13th century. Rome learns from the old and coexists with it. It's hard to ignore the accomplishments, advancements and excesses of ancient Romans and Renaissance artists, because modern people can see and touch them.

Lessons from Republican Rome and its neighbor Greece form the underpinnings of Western society. In some parts of Europe, old Roman roads still exist — and people still use them.

All "old" things have a lot to tell us about who we are today.

As a teenager, I found it hard to believe my parents could speak to the same concerns I had, such as with school. Turns out they'd gone through much the same thing and could offer sound advice. If I had taken society's advice that the "old" could have nothing to do with my "modern" experiences, I may have had a very cold, hard fall semester.

The old things in my life make me who I am: the memories inherited from my grandparents, the history of my town, the history of my family and the lessons of the past — even if those lessons are painful.

Ostia is quiet now, but if you imagine hard enough, the ruins can form a roof and become an apartment building, a church or a market. There people are laughing, crying and living, just like people today — the elderly and the teenagers, teenagers who become the elderly.

The old things aren't all that different from the new things after all. The people who came before us share our fears and hopes, whether they're friends, strangers or ancient Romans. All we have to do is be open enough to listen and learn.

Old? A matter of opinion. Obsolete? Never.

HIS EXCELLENCY, BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS, INVITES EVERYONE
TO THE THIRD

2007

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

Friday, September 21: Doors open at 6 pm
7 pm – Sacred Music Concert featuring a large diocesan choir performing multicultural musical works.
The concert will be followed by speaker **Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.** – "To Know Jesus in the Eucharistic Church."
10 pm – Eucharistic Adoration at St. Peter Catholic Church, Tryon Street at 1st Street.

Saturday, September 22: Doors open at 8 am
9 am – Eucharistic Congress Procession through uptown
10:30 am – Eucharistic Holy Hour with Homily
11:30 am – Programs and speakers for adults, Hispanics, teens, children, young adults and cultural groups. Also, Eucharistic Adoration, sacrament of Reconciliation, culture hour and vendors offering books, CDs, sacred objects and many more unique items.
3:30 pm – Scared music to prepare for Holy Mass
4:30 pm – Closing Vigil Mass concelebrated by the Religious and Diocesan Priests of the Diocese - Bishop Peter J. Jugis, principal celebrant and homilist

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER — COLLEGE ST. & STONEWALL

NO ADMISSION FEE – ALL ARE WELCOME! **SIGNING AVAILABLE**

CONGRESS SPEAKERS

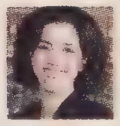
Bishop Peter J. Jugis
Host of the Congress - Celebrant of the Eucharistic Procession, Principal celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Eucharistic Holy Hour Homilist

General Track

Steve Ray
"They Recognized Him in the Breaking of the Bread"

Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Mary as Magnifier for Jesus"



Helen Alvare
"To Know Jesus Christ – A Catholic Woman's Perspective"

Patrick Madrid
"A Course in Eucharistic Miracles"

Liz Luke
WDYT Radio Morning Personality – Master of Ceremonies

Hispanic Track

Hector Molina
"¿¡Señor, danos siempre de ese pan!?"

Roberto Ramirez
"Jesus, Pan del Cielo"

Juan Bautista Cantillo
"La Presencia de Cristo en nuestras Vidas"

Language/Culture Tracks - "To Know Jesus Christ in Culture"
African American, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, College - Young Adult

NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for Teen, Middle School and Children's Tracks! There will be NO registration for these tracks at the Convention Center. Register online at www.GoEucharist.com.

Teen Track - High School Students
"To Know Jesus Christ as a Teen"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Fr. Leo Patalinghug "In the Beginning, a Vocation Story."
Lunch provided.

Middle School Track (Grades 6-8)
"To Know Jesus Christ in Middle School"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Lunch provided.

Children's Tracks (Grades K-2 and 3-5)
"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Lunch provided.

www.GoEucharist.com
- Register for Children's, Middle School and Teen Tracks
- Latest Eucharistic Congress news - To volunteer

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

AUGUST 10, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 36

Perspectives

Effie Caldarola reveals Harry Potter's real magic; Father Dietzen clarifies Christian symbolism

| PAGES 14-15

Called together to 'change the world'

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Capuchin Father Jude Duffy, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, watches a boy makes the sign of the cross with holy water on his mother's forehead during the Revival of the Spirit at the church Aug. 3.

Imitation of Christ will better our world, priest says at annual revival

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Once again Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte was filled with the sounds of praise and worship from the annual Revival of the Spirit.

Father Edward Branch was the revivalist for the three-day event, this year themed "Tough Talk for Tough Times," held Aug. 3-5. The annual revival is sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry.

The revival is designed to be reminiscent of the early days of outdoor preaching and is an opportunity to worship publicly in the spirit

See REVIVAL, page 9

N.C. House OKs rules for stem-cell research

Bishop Jugis "deeply saddened" by vote

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis recently expressed deep sadness over the N.C. House's passage of House Bill 1837.

The bill calls for the use of available funds by the Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission to set up a committee to establish ethical guidelines for embryonic stem-cell research.

The guidelines would permit research on embryonic stem cells left over from frozen embryos in in-vitro fertilization clinics that (in the words of HB 1837) "would otherwise be discarded."

The House passed the bill, the Stem Cell Research Health and Wellness Act, by a narrow vote of 60-55 July 28. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health

See BILL, page 13

Strengthening families in North Carolina

Local CSS program wins Catholic Charities award

MURPHY — The diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy was recently named an award winner by Catholic Charities USA.

A program of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, the Office of Economic Opportunity won Catholic Charities USA's 2007 Family Strengthening Award and will receive $25,000.

Established in 1999 by Catholic Social Service's Office of Justice and Peace, the OEO serves the far western North Carolina counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain.

Its creation was inspired by "Of One Heart and One Mind," the 1997 pastoral letter

See OEO, page 5

Photo by Ann Kilkelly

Judy Young (second from left), a client of the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy, meets with members of her ecumenical faith team — (from left) Sharon Hotchkiss, Esther and Edwin Manchester — to discuss steps needed to achieve her goal of home ownership. The OEO recently has won Catholic Charities USA's 2007 Family Strengthening Award.

Celebrating faith, culture

N.C. Catholics attend National Black Catholic Congress

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Forty-nine parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte were among the 2,000 black Catholics from nearly 100 U.S. dioceses who spent four days praying, celebrating and learning to overcome

See CONGRESS, page 8

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

Around the Diocese

Holy Sepulcher's Scroll Mass; young adults help others

| PAGE 4

Bringing the message

Sister Laurel discusses emotions, chastity

| PAGE 6

Culture Watch

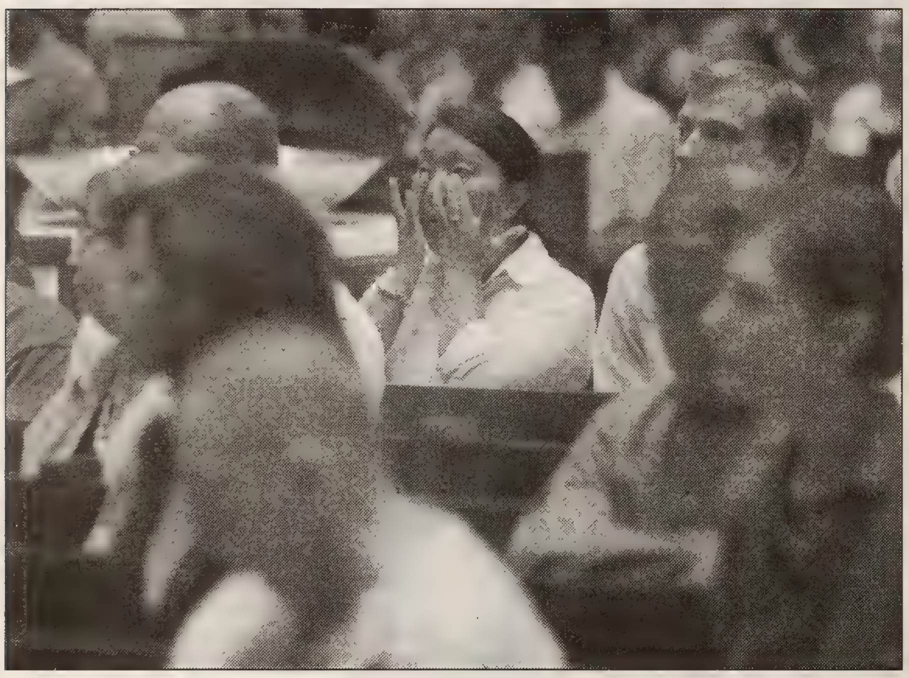
Harry Potter's moral values; Bishop Jugis on UNC-C TV

| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

TEARS AFTER THE TRAGEDY



CNS PHOTO BY JOSHUA LOTT, REUTERS

Molly Shelton (center) wipes tears from her eyes during an Aug. 2 prayer service at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis for victims of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse. Prayer services for people of all faiths were held at St. Olaf and the Catholic cathedral in St. Paul the day following the rush-hour tragedy.

St. Paul-Minneapolis Catholic community responds to bridge collapse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Upon hearing of the collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, priests from the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis traveled to the scene, as well as to nearby hospitals and medical centers, to see how they could help victims of the tragedy and their families.

Although travel in the city has been difficult since the disaster, the archdiocese held two noon prayer services Aug. 2 — one in St. Paul at the Cathedral of St. Paul and the other at St. Olaf Church in Minneapolis.

Coadjutor Archbishop John C. Nienstedt presided over the ceremony at the cathedral, and Father Kevin McDonough, vicar general, celebrated the prayer service as well as the daily Mass at St. Olaf Church.

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn said both churches had a "great number of people who came together to offer their consolation and their prayers for those who died, for those who are injured, and for their families."

Archbishop Flynn prayed for the victims as he offered Mass in the morning Aug. 2, and he planned to address the crisis in a statement within the next few days.

"Something like this shatters us," he told Catholic News Service. "But as one woman said to me, 'I don't know what we'd do without faith.' It's the only thing ... to get through something like this."

Father Mark Pavlik, pastor of St. Olaf Church, was one of the priests who responded to the crisis. He and another priest traveled to Hennepin Medical Center on one side of the river in the early evening.

Chaplains from other faiths were also present "in full force." He said other priests traveled to hospitals on the other side of the bridge to see if they were needed for counseling, but most of the people involved weren't ready to talk.

Father Pavlik said the bridge collapse had "taken the whole city by storm, overtaken the whole city in every aspect of everything."

People who make the daily commute across the I-35W bridge have mostly been in silent shock, realizing how close they were to becoming victims themselves, he said.

Some have sought refuge at St. Olaf Church, and at noon Aug. 2 those who regularly attend the parish's daily Mass joined with those present for the prayer service.

"Our parish is right in the heart of Minneapolis, so people come here to pray all day long," he said. "I'm used to that, but today has been just a tremendous outpouring of people who just want to stop in and pray. Not much talking yet."

On Aug. 3, officials confirmed that six people were dead, and at least 60 were injured. Also, they said the number of those still missing was eight, down from as many as 20 reported earlier.

Catholics, others urge increased funding for children's health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic organizations have joined with a variety of medical, civic, labor and other religious groups in calling on Congress to increase funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, despite a threatened veto by President George W. Bush.

Representatives of nearly three dozen organizations participated in a July 25 Capitol Hill news conference organized by the Catholic Health Association, which also released a new public opinion poll that showed Americans overwhelmingly support the program known as SCHIP.

"We stand united because we believe Congress and the president should do the right thing for our children and our nation — reauthorize a critically important program that is supported by the vast majority of voters," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO.

Others at the news conference represented the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as Protestant, Jewish and Islamic organizations.

"We may not see eye to eye on many of the issues facing this nation, but we all agree that our children must be able to receive the health care they need to learn, to participate in school and to build their futures on a healthy foundation," Sister Keehan added.

The Senate Finance Committee recently approved the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, which would provide an additional $35 billion to SCHIP over the next five years to maintain the current coverage levels and provide health insurance for 3.2 million children now without coverage.

The increases would be funded by a 61-cent-per-pack rise in the federal tax on cigarettes. Bush said July 18 that he would veto the bill. Instead he supports revisions in the tax code that would provide deductions to help more people to afford health insurance.

Diocesan planner

BOONE VICARIATE

SPRUCE PINE — A *Rosary of Intercession for Priests* is recited each Friday at St. Lucien Church, 695 Summit St., before the 9 a.m. Mass. Prayers are offered for bishops, priests and deacons, and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. For more information, call the church office at (828) 765-2224.

SPARTA — St. Frances of Rome Church, Hendrix and Highlands Rds., sponsors the *Oratory of Divine Love Prayer Group* in the parish house the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 1 p.m. Call (336) 372-8846 for more information.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE—All Cursillistas, their families and friends are invited to a *Family Ultreya* Aug. 19, 12-2 p.m. in the Family Room at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. We will have an inspirational witness talk, grouping and a potluck lunch. For more information, call Tom and Heather Martin at (704) 544-7011. If you need babysitting, call Vicki Torres at (704) 543-7677, ext 1011.

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Pathfinders*, a peer-led support group for separated and divorced adults, offers education, support and fellowship through the divorce process. The group meets Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., in St. Gabriel Church's Ministry Building, 3016 Providence Rd. For more information, call Nancy at (704) 752-0318.

CHARLOTTE — *TGIF on Wednesday* is a support group for separated or divorced women and men. All are welcome to join us for encouragement and discussion with others making similar journeys at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the New Life Center, Room 114. If you have any questions, call Bonnie Motuz at (704) 543-8998.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of St. Mark Church parishioners who have lost babies before of shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Sandy Buck at (704) 948-4587.

GASTON VICARIATE

DENVER — The *Blanketeers* of Holy Spirit Church hold periodic workshops to make security blankets for seriously ill and traumatized children through Project Linus, a nonprofit organization. For more information, call the church office at (704) 483-6448 or visit www.projectlinus.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. The group will discuss the Books of Acts, through Sept. 18. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

AUGUST 10, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 36

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican office supports British prime minister's push to cut poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace supports British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's project to rally leaders of government, business and faith-based organizations in pushing to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

"The time for simple promises has passed," said an Aug. 1 statement from the Vatican office, welcoming Brown's July 31 call at the United Nations for an international summit in 2008 to pressure governments to meet their commitments for reducing poverty and promoting development. When most nations of the world signed on to the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, "it was believed that 15 years would give governments sufficient time to mobilize efforts" to meet the goals, it said. "Some progress has been made in some areas, which should be applauded. However, even with limited progress, governments must continue striving for more."

The goals focused on eradicating hunger and poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting equality, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating AIDS and malaria, protecting the environment and developing a global partnership for development. The Vatican statement said governments repeatedly have pledged to dedicate the equivalent of 0.7 percent of their gross national product to development assistance.

"If that pledged target amount was achieved, a total of U.S. $192 billion would be made available annually" instead of "the U.S. $78.6 billion presently being made available," it said.

"A new starting point, built upon renewed political will, the mobilization of efforts and resources and the shaping of a true, recognizable and viable global partnership for development should be welcomed and fostered by everyone," the Vatican statement said.

Pope says too much wealth, greed could compromise one's salvation

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Too much wealth and greed could "seriously compromise" one's salvation, Pope Benedict XVI said, adding that the real treasure humanity should strive for is Christ.

It is a thing of "wisdom and virtue to not set one's heart on the things of this world, because everything passes, everything can suddenly come to an end," he said before reciting the Angelus prayer Aug. 5.

While one's earthly possessions and material wealth can be a necessity that are good in and of themselves, they are "not to be considered an absolute good," he told those gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence south of Rome.

Wealth "does not ensure salvation, rather it could even seriously compromise it," he said.

Christ, the pope said, warned people to guard against greed and becoming attached to earthly possessions.

"The true treasure we Christians have to tirelessly seek out lies in 'what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God,'" he said, quoting a Bible passage from Paul's Letter to the Colossians.

He invited people to pray to Mary for help in living with moderation so that "we are not dominated by avarice and egoism," but are constantly looking for what is good and valuable in the eyes of God.

After the Angelus prayer, the pope praised the ecumenical contributions of the recently deceased leader of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Patriarch Teoctist, who died July 30, was a "noble pastor who loved his church and made a positive contribution to relations between Catholics and Orthodox," Pope Benedict said.

He said he warmly remembered the patriarch "with esteem and affection" and recalled that his landmark visits with Pope John Paul II also reflected the patriarch's "clear witness to his commitment" to Christian unity.

at gmagrinat@pol.net or John, Malmfelt at (336) 665-6450 or jmalmsie@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — If you have a special need for prayers, or would like to offer your time in prayer for others' needs, please call the *Prayer Chain* at Our Lady of Grace Church. The Prayer Chain is a sizable group committed to praying for your needs and the needs of your family and friends on a daily basis. To request a prayer or to participate in the Prayer Chain, call the church office at (336) 274-6520, ext. 10 and leave your name, address and phone number.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE —St. Therese Church *Senior Fun & Games* meets the second Saturday of every month at 6:30 p.m. for those 50 and older. A potluck supper is followed by board and card games. Call Barbara Daigler at (704) 662-9572 for more information.

SALISBURY — *Elizabeth Ministry* is a peer ministry comprised of Sacred Heart Church parishioners who have lost babies before or shortly after birth. Confidential peer ministry, information and spiritual materials are offered at no cost or obligation to anyone who has experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or the death of a newborn. For details, call Renee Washington at (704) 637-0472 or Sharon Burges at (704) 633-0591.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — There will be a *Day of Prayer based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* at Living Waters Reflection Center Sept. 8. For more information, call David and Cathie Tilly at (828) 479-9278

WAYNESVILLE — The *Catholic Women's Circle* of St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the church hall. For more information, call the church office at (828) 456-6707.

FRANKLIN — The *Women's Guild* of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St., meets the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The meetings feature guest speakers and special events periodically. For more information, call Claire Barnable at (828) 369-1565.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will begin Aug. 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Class dates are Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18. The Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP is safe and medically proven 99.9% effective. Couples with marginal fertility will also benefit from working with their natural mutual fertility instead of against it. Call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

CLEMMONS — A *Charismatic Prayer Group* meets Mondays at 7:15 p.m. in the eucharistic chapel of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. Join us for praise music, witness, teaching, prayers and petition. For more details, call Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CLEMMONS — The *Knitting Ministry* of Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., meets Monday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., to pray, learn to knit, reflect on life's lessons and reach out to others in our community. Opportunities exist for the beginner to the experienced as we knit and purl Prayer Shawls, Preemie Blankets or Squares for Survivors. Please contact Rosemary at (336) 766-2315 or Carmel at (336) 766-0650 for more information.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Prayers for the miners

CNS PHOTO BY RAMIN RAHIMIAN, REUTERS

People arrive for a special evening Mass at Mission San Rafael Catholic Church in Huntington, Utah, Aug. 7. The friends and family of three of the trapped miners attended the Mass. At press time, rescue efforts continue to save six coal miners trapped since Aug. 6 in the caved-in Crandall Canyon mine, owned by the Murray Energy Corp.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 12 — 9 a.m.
Couples for Christ Mass
Westin Hotel, Charlotte

Aug. 15 — 7:30 p.m.
Installation of Father Timothy Reid as pastor
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

Aug. 19 — 10:30 a.m.
Installation of Father Michael Kottar as pastor
St. Mary Church, Shelby

Aug. 28 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Join our Oratorian Congregation to
SERVE GOD AS PRIEST OR BROTHER
As priests and lay men, our community lives without vows and serves God's people numerous ways, including:

Parishes
Retreats
Youth Camps
Campus Ministry
Nursing
Hospital Chaplains

Find out more about serving God with us:
Fr. Ed McDevitt, CO
The Oratory
P O Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 29731-1586

LONG-STANDING ORDER

Courtesy Photo

Bishop Peter J. Jugis talks with Kathy Tronco and Ann Weidie, Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, after the Scroll Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Aug. 5.

Knights, Ladies of Holy Sepulcher welcomed, honored during Scroll Mass

CHARLOTTE — Scrolls were recently presented to members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The scrolls, significant in welcoming and honoring members in the long-standing lay order, were conferred during the order's Scroll Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral Aug. 5.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, who celebrated the Mass and is a member of the order, and John Piunno of the order's USA Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy presented the scrolls from Rome confirming admission and promotion.

Invested into the order were Robert Eggleston Jr., Ann Weidie and Stuart Weidie. Promoted to the rank of commander were Gilbert Durkee, Elizabeth Durkee, Mary Lou Hildreth and Wilhelmina Da Silva Mobley.

Promoted to knight grand cross was James E. P. Turner.

Three people are expected to be invested and eight promoted during the order's annual meeting in November.

Michael Balbirnie, the order's regional representative for the Diocese of Charlotte, said the growth is a positive sign for the order, which is dedicated to preserving Christ's tomb in Jerusalem as well as supporting Catholic schools, hospitals, orphanages and churches in the Holy Land.

"We try to raise awareness of Christians and Christian places in the Holy Land," said Balbirnie.

"We invite and encourage prayers and support from all the people of the diocese," he said.

Walking for life

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Seth Wright (right) of Dallas, Texas, and Stafford Long of Shreveport, La., accept donations after Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte Aug. 5. Wright and Long are among the more than 50 young adults walking on one of three 10-week, 3,200-mile, coast-to-coast pilgrimages as part of the 13th annual Crossroads Pro-Life Walk Across America this summer. Walking an average of 17 miles a day, each Crossroads volunteer will cover more than 1,200 miles by Aug. 11, when all three groups of pro-life pilgrims arrive on Capitol Hill in Washington for a prayer service. Taking their pro-life message to an estimated 1 million people in dozens of cities, the walkers' slogan is "saving lives one step at a time."

Serving those in need

Youths, young adults from Diocese of Charlotte help feed homeless in Philly neighborhood

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — Six youths and young adults from the Diocese of Charlotte recently took part in a mission trip to help those in need.

The June 29-July 1 trip allowed the parishioners from Greensboro, Hendersonville, Shelby and Winston-Salem to assist the poor and needy at the St. Francis Inn, a Franciscan community in Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood.

"Most of the participants did not know each other before our travel, but quickly became a community working side by side at the St. Francis Inn and lodging together at the inn's volunteer house," said Betti Longinotti, chairperson of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Youth and Young Adult Commission, which sponsored the mission trip.

The St. Francis Inn community is comprised of Sisters of St. Francis, Franciscan friars and Secular Franciscans, as well as Franciscan young adult volunteers. The community tries to meet the daily needs of the people it serves with food, clothing and hospitality. The inn's dining room serves more than 300 meals a day, 365 days a year, with volunteers helping to cook, serve and clean.

"In addition to preparing and serving the meals … we also had the opportunity to participate in Morning Prayer and daily and Sunday Mass held in the chapel," said Longinotti. "The style and approach to these liturgies acquainted the participants with the Franciscan spirituality."

The mission trip participants kept a group journal of their experiences. Mary Kate Ferry, 26, a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, entitled it "The Soup Kitchen Chronicles."

Matthew Hair, 18, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, wrote that helping make deliveries to the poor and disadvantaged was an overwhelming, eye-opening experience.

Katie Longinotti, 21, a parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, said working at the inn's soup kitchen allowed her to personally interact with its guests and "befriend the friendless."

The Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis is a regional fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order serving local fraternities of the Southeast. Its Youth and Young Adult Commission provides opportunities for youths and young adults to nurture their faith and in the life of the Catholic Church.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the commission, contact Betti Longinotti at bssf_sfo@yahoo.com.

Courtesy Photo

Youths and young adults from the Diocese of Charlotte and elsewhere, who took part in a June 29-July 1 Franciscan mission trip to St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, are pictured in the inn's chapel.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Local CSS program wins Catholic Charities award

OEO, *from page 1*

by Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin of Charlotte and Bishop Emeritus F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, which sought to raise awareness of poverty within the state.

Catholic Charities USA is a national association of more than 1,500 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions that serve more than 7.4 million people a year.

Its annual awards program, made possible by support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, aims to recognize and award exceptional programs in the Catholic Charities network that take a holistic approach to providing services by supporting healthy family relationships while working to improve a family's overall financial situation and enhance the community where they live.

"The Office of Economic Opportunity is one of the brightest stars in a constellation of outstanding Catholic Charities programs working to strengthen families," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA.

> "The Office of Economic Opportunity is one of the brightest stars in a constellation of outstanding Catholic Charities programs,"
>
> — Father Larry Snyder

"By connecting low-income families to the supports and opportunities that they need to be economically stable, this wonderful program is making a critical difference in the lives of children and their families and, in turn, building a stronger community by helping to reduce poverty," he said.

The OEO's goal "is to help families develop the skills needed to make better choices for building a more secure future," said Claudie Burchfield, OEO director.

"In the process, we collaborate with many local agencies, churches and community leaders," she said.

Eight Christian denominations contribute in various ways to the OEO's Far West Families First program, said Burchfield, and pastors from five Christian faith communities serve on the advisory board.

PHOTO BY JOSEPH PURELLO

The diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy, a program of Catholic Social Service's Office of Peace and Justice, has won Catholic Charities USA's 2007 Family Strengthening Award and will receive $25,000.

OEO created the Far West Families First program to help combat poverty in western North Carolina. The program matches struggling families with ecumenical faith teams who provide support and encouragement to help the families reach goals they set for themselves.

Such goals might relate to debt reduction, credit building, health issues, housing concerns, education and employability. In a supportive relationship, the team helps the family understand and learn skills needed for successful problem solving and locate outside resources when needed.

The OEO also provides families with counseling opportunities to help them work through challenges that impede family development and stability.

Another program, the Assets Building Long-term Equity (ABLE) Financial Literacy program, addresses "financial illiteracy" within the community.

In addition to credit counseling, the ABLE program provides workshops, lectures and special presentations on pertinent financial literacy topics, including maximizing food stamp dollars, budgeting and attaining affordable housing.

The OEO also serves as a host site for Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Asheville.

The OEO was one of four programs Catholic Charities USA picked for the 2007 Family Strengthening Award, chosen from submissions from local Catholic Charities agencies across the country. All four will be honored at Catholic Charities USA's annual gathering in Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 16.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity, go online to www.cssnc.org/oeo.

VERY FEW SPACES LEFT—
CALL TODAY!

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A
DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites **- PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,499 from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

"When I'm gone, who will receive the gifts God gave me?"

A will is your answer to the question. 60-70% of Americans die without a valid will. If you die without a will, the laws of the state you live in will determine how your assets are divided including assets to your family. Without a will or other charitable estate plan, charitable desires you may have for your parish, Catholic school, agency, diocese or the diocesan foundation will be ignored. *Don't let your answer be silence.*

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Bringing the message

Speaker explores emotions, chastity at talks in Charlotte

BY KATHY SCHMUGGE
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — Love, suffering, parenthood and human sexuality were just a few of the topics tackled by Dominican Sister Jane Dominic Laurel during her talks in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Laurel, a member of the St. Cecilia Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Nashville, Tenn., spoke at St. Gabriel Church and St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte in July.

Laura Lindsley, a recent high school graduate, enjoyed Sister Laurel's message on chastity to approximately 100 teenagers at St. Gabriel Church July 19. Laurel described it as one of the strongest and best-presented chastity talks she had ever heard.

"Sister Jane Dominic shed much-needed light on the type of people we should strive to be and the type of love we should give ourselves to, and be tender people who love selflessly and without condition," said Lindsley, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church.

Word travels fast when it comes to the insights of Sister Laurel. Her talks at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte in May created such a buzz that she was quickly invited to speak at St. Gabriel and St. Vincent de Paul churches.

She was also asked to give private talks at homes in Charlotte and Rock Hill, S.C., and will return for more engagements in South Carolina in September.

Why all the excitement? According to Margaret Kennedy, a parishioner at St. Vincent de Paul Church who organized the Charlotte talks, Sister Laurel touches a person's heart.

"She has a different effect on each person and I think that is a gift. God knows what we need spiritually and I think he allows us to see and hear what we need," said Kennedy.

> "True eros shows us that we need each other. It draws us out of ourselves."
>
> — Dominican Sister Jane Dominic Laurel

Sister Laurel teaches theology at Aquinas College in Nashville and this coming year she will pursue doctoral studies in theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, also known as the Angelicum, in Rome, Italy.

She is a frequent guest speaker and lecturer on topics related to religious life and theology.

Sister Laurel's July 20 talk at St. Vincent de Paul Church on the role of emotions in the spiritual life gave insight into how emotions, when in cooperation with the intellect, can aid a person in choosing God's will. She also noted the importance of developing a "sacramental imagination" fed by the sacraments, as opposed to having only a secular imagination fed by television and magazines, because the imagination influences the emotions.

Sister Laurel also spoke on Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, "God is Love."

"Sister Jane reminded us that love should cost you something," said Heather Martin, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"Love it is not 'all about me,' but it is about sacrifice, and in loving rightly we are transformed. It makes us into the person God has called us to be," said Martin.

Sister Laurel distinguished between true and false eros, which the pope said "denotes the love of one who desires to possess what he or she lacks and yearns for union with the beloved."

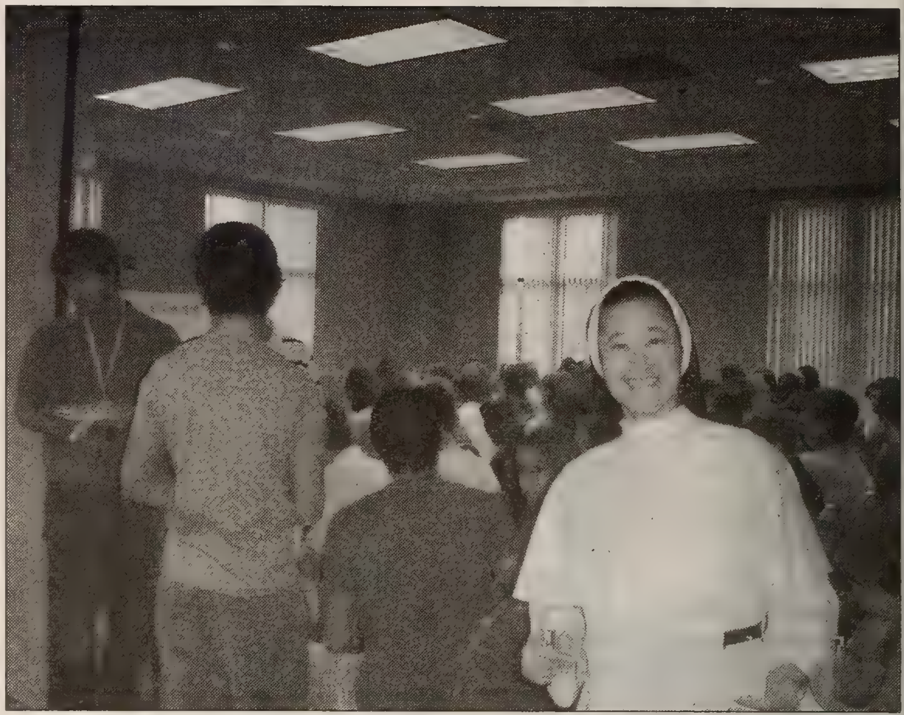
Paraphrasing from Pope Benedict, she drew the parallel between the false ethos (distinguishing character) of today seen in the media with that of the early Greeks, who promoted a false eros as an intoxication "being overpowered by a divine madness." This false eros is really lust that results in using or objectifying oneself and others, she said.

"It is impure and undisciplined. It can not lead to happiness because it is warped and destructive," said Sister Laurel.

Real eros, she explained, is good and beautiful and it supposed to bring pleasure, and that pleasure brings a person to beatitude.

"True eros shows us the we need each other," said Sister Laurel. "It draws us out of ourselves. We grow out of our selfishness and begin to seek the good of the beloved."

Kathy Schmugge is Family Life Coordinator for the Diocese of Charleston.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dominican Sister Jane Dominic Laurel is pictured during her talk on chastity to teenagers at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte July 19.

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

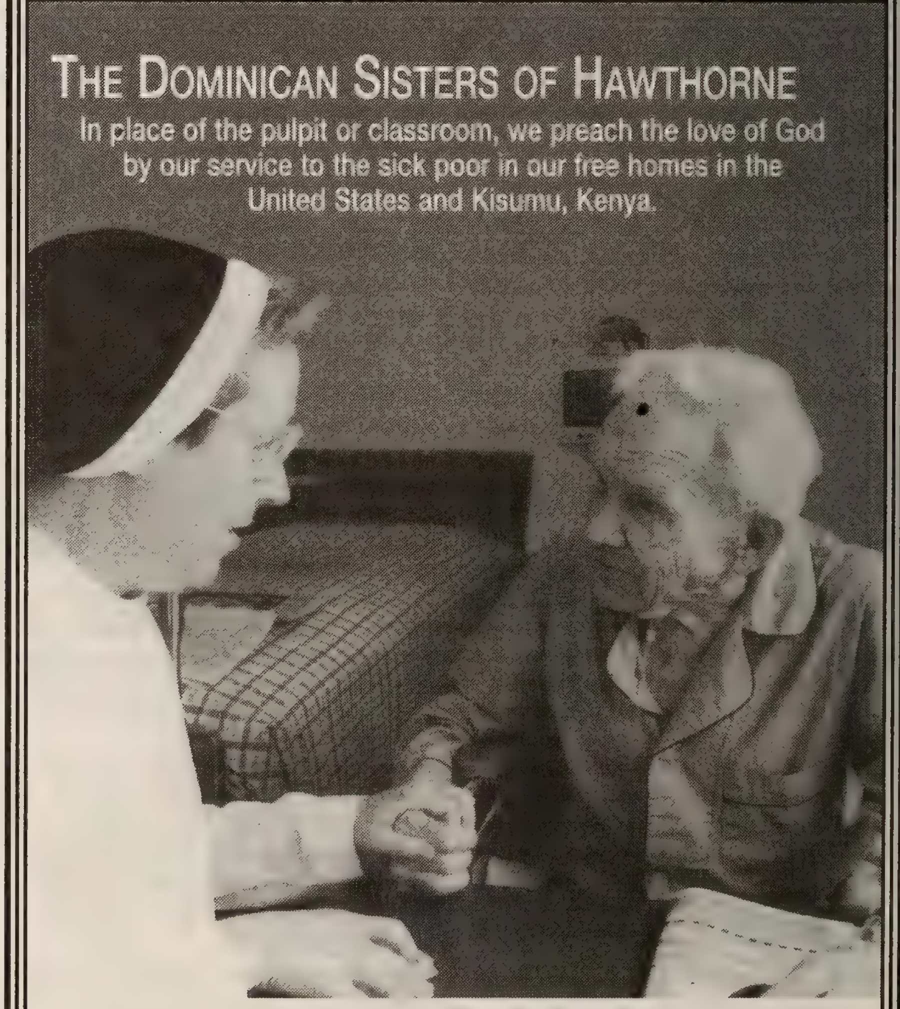
Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Diane Bullard (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org



THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE

In place of the pulpit or classroom, we preach the love of God by our service to the sick poor in our free homes in the United States and Kisumu, Kenya.

Contact: Sr. Alma Marie, O.P.
Tel: 914.769.4794
E-Mail: sralmamarie@aol.com
www.hawthorne-dominicans.org

Bridging the gap

COURTESY PHOTO

Representatives from the Diocese of Charlotte are pictured at "Eye on the Horizon," an institute sponsored by the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry, in Washington, D.C., June 25-27.

The institute focused on bridging the gap between youth groups and campus ministry. Many colleges students who were involved with their youth groups in high school do not take advantage of the opportunities offered by Catholic campus ministries.

"Our ultimate goal is get young people involved in youth and campus ministries, because then they are more likely to be involved as adults," said Mary Wright, director of diocesan campus ministry.

Pictured left to right are Paul Jarzembowski, acting executive director of the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association; Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart Sister Eileen Spanier, former director of diocesan young adult ministry; Wright; Gloria Schweizer, Catholic campus minister at Western Carolina University; Father Martin Moran, executive director of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association; Paul Kotlowski, director of the diocesan youth ministry office; and Robert McCarty, executive director of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Guiding the future of the church

Sister Spanier reflects on young adult ministry in diocese

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

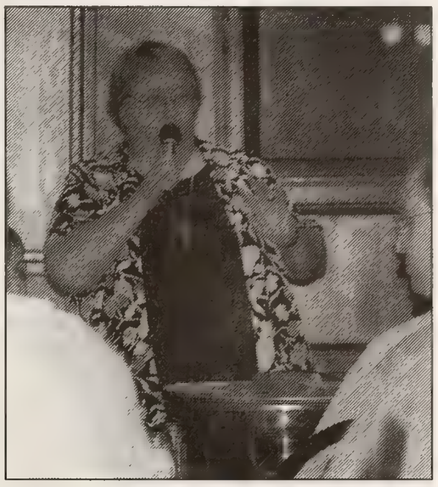


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Gray Nun of the Sacred Heart Sister Eileen Spanier speaks during a Theology on Tap session in Charlotte April 18, 2006. Sister Spanier, who served as director of diocesan young adult ministry since July 2005, was re-assigned by her congregation to New York in August.

CHARLOTTE — Grey Nun of the Sacred Heart Sister Eileen Spanier hopes that the ministries she dedicated the past two years will continue to thrive, even though she is no longer working in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Spanier served as director of the diocesan young adult ministry office and as Catholic campus minister for UNC-Charlotte from July 2005 until last month. Prior to these positions, she served as director of vocations for her congregation.

"Working in the Diocese of Charlotte has given me many gifts, particularly in the relationships I've formed and what I've learned, which I'll take with me to my next ministry," she said.

At the directive of her congregation, Sister Spanier moved to Queens, N.Y., in early August, where she will participate in a new ministry initiative, consisting of researching opportunities for corporate ministry. At the same time, she will be working full time at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Queens, primarily in the area of young adult ministry.

Sister Spanier said she considered it to be her role as director of young adult ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte to provide support and encouragement to the young adult ministers in their work.

"There wonderful young adult leaders in the Diocese of Charlotte; they have lots of energy and enthusiasm," she said.

According to Sister Spanier, the Diocese of Charlotte needs to continue to invest in young adult ministry, as young adults are future leaders of the church.

"It's important for young people to know the church cares about them and wants to reach out to them," she said.

"Pastors need to be passionate about the young adults in their parishes," she said. "It's a good investment that will pay off later."

Young adults have a lot of skills their older counterparts might not — computer savvy, for instance. Sister Spanier said that they need to be taught how to use those skills for the church.

"Young people today do want to participate in the church, but not necessarily in a traditional way," said Sister Spanier. "The gifts they bring into the church will make it better."

Sister Spanier believes that an effective way to draw young people into active participation in the church is through programs such as Theology on Tap, where young adults gather at a restaurant to hear speakers and participate in discussions on topics such as ethics in the workplace, relationships and putting their faith into action.

"We try to get young people to come together in small groups to share and grow in their faith experiences," she said.

What hopefully happens next, Sister Spanier said, is that those young people take their experiences back into their parishes and development small faith-sharing groups of young adults.

"At this crucial time in the history of the Catholic Church, our resources need to be directed at young adults, as the future of the church," Sister Spanier said.

You're Invited!
Room At The Inn's
Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet
"Hope for the Future"

Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Featured Speaker
FOX News Channel's
Judge
Andrew P. Napolitano

Judge Napolitano appears daily on *The Big Story with John Gibson,* co-hosts *FOX and Friends* once a week and is a regular on *The O'Reilly Factor*. A graduate of Notre Dame Law School, he is informative, entertaining and absolutely pro-life!

Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm
** **Reservations are FREE, but required.**

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@carolina.rr.com by **September 17th.**

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a Catholic maternity and after-care program for pregnant mothers in Charlotte, N.C. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.

World Youth Day 2008! – in Sydney, Australia
10 Days - departing July 12, 2008
$3,569 from Charlotte
(includes air, accommodations, tips, taxes and fees)
We invite all 16- to 35-year-olds to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime faith experience!
Sponsored and escorted by the Charlotte diocesan Office for Youth Ministry and the Office for Young Adults.
Deadline for registration — October 1st, 2007
Questions and/or registration: Peg Ruble at 704-370-3359 or e-mail pcruble@charlottediocese.org
WYD08
SYD

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Education, social justice concerns covered at congress

CONGRESS, *from page 1*

CNS PHOTO BY MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

The 10th National Black Catholic Congress choir says the Lord's Prayer during the July 15 closing Mass in Buffalo, N.Y. Forty-nine people from the Diocese of Charlotte were among the congress' 2,000 participants.

challenges at the 10th National Black Catholic Congress.

The theme of the July 12-15 gathering in Buffalo, N.Y., was "Christ Is With Us: Celebrating the Gifts of the Sacraments."

"The Charlotte Diocese was proudly represented by those who journeyed to Buffalo," said Sandy Murdock, director of the Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry.

"Representatives included teens, young adults, adults and senior citizens," she said.

The group included parishioners from the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, St. Helen Mission in Spencer Mountain and St. Mary Church and St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

Youths from the diocese participated in the adoration service, served as altar servers during the closing Mass and sang in the choir.

"The congress attendees heard wonderful keynote speakers and attended a variety of workshops supporting the congress' theme," said Murdock.

Speakers touched on topics such as using cyberspace for evangelization, the symbolic nature of the seven sacraments and utilizing new styles of music at Mass.

"If a church doesn't do that (musical innovation), young Catholic men and women will be drawn to places where their songs are being sung and their stories are being told, for example, the megachurches," said Kevin Johnson during his July 13 workshop.

"Quality worship increases church attendance and membership," said Johnson, chairman of the music department at Spelman College in Atlanta.

"Churches that were once barely operating and on the verge of collapse are bustling churches where African-American worship is done well," he said.

Future foundations

"Take what you have learned in the workshops and share it with the people back at home ... and allow the Lord to use you," said Father Raymond Harris, a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, at the congress's final session, "Foundations for the Future."

During the session, representatives from each of the congress's eight leadership commissions told what the commissions had been doing about the organization's eight core principles: Catholic education, Africa, HIV/AIDS, parish life, social justice, racism, spirituality, youths and young adults.

In the five years since the last congress, the Catholic education leadership committee has been working hard, said Kathleen Merrit, director of the Office of Ethnic Ministries for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

Commissioners have researched and published a book, titled "Sustaining Catholic Education in and for the Black Community," as a resource for dioceses, individuals and organizations who are trying to develop successful strategies for sustaining Catholic education in their communities, Merrit said.

They also are in the process of developing a National Support Initiative, which will provide financial assistance to Catholic schools in black communities, she said. Congress participants donated more than $1,000 in start-up funds for this initiative, she added.

"The Africa principle commission established a vision to foster a unifying, healing mutual dialogue between the continent of Africa" and the U.S. black Catholic community, said Kim Mazyck. "We feel that uniting to build a strong relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ honors all of the sacraments."

The commission would like to develop a curriculum about Africa for parishes and schools and help communities host annual or biannual events celebrating Africa's culture, she said.

The leadership commission for the HIV/AIDS principle is dedicated to decreasing the prevalence of the disease in black Catholic communities by increasing awareness and education efforts, said Mary Leisring, director of the Office of Black Ministry for the Archdiocese of Denver.

"Our goal was basically to ask all Catholics to respond to all people suffering as Jesus did, with love, care and compassion. We're called to respect the dignity of every human person and to bring strength and courage to those who suffer from this disease," she said.

Commissioners would like every parish to establish an HIV/AIDS ministry, whose participants would pray each day for those suffering from or touched by the disease. The ministries could eventually branch out and provide child care and respite to those people, Leisring said.

The parish life leadership commission is committed to helping black parishes remain open and experience vibrancy and growth, said Sylvia Royster. Commissioners are trying to help parishes find new and effective ways of evangelizing and develop best practices and strategies for parishes, she said.

The social justice commission hopes to help black Catholics understand the black experience through the lens of Catholic social teaching and raise awareness and understanding of economic poverty, both domestic and globals.

Racism is a sin, but African-Americans still deal with this sensitive issue, said Robert Ellis, development director for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich. The goal of the leadership commission on racism is to eliminate the sin of racism by helping U.S. dioceses develop and implement plans to address and combat it, he said.

The spirituality leadership commission has been working to help Catholics acknowledge the gifts of black spirituality and God's call to ongoing evangelization, said Maria Jerkins, director of the Office of Black Ministry for the Archdiocese of Miami.

John Phillips of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and Ayisha Morgan-Lee of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who are both members of commission on youth and young adult leadership, called upon congress participants to support expanded ministerial and leadership roles for black Catholic youth ministers.

Contributing to this article was Jennifer Burke, Amy Kotlarz and Sandy Murdock.

docPod

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Athletics and Virtue with Dr. Bill Thierfelder, President of Belmont Abbey College

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Seeking healing and forgiveness after an abortion?

Experience God's love and compassion once again –

The Charlotte Diocese Respect Life Office of Catholic Social Services offers help to both men and women, in confidence, at **704-370-3229**.

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - September 28-30 at The Oratory in Rock Hill, SC

You may also want to visit Rachel's Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org for helpful articles, retreat information and other direction to new hope and meaning for your future.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Catholics at revival called to 'change the world'

REVIVAL, ***from page 1***

of the black church.

Father Branch is the Catholic chaplain for the Atlanta University Center, a cluster of historically African-American colleges and universities.

Father Branch preached to a congregation of about 200 people Aug. 3, basing his sermon on Luke 5:1-11, the parable of Jesus calling Simon the fisherman. Father Branch's sermon was filled with stern words for his audience, telling them that following Jesus isn't always easy, it doesn't always make sense, but it works.

"Luke goes out of his way to say that to us, not culture, not color, not monetary prosperity, will make our world better; only following Jesus will," he said. "These are tough times, and we are a tough audience, but Jesus is calling us."

Father Branch told the congregation that God is merciful and generous; the Christian vocation is to be the same in order to show God's mercy and generosity.

> "These are tough times, and we are a tough audience, but Jesus is calling us."
>
> — Father Edward Branch

"No matter what our career is … our vocation is to work together to imitate Jesus and draw others to God," he said. "This is what will change the world."

Conversion to Jesus doesn't guarantee that all will go well with your families, Father Branch warned. But is does guarantee that all will go well with your relationship to Jesus.

In return, the only things that we can give God that God does not have, unless we give it to him freely: our love and fidelity, he said.

"That is why we have free will, brothers and sisters — unless we have free will, we could not give God what he desperately wants — our love and fidelity," he said.

Following the sermon, the congregation lit candles and Father Branch led them in a renewal of their baptismal promises.

The congregants then proceeded to the altar in pairs and blessed each other by dipping their fingers in holy water and making the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads.

The revival also included music performed by Joe Priester and the F.L.O.W. Liturgical Dance Ministry. At Saturday evening's service, Father Branch preached on "Mission Readiness," addressing the need for accord in our community. At Sunday's closing worship, Father Branch spoke about the third age of humanity, as recalled in the Gospel of Luke.

"We are not a community for ourselves; we are a community for all," said Father Branch. "We make of ourselves a community in order that we will attract others into the circle of God's grace."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

A woman lights another's candle before the congregation renewed their baptismal promises during the annual revival at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Aug. 3.

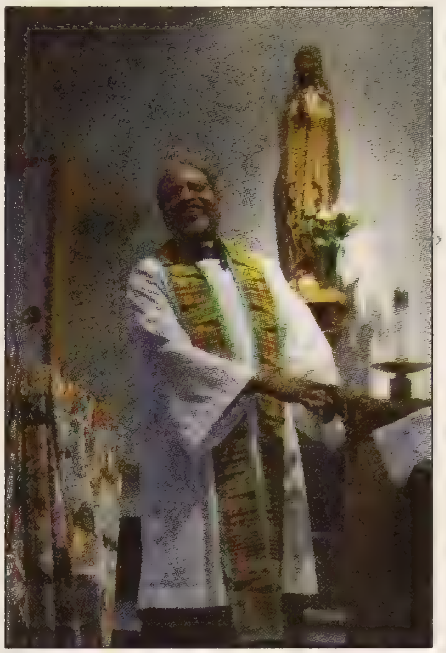


PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Edward Branch preaches about the parable of Jesus' calling of Simon the fisherman.

WANT MORE INFO?

To learn more about the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, call (704) 370-3267 or go online to www.charlottediocese.org/aaam.html.

CRUISE ONLY (without airfare*)
FOR $2,460!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL

January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with
Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

*Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges! Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332** or Patty at Collette Vacations **(877) 894-1245 ext. 3163**.

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?
A Lifeline for Marriage
September 12 - 14 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "retro-vi").
Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.
Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaille@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: www.retrouvaille.org.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

‘Christian story’ in a ‘witchcraft tale’

Book views Harry Potter series through moral, spiritual lenses

REVIEWED BY
LORRAINE V. MURRAY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Are the Harry Potter books safe for kids?

This question has been bandied about for years, with some parents insisting the books encourage young children to see witchcraft and magic as ordinary parts of life, while others believe the books are harmless. Where does the truth lie?

Nancy Carpentier Brown in “The Mystery of Harry Potter: A Catholic Family Guide” attempts to look at the series written by J.K. Rowling through a variety of lenses.

Brown admits she went from being anti-Potter to becoming a supporter, after she took the time to read the books.

Brown has some good advice. Above all, she believes the seven books are not for children of all ages. Thus, parents should read them first to decide if the plots would be too upsetting or inappropriate for their own children.

She believes the Harry Potter books are moral tales depicting a struggle between good and evil, with emphasis placed on human free will. For her, the magic in the books is no more harmful than that found in many fairy tales.

The books, she claims, emphasize the very Catholic belief in the importance of sacrificial love, so Rowling has “told a Christian story in the unexpected disguise of a witchcraft tale.”

“Mystery” will be a good read for busy parents who want to explore more deeply the underlying messages of the Potter series. But at times the writing seems rushed and disjointed, and many topics are too general to be considered specifically pertinent to Catholic parents.

It is true, as the author points out, that parents and friendships are shown to be important in the Potter books, and, yes, it is true that the books have no smoking, no drug use, no same-sex partners and “very little swearing.”

Still, these points alone won’t assuage the fears of parents who believe the books are too dark and too deeply involved in magic and witchcraft. And Catholic parents especially will want to know what the Catechism of the Catholic Church — and the Bible — say about magic, and what church leaders have said about the books.

Early on, Brown mentions that Pope Benedict XVI, when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, had expressed an opinion that the Potter books contained “subtle seductions.”

His full statement was: “These are subtle seductions that are barely noticeable, and precisely because of that have a deep effect and corrupt the Christian faith in souls even before it could properly grow.”

Brown dismisses his remarks as polite responses to Gabriel Kuby, a German author who had sent him a copy of her book, “Harry Potter: Good or Evil?” Brown notes that the pope has never read any of the Harry Potter books himself.

At times, she mentions places in the Bible and the catechism that she feels are relevant to her defense of the books, but some of her claims are vague, such as her assertion that even the Bible has stories about magicians and about people lying.

She also believes it is important for parents to guide their children through the books, and discuss concepts with them. As she points out, some moral situations in Harry Potter can be hard for young children to understand:

“Although there is a clear delineation between the good and evil, there are many times when we must choose greater goods over lesser goods, and we must be able to weigh complex issues.”

This comment alone shows why the books may be inappropriate for very young readers, who lack the wisdom to make such distinctions.

Every chapter has dinner-table questions, which may be helpful for parents who want to discuss the books with their children. Also, there is a good chapter on the difference between the movies and the books, with the author noting that the movies are generally more upsetting and violent than the books, and parents should take movie ratings seriously.

When all is said and done, one questions remains: Are the books safe for children? Even after reading this book, the jury is still out.

Murray is the author of three books on spiritual issues and works in the Pitts Theology Library at Emory University in Atlanta.

MORE COVERAGE
Read Effie Caldarola’s column on the real magic of Harry Potter on page 14.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: AUG. 19, 2007

Aug. 19, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Psalm 40:2-4, 18
2) Hebrews 12:1-4
3) Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Faith, trust in God aids during trying times

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Yves chose to emigrate to the United States from his impoverished homeland of Haiti eight years ago, not an easy decision. He had a wife, three children and another on the way.

Their plan was for him to settle in the U.S. and immediately begin the process to bring the family to join him. He knew from the beginning it would involve a long separation, as he had waited nine years himself for a visa.

Last month the family’s long wait ended after eight years and about $20,000. To save airfare, I drove Yves three hours to a big-city airport to pick up his family of five. On the way, I wondered aloud, “How many people would have endured all those years to get to this moment?”

In Haiti Yves taught school. In the U.S. he works two or three minimum-wage jobs at a time to support himself and his faraway family. He scrimped to make an occasional trip home.

And at each step in the agonizingly slow visa application process he paid more fees. He battled depression brought on by loneliness, overwork and stress.

As we approached the airport, he answered my wondering with a broad smile. “I knew it would be a long time, but it was not for me but for my children, so they will have a good life.”

The family reunion at the terminal was breathtaking in its joy: the squeals, the hugs, the teary laughter. Yves and his 22-year-old son crammed nine large suitcases and all eight of us into the seven-passenger van.

As I wheeled the journey-weary, happy family through the airport exit, there was a brief silence as the magnitude of the moment sank in. Then, Yves began to sing. Momentarily his wife Suzanne, sitting in his lap, joined in.

Then, from the backseat came their son’s baritone, followed by the sweet voices of the little girls. They sang two verses of the song and faded gently to the end when Yves spoke the words of the refrain: “Mesi, Bondye,” Creole for “Thank you, Great God.”

Thinking of Yves’ trust in the ultimate providence of God, I understand the faithful endurance of Jeremiah in this weekend’s readings and the psalm that described his deliverance: “The Lord heard my cry ... and he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look in awe and trust in the Lord.”

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 12-18
Sunday (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 18:6-9, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 12:32-48; **Monday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus),** Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Matthew 17:22-27; **Tuesday (St. Maximilian Kolbe),** Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 7-9, 12, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; **Wednesday (The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; **Thursday (St. Stephen of Hungary),** Joshua 3:7-11, 13-17, Matthew 18:21--19:1; **Friday,** Joshua 24:1-13, Matthew 19:3-12; **Saturday,** Joshua 24:14-29, Matthew 19:13-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 19-25
Sunday (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10, Hebrews 12:1-4, Luke 12:49-53; **Monday (St. Bernard),** Judges 2:11-19, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday (St. Pius X),** Judges 6:11-24, Matthew 19: 23-30; **Wednesday (Queenship of Mary),** Judges 9:6-15, Matthew 20:1-16; **Thursday (St. Rose of Lima),** Judges 11:29-39, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday (St. Bartholomew),** Revelation 21:9-14, John 1:45-51; **Saturday (St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz),** Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Matthew 23:1-12.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don’t Panic!...
“How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don’t Waste Time”

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won’t give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there’s a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don’t have to waste time waiting.

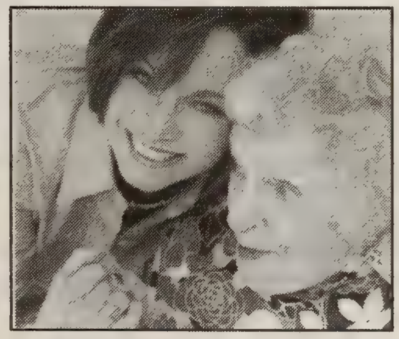
Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We’re The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Pennybyrn at Maryfield Opens New Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Accommodations

"Pennybyrn at Maryfield is creating home for our residents in a revolutionary way of providing care and service," said CEO, Sister Lucy Hennessy. The full-service retirement community of Pennybyrn at Maryfield proudly announces the opening of Taylor Village Assisted Living and the David Hayworth House, the first of six new Maryfield Health Care Households. These unparalleled accommodations will soon be home to 60 residents, providing an enhanced quality of life where personal preferences are respected and honored. Each resident is empowered to make decisions about how they choose to enjoy daily life in their new home. Each will determine the nature of his or her day with staff assisting and honoring their individuality.

"This culture is unlike anything in traditional health care," said Rich Newman, President and Community Leader. "Nothing says institutional. Instead, everything says home, reflecting the same quality lifestyle of the entire Pennybyrn at Maryfield Retirement Living Community. Assisted Living and Independent Neighborhoods look and feel the same, and residents share the same exceptional amenities." Maryfield Health Care Households consist of a group of resident rooms which center around a homey kitchen, pantry, parlor, living room, dining room, sunroom, laundry room and even a porch and beautiful courtyard. Like any home, these households are designed to be the focal point of residents' lives.



"Here, residents know they are being listened to and cared for," said Newman. "The result is a warm, friendly community where days are meaningful and filled with life."

The new 71-acre Pennybyrn at Maryfield full-service retirement community also offers gracious independent living apartment and cottage residences with superior amenities and services. This opening is planned for Winter 2007. Contact Pennybyrn at Maryfield at (336) 821-4000 or visit www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com.

NPADVHHH707

College days remembered

Photo by David Hains

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is interviewed by David Dunn, vice chancellor for university relations and community affairs and host of "UNC Charlotte Alumni Today," during a taping of the program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte July 26. The program focuses on the current activities of alumni and how their education at the university impacts their lives today.

Bishop Jugis graduated from UNC-Charlotte in 1978 before beginning seminary studies.

The episode with Bishop Jugis will air in the Charlotte area on the UNC-Charlotte's cable channel at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Aug. 13, 15, 17 and 19.

Join your Catholic Chaplain, Monsignor George Almeida
Departing Sunday, December 30, 2007

Rose Parade

Las Vegas & Laughlin Tour

9 Days *from* ***$999****

ALL DELUXE HOTELS!

Join your Spiritual Director Monsignor George Almeida and other Catholics on this popular Your Man Tours ***Rose Parade Golden West Vacation***. This will be Monsignor Almeida's sixth trip as a YMT chaplain. He has retired after serving as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Swansea, MA, in the Fall River Diocese. Get away from the colder weather during the first week in January, avoid the post-holiday blahs, and enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Year's Day you've had in years! **Mass will be available some days on tour.** This deluxe hotel package includes four nights in Los Angeles, California, at the Renaissance Hotel; two nights in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Hilton Hotel; and two nights in Laughlin, Nevada, on the Colorado River at the Aquarius Hotel. You'll enjoy Your Man Tours' city tour of L.A. including Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and pre-parade float building and viewing at the Floats and Flowers Expo, and on January 1, 2008, **reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade!** Also included are baggage handling, motor coach sightseeing, and optional tours including the *Glory of Christmas* at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. You've seen the parade on TV for years; now see the excitement and hoopla of the most famous parade in America live and up close! The sights, the sounds, and especially the smells all make being there truly spectacular. *Prices (per person, double occupancy) start at only $999 plus $149 tax/government fees and services. Add $600 for round- trip airfare from Charlotte.

Friends and family are welcome. *$100 deposits are now due.*

For information, brochure, and letter from Fr. George call today:

'YOUR MAN' **TOURS 1-800-736-7300**

Church project makes Eagle Scout

Courtesy Photo

Ryan Amos (center) of Boy Scout Troop 922 is pictured with Fran O'Rourke, a parishioner of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, and Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church. Ryan, an altar server at the church, attained the rank of Eagle Scout June 17 by completing a landscaping service project at the church.

Coordinating with O'Rourke on the project, Ryan installed an irrigation system and planted 85 plants behind the church. Fellow scouts and parishioners helped over two weekends to complete the project.

Ryan has earned numerous Cub and Boy Scouts awards, has served in many leadership roles and in 2005 became a member of the Scouts' Brotherhood of the Order of the Arrow.

Scouts receive Ad Altare Dei awards

Courtesy Photo

Chris Bernash (right), Boy Scout liaison at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe, is pictured with four Boy Scouts after they received their Ad Altare Dei awards at Our Lady of Lourdes Church June 17. Available to Catholic Boy Scouts, the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is organized in chapters based on the seven sacraments. The scouts completed 17 classes and performed community service projects and a fundraiser to purchase a U.S. flag and papal flag, along with flag poles and stands, which they presented to Augustinian Father James Cassidy, pastor, in gratitude for use of the parish facilities for meetings.

Pictured are (back row, from left) Michael Ryan of Troop 46 in Monroe, Justin Konopka of Troop 97 in Monroe; (front row, from left) Chris Sullivan and Trevor Sullivan of Troop 652 in Pageland, S.C., and Bernash.

Catholic Social Services – Western Regional Office Director

CSS is seeking energetic individual to provide strong administrative and cooperative, team-building leadership for a regional office in Asheville. Position requires a graduate degree in social work or a related human services field of study and at least three years of experience in supervision and administration with a social services agency. Demonstrated fundraising skill and Spanish language ability are pluses. Position includes competitive salary and benefits package

Complete job description can be found at www.cssnc.org. Submit resume postmarked by 07/31/07 to: Gerard A. Carter, CSS, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Pope prays Scouting would go on to promote spiritual, civil formation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Greeting an international group of Scouts on the 100th anniversary of Scouting, Pope Benedict XVI prayed that the movement would continue to promote "human, spiritual and civil formation in every country of the world."

The pope congratulated the young men and women at the end of his weekly general audience Aug. 1, just a few hours after they joined Scouts from around the world in renewing their promises to serve God and others with generosity.

Wading into the crowd to shake hands with and bless his visitors, Pope Benedict received a Scout's scarf, which he tried to slip over his head. An aide took it from him, though, before he was able to readjust the knot.

Cub Scouts offer 'Freedom from Hunger'

Courtesy Photo by Fred List

Members of Cub Scouts Pack 263 sit with items they collected during their second annual "Freedom from Hunger" food drive during the July 4 holiday. The boys collected around 625 food items and $580, which was donated to the food pantry at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin. The pack is chartered by Knights of Columbus Council 8363. Pictured are (from left) Sasha List, Paul List, Logan Mossbarger, Ryan Karcher, Egor Walker, Buddy Murphy and Jacob Walker.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

The Diocese of Charlotte is seeking a full time Senior Accountant to work with Catholic Social Services. Responsibilities include overseeing monthly financial statement preparation, general ledger, accounts payable, payroll and budgeting. This position also ensures compliance with the requirements and terms of grants and contracts, and coordinates and assists in the annual external audit.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in Accounting, a minimum of four years' related experience and excellent computer skills. Experience with accounting for federal grants would be a plus. EOE. Resume and salary history should be **emailed by Aug. 20, 2007** to sgnell@charlottediocese.org or mailed to **Controller, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 20203.**

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS: Requirements: High school diploma/GED; Clean criminal record; Noteworthy employment history. Excellent pay and benefit package. Apply to: The Wackenhut Corporation, 1 Centerview Drive, Suite 105, Greensboro, NC 27407, 1701 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 or in Asheville area at 9-H Walden Drive, Arden, NC 28704. www.wackenhut.com EOE M/F/D/V Security Guard & Patrol 753-GP

SERVICES

COUNSELING: Individuals, couples, family, depression, anxiety, relationships, spiritual issues. Lucille Moses, Licensed Professional Counselor. Charlotte. 704-366-6507

FOR RENT

CONDO: Oceanfront – Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Two day minimum; weekly for under $1,000. Additional units available. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

HOUSE: 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. 1500 square feet. Large fenced-in backyard. Central air. 1-car garage. Charlotte. $975/month. 704-443-5362.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

N.C. House OKs rules for future stem-cell research

BILL, *from page 1*

Care July 30.

No action was taken on HB 1837 by the Senate prior to the adjournment of the 2007 General Assembly Aug. 2.

HB 1837 will be eligible for consideration by the Senate in next year's short session of the General Assembly, which convenes May 13, 2008.

Prior to its passage by the House, a $10 million appropriation was removed from the bill that would have helped the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund distribute grants to nonprofit groups conducting stem-cell research in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

"While funding for the destruction of human embryos for medical research was removed from the bill, the idea still lingers that legislation can somehow establish ethical guidelines," said Bishop Jugis in an Aug. 1 statement.

"Ethical guidelines can never be established to kill innocent life. The bill makes no sense as the human embryo is alive," he said.

"I am deeply saddened that we were unsuccessful in convincing our legislators that one can never develop ethical guidelines for the destruction of unborn human life," the bishop said.

Earlier this year, Bishop Jugis and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh had called on all Catholics in North Carolina to learn the Catholic Church's teachings on stem-cell research and to help oppose any N.C. legislation for embryonic stem-cell research using taxpayer dollars.

In a June 23 letter to parishioners, Bishop Jugis had asked that they contact legislators to voice their opposition to House Bill 1837.

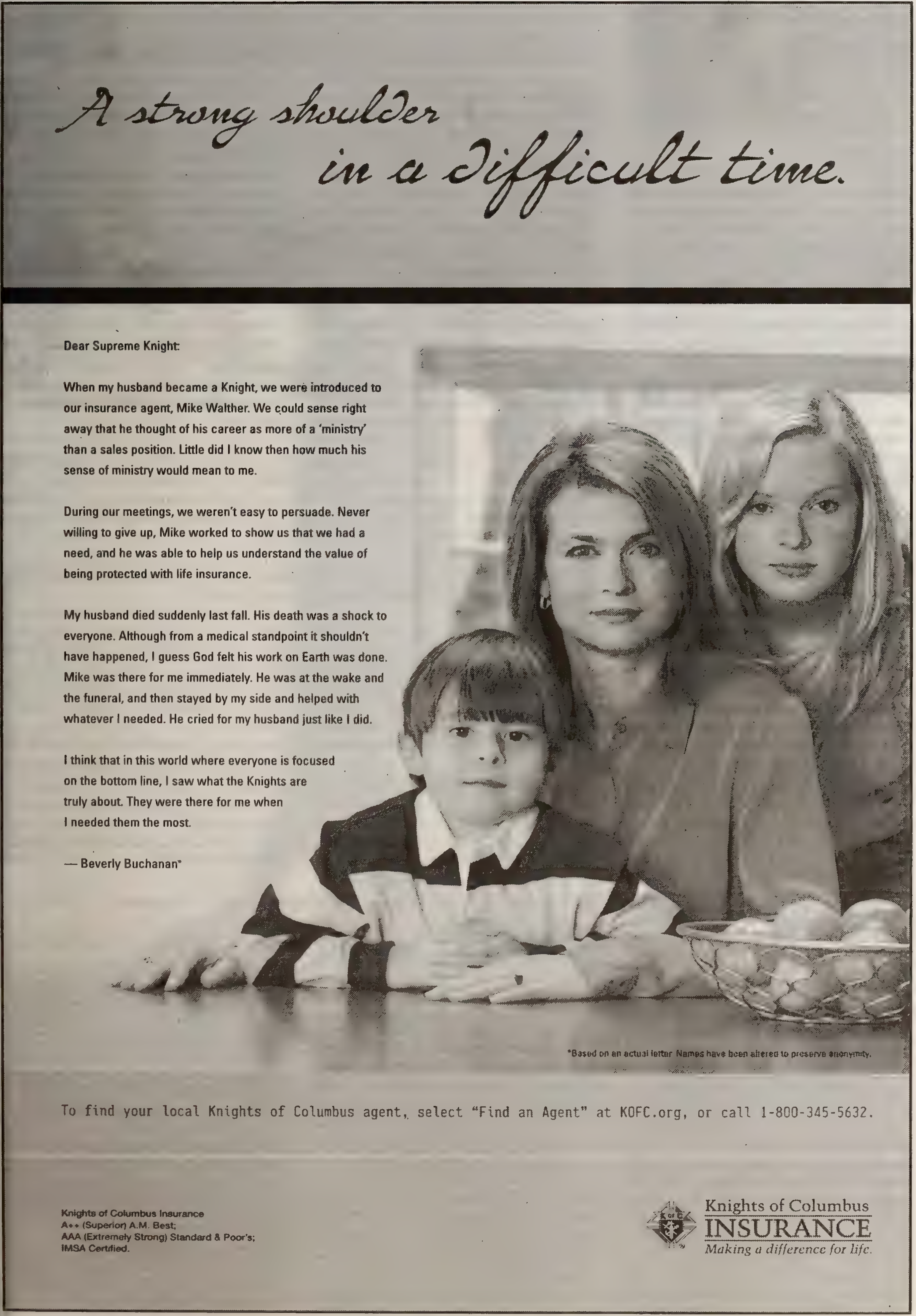
"I would like to thank all who contacted their legislators during the legislative session. These efforts seemed to have helped in changing the bill's earlier version, which would have … made public funds immediately available for this assault on innocent human life," said the bishop.

Bishop Jugis said the closeness of the House vote "indicates that we have been successful in raising awareness of the immoral and unethical aspects of embryonic stem-cell research."

"While our opposition to the use of embryos in stem-cell research remains, we will continue to do what we can to promote respect for all human life and research that doesn't destroy one life to preserve another," he said.

"I pray that our efforts to generate grassroots support for human life will only become stronger and more successful over time," said Bishop Jugis.

> "Ethical guidelines can never be established to kill innocent life. The bill makes no sense as the human embryo is alive."
>
> — Bishop Peter J. Jugis



Dear Supreme Knight:

When my husband became a Knight, we were introduced to our insurance agent, Mike Walther. We could sense right away that he thought of his career as more of a 'ministry' than a sales position. Little did I know then how much his sense of ministry would mean to me.

During our meetings, we weren't easy to persuade. Never willing to give up, Mike worked to show us that we had a need, and he was able to help us understand the value of being protected with life insurance.

My husband died suddenly last fall. His death was a shock to everyone. Although from a medical standpoint it shouldn't have happened, I guess God felt his work on Earth was done. Mike was there for me immediately. He was at the wake and the funeral, and then stayed by my side and helped with whatever I needed. He cried for my husband just like I did.

I think that in this world where everyone is focused on the bottom line, I saw what the Knights are truly about. They were there for me when I needed them the most.

— Beverly Buchanan*

*Based on an actual letter. Names have been altered to preserve anonymity.

To find your local Knights of Columbus agent, select "Find an Agent" at KOFC.org, or call 1-800-345-5632.

Knights of Columbus Insurance
A++ (Superior) A.M. Best;
AAA (Extremely Strong) Standard & Poor's;
IMSA Certified.

Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
Making a difference for life.

CFCC

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The real magic of Harry Potter

Inspiring stories emphasize loyalty, integrity, righteousness

For the Journey

EFFIE
CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

I love Harry Potter, but at midnight on the night the last installment, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," came out, I was tucked into bed. Not so my 16-year-old daughter, who was standing in line with friends at the local bookstore.

She was too old to wear a wizard's cape or the round glasses or play any of the games — just the book, please, and because of intense competition, at the going rate of 40 percent off.

At 3:30 a.m., I woke and went to her room to see how she was doing on her resolve to stay up all night and read. There she was, snuggled amid the blankets, nose buried in Chapter 8.

"How is it?" I asked.

"It's great," she said, emphasizing the last word contentedly.

Everybody wanted to read it quickly because nobody wanted the plot ruined for them — which, incidentally, I would never do in this column even though I, too, finished the book.

When my son was in fourth grade in our little parish school, he came home one day bursting to tell me about this wonderful book the librarian had previewed for them.

Since Mike wasn't exactly a book worm, I was surprised to see how thrilled he was to be in second place on the list to check it out. Everyone, he said, was vying to read it.

The book? "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

I had never heard of it — no one had. But I imagine scenes like that playing out in homes and libraries simultaneously all over a world not yet aware that a phenomenon was at that moment bursting upon it.

"Mom, there's this great new book," sang millions of little voices spontaneously.

Now, if that's not magic, what is?

At first, I eschewed Harry Potter for myself. I read a few pages and closed the book.

But finally, one lazy summer night I plunged into the first book, and scarcely was it finished when I was tearing through closets looking for the next one. I was hooked.

On the night of the last Harry Potter release, that once-upon-a-time fourth grader was now a 19-year-old, home from college for a summer of working and doing whatever 19-year-olds do on weekends.

Curling up in bed with a good book is rarely on that weekend to-do list, and so, although he plans to read "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," he's taking his time.

As each new book came out, there was always someone on the fringe who wanted to convince you Harry encompasses some diabolical plot. He's a wizard, isn't he? Doesn't this embrace the occult? Where's God in these books?

But just recently, I read a Catholic writer who attempted to describe Harry as a Christ metaphor, suffering for the good of all.

Whatever the deeper meaning J. K. Rowling had in mind, it's obvious that the Harry Potter books present a gargantuan struggle between good and evil, between remaining true to oneself and one's friends, and a corresponding descent to brutality and deathly violence.

Each book took us a little deeper into that conflict, with Harry showing a whole generation what loyalty and integrity mean, and what their cost may be.

One needn't find an imprimatur in a work of literature to find God there and a truth that might reveal something of God's work in our world. Maybe all those millions of singing kids figured that out before we did.

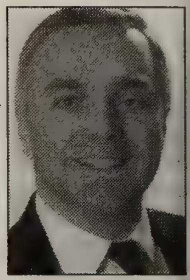
Life will never be the same for Harry, who is not so much being redeemed at that moment but rather called, presented with his vocation.

Protecting God's creation

Change in mentality, lifestyle needed to save planet

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST



There's nothing like a trip to the Rocky Mountains to restore one's sense of the beauty and magnificence of God's creation.

My wife, Denise, and I spent one glorious week in the spectacular Colorado Rockies to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.

Just west of Denver, these sky-high cathedrals of nature give praise to the Almighty. Their steeplelike peaks seem to touch the very heavens. After experiencing these awe-inspiring mountains, how can anyone deny the existence of God?

Without question, one of the most beautiful spots on earth is Rocky Mountain National Park. Winding and climbing through the park is Trail Ridge Road — the highest major road in North America.

Driving this route was a thrill. Dense mountain forests, hairpin curves and alpine tundra greeted us. At more than 12,000 feet in elevation, there is less oxygen in the air due to a steep drop in the barometric pressure. This causes breathing to become more difficult, but makes the scenery literally breathtaking.

At the crest of Trail Ridge Road, we sat in awe on a stone wall overlooking a particularly spectacular mountain dotted with snowfields and alpine lakes.

The Rockies comprise some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, but natural beauty is present virtually everywhere. But without care, we quickly take the gift of God's creation for granted.

Obliviousness to our surroundings not only reduces our ability to appreciate the wonder of creation, it can cause us to overlook threats to its very existence.

Planet Earth — our home — is in trouble. Dangerous man-made chemicals poured into our waterways, dumped onto our land and spewed into our air over decades have hurt humans, animals and plant life.

Even worse, our carbon emissions are now increasing the earth's temperature. Global warming is no longer a seriously debatable issue. It is real and threatens to devastate many of our natural treasures.

Instead of using the earth responsibly, we have abused it. Our carelessness is bringing illness to our planet and thus to ourselves. Our selfishness may indeed bring catastrophe, if not to ourselves, to our children and grandchildren.

According to the Vatican's Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church:

"It is important that the international community draw up uniform rules that will allow states to exercise more effective control over the various activities that have negative effects on the environment and to protect ecosystems by preventing the risk of accidents."

But laws and international agreements to save the environment — important as they are — are simply not enough.

The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church further teaches that they "must be accompanied by a growing sense of responsibility as well as an effective change of mentality and lifestyle."

This means we need to start during some things differently. Driving less, recycling, planting trees, reducing water consumption, cutting back on lawn fertilizing, buying local produce, using energy-saving bulbs, turning the winter thermostat back a bit and summer air conditioning up a little are some of the ways each of us can help protect our global home.

A healthy earth is not guaranteed. The survival of our planet depends on our willingness to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation.

Letters to the Editor

Collection a way to show appreciation

I noticed in my church bulletin that the annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection will be taken in all parishes Sept. 8-9.

Our diocese has been truly blessed with the recent ordinations of five new priests, not to mention the sacrificial contributions of our veteran and retired priests. The retirement and benefits collection gives us, the faithful, an opportunity to actively show our Christian love and charity for our current and retired priests.

It is my hope that we all make a prayerful commitment of our financial resources to support this worthwhile effort. It is a small way in which we can show our gratitude and appreciation for the priests whose daily sacrifices are made for our benefit.

— William J. Barker
Charlotte

Catholic connections close to home

Regarding the connection between President and Lady Bird Johnson and Catholics ("Catholic Connection," July 27), there's another connection — one close to home.

Paulist Father Robert Scott of St. Austin Church in Austin, Texas — a friend of the Johnson family — was the first pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro. Father Scott was well loved by his parishioners and well-respected by our non-Catholic friends. The Johnson family was blessed to have him in their lives, too.

— Carolyn C. Kingman
Greensboro

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Our way to the future

Reinforcing youths' revolutionary spirit is crucial

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"He mourns the loss of dialogue and skillfully ponders how we could have gotten to this point: a place in which there is no conversation, least of which is intelligent conversation; a place that has forgotten truth and accepts misinformation; a place in which this country has lost its way."

This commentary on Al Gore's book "Assault on Reason" by columnist Michelle Kraus of huffingtonpost.com contains a bombshell: Have we really lost our way?

As a campus minister, one thing I learned is that young people hunger for ideals, truthfulness and intelligent dialogue. This is not to say all youth are this conscientious, but rather to contend there is a basic pristine honesty in them.

In the movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," a young senator, played by Jimmy Stewart, fights for honesty and justice. It touches us because we love the purity of intention of this young man.

The senior world is quite different from that of a junior senator. It often involves walking a fine line between being honest and capitulating to half-truths. Frequently it consists of fighting the never-ending battle of good versus evil.

I don't believe, as Gore does, that we have lost our way, but rather that we are in the age-old battle of trying to keep alive our youthful ideals. I do believe this battle can only be won by the revolution of our youth.

Young people love stretching the muscles of their minds. As much as they are portrayed as amoral or immoral, more often than not, they also desire excellence in moral conduct. Gore gives us a good starting point for creating a youth revolution by questioning our ability to have intelligent conversation.

Today's youth must do what youth do best, intelligently question the status quo. For example, is the world of idealism they cherish being stolen from them by an adolescent world of entertainment that is an insult to the high standards they desire to live?

Is the abbreviated, instant news they are viewing blunting their youthful, reflective powers?

Studies on youth repeatedly demonstrate they are religious even though they may not always attend church services. In fact, some avoid church because it is anything but filled with inspiring thoughts of God.

Has the time come to revolt against those who are so politically correct that they want to eliminate God from public life? Has the time come to revolt against those who are stunting the beauty of the divine life of God by presenting God as less than God is?

Is there a need to cry for more religious substance, the very basis upon which this country is founded?

We have not lost our way! It is in our midst. All we need do is reinforce the idealism and revolutionary spirit of our youth.

The eye in Christian symbolism

Question Corner

FATHER JAMES DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. I have a holy water font from my mother's belongings, which I know is at least 100 years old. It has the image of an eye on the front of the bowl. What does that mean?

I have seen the same image in Masonic buildings. Surely there isn't any connection, is there? (Missouri)

A. You have also seen "the eye" on our dollar bill, with words from the Roman poet Virgil, "He has favored our undertakings"; and "A New Order of the Ages." The image, with the same words, is on the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States.

From ancient times, sight has been considered the most important of the senses and is connected with light — physical and intellectual, as well as spiritual. As such, it is featured in the iconography of many spiritual traditions.

The eye appears frequently in Christian symbolism, often on the wings of what are, in Christian lore, the supreme choir of angels — the cherubim and seraphim — to indicate their angelic wisdom.

More often the eye appears alone, perhaps surrounded by sunbeams, or inside a triangle, as a sign of the Blessed Trinity and of God's presence and providential care wherever we are. This would explain its meaning on your holy water font.

In Freemasonry, the sense is somewhat the same. The sign appears over the master's chair in Masonic lodges to remind members that "The Great Master Builder of All the Worlds" knows all hidden knowledge and secrets.

It was President Franklin Roosevelt, one of several presidents who were Masons, who ordered the eye icon to be included on the dollar bill in 1938.

Receiving holy Communion

Q. I always thought that Communion in the hand began after the second Vatican Council. Our pastor, however, said recently that the custom started centuries ago. Is that correct? (Ohio)

A. Receiving holy Communion in our hand goes back to earliest Christian centuries. It was for centuries the only way Christians received the Eucharist.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem (died 386 A.D.), for example, many of whose catechism instructions we still have, instructs newly baptized Christians to stretch out both hands, to make "the left hand a throne for the right hand, which receives the King."

Only after about a thousand years, in fact, during the late middle ages, generally in the 10th and 11th centuries, was the change instituted to receive on the tongue. By this time, the practice of receiving Communion infrequently, perhaps once a year or less, had become well accepted.

Communion by anyone but the priest was so rare that some missals of the period don't even mention Communion for lay people.

In response to certain related heresies of the time, the church gradually introduced several liturgical changes to emphasize the presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Receiving Communion only on the tongue was one of them. (The elevation of the consecrated bread and wine after the consecration was another.)

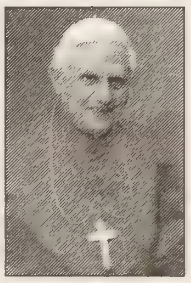
Our assumption that Communion in the hand is something new is an interesting illustration that we humans tend to think that what we have experienced in our lifetime is the way things "always" were. A lot of significant history happened before we came along.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about receiving the hly Eucharist is available by sending a self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Knowing God created them makes humans great, pope says

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Knowing they have been created by God and striving to live united with him make humans great, said Pope Benedict XVI.

Returning briefly to the Vatican Aug. 8 for his weekly general audience, the pope dedicated his talk to the life and writings of St. Gregory Nazianzen, the fourth-century doctor of the church.

Pope Benedict said that while people should learn from St. Gregory's theological work, "let us also be moved by the love conveyed in his poetry."

For St. Gregory, the pope said, "theology was not a purely human reflection and even less only the fruit of complicated speculation, but derived from a life of prayer and holiness, from an assiduous dialogue with God."

Pope Benedict said St. Gregory wrote constantly of the primacy of God, a truth that helps human beings recognize their place and purpose in the world.

"Without God, man loses his greatness," he said. "Without God there is no true humanism. So, let us listen to his voice and try to know the face of God."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today I want to reflect with you on St. Gregory of Nazianzen, a great theologian, preacher and poet from fourth-century Cappadocia.

A friend and admirer of St. Basil, Gregory was inspired to seek baptism and to enter monastic life, devoting himself to prayer, solitude and meditation. He loved to leave behind the things of this world and enter into intimate communion with God, so that the depths of his soul became like a mirror reflecting the divine light.

Reluctantly, but in a spirit of obedience, he accepted priestly ordination. He was sent to Constantinople, where he preached his five Orations: beautifully reasoned presentations of the church's teaching.

Known as "the Theologian," he stressed that theology is more than merely human reflection: it springs from a life of prayer and holiness, from wonder at the marvels of God's revelation.

Gregory was elected bishop of Constantinople and presided over the council that took place in 381, but he encountered so much hostility that he withdrew to lead a life of solitude.

His spiritual autobiography from this final period includes some of his most beautiful poetry. As we admire the wisdom with which he defended the church's doctrine, let us be moved by the love that is conveyed in his poetry.

2007

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS K-12

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SATURDAY — SEPTEMBER 22
CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

Dear First Communicants,

I would like you to help me honor Jesus in a very special way at our diocesan Eucharistic Congress on Saturday, September 22, 2007 in Charlotte. I am inviting all of our First Holy Communicants to walk with me and our Blessed Lord from St. Peter's Church to the Charlotte Convention Center. I ask you to wear the same clothes you wore for your First Holy Communion.

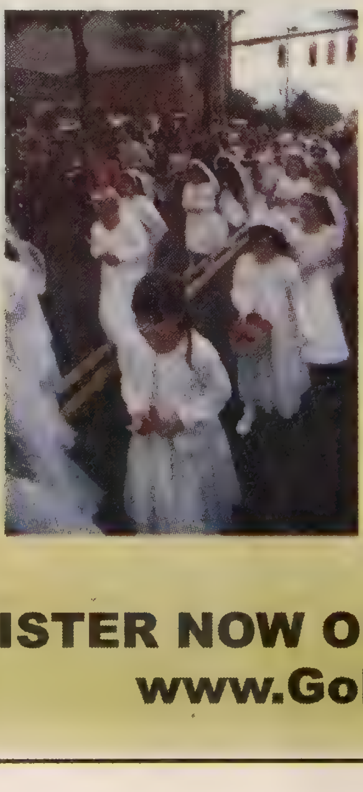
I will be carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance, and you will be in the Procession in front of me dropping rose petals to honor our Lord. Your parents will walk along the sides of the streets where they can watch you. When we reach the Convention Center your parents will take you to your seats as all the banners of our parishes are brought in for the celebration. We will then have a Holy Hour of prayers with Jesus at the Convention Center.

After the Holy Hour, a full day of programs, music and the Celebration of the Holy Mass is planned. Please visit the Eucharistic Congress website at www.GoEucharist.com for more information.

In Christ,

+ Peter J. Jugis

The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte



New this year: Children cannot be admitted to any children's track programs at the Convention Center without online pre-registration.

NO REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CONGRESS.

Children's Tracks

Grades K-2

"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"

- Age-appropriate instruction and activities
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

Grades 2-5

"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"

- Age-appropriate instruction and activities
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

Middle School Track

Grades 6-8

"To Know Jesus Christ in Middle School"

- Age-appropriate instruction and activities
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

High School Track

"To Know Jesus Christ in High School"

- Fr. Leo Patalinghug, "In the beginning – a vocation story"
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

Schedule

8am-10am: Check-in — Children may NOT be dropped off at this time
9am–11am: Eucharistic Procession and Holy Hour – (Children must remain with parent/guardian)
11am: Drop-off children
11:30am-3:30pm: Track sessions
3:30pm: Track sessions end – All children and teens picked up

SPACE IS LIMITED so register NOW!

PRE-REGISTER NOW ONLINE ONLY for all tracks at www.GoEucharist.com.

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives

Father Catoir examines how to find one's purpose: Magliano urges being just to the world's poor

| PAGES 14-15

AUGUST 24, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 37

With gratitude

Upcoming collection to benefit priests' retirement

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When Msgr. Joseph Showfety was ordained in 1955, his meager salary barely covered his expenses, which included a car payment. Like many of his fellow priests, he often didn't have extra income to save for retirement.

Fortunately for priests of the Diocese of Charlotte, in 1998 then-Bishop William G. Curlin re-established an assessed annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection to raise funds to provide income for retired priests.

So, when the five priests ordained in June 2007 retire decades from now, they will

See COLLECTION, page 7

All for the glory of God

Catholic family's stewardship recognized by Secular Franciscans

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

RIDGECREST — "I think I see more peace in him (since he became a Secular Franciscan)," Laureen Hair said of her husband, Randy. "I think he's found his niche."

That the whole Hair family is in that niche led to their selection as Family of the

See SFO, page 5

So long summer, hello school

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Jessica Walton readers to her kindergarten class at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte on the first day of school Aug. 22. Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools started classes Aug. 22. Other diocesan Catholic schools also began classes this month.

Students return to Catholic schools in Diocese of Charlotte

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — This month, thousands of students began classes at the 18 diocesan Catholic schools.

Because the Diocese of Charlotte is committed to consistent improvement of the quality of education students receive in their schools, new academic programs are in place at several schools, and a variety of upgrades and renovations were completed at schools over the summer months.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

SEE MORE PHOTOS
For more back-to-school photos, go online at www.charlottediocese.org.

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Peruvians remove debris from a destroyed church in Pisco, Peru, Aug. 16, after an earthquake the previous evening. The quake killed hundreds of people, mainly south of Lima, the Peruvian capital.

Anxious for aid

Working through parishes, church assists Peruvian quake victims

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES TO HELP PROVIDE SUPPLIES

BY BARBARA J. FRASER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

LIMA, Peru — When it comes to dealing with disasters like the powerful earthquake that struck Peru's southern coast Aug. 15, the Catholic Church has an advantage — the pastors know the people.

In responding to an emergency, "you build on your strengths," said Aaron Skrocki, South American emergency program manager for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas humanitarian and development agency.

"Having a local (parish) community in place that knows the people better than any local

See PERU, page 9

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-6 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Around the Diocese

Catholics explore stewardship, strengthening families

| PAGES 4-5

Culture Watch

Digital world dangers; Catholic TV show ends run

| PAGES 10-11

Summer fun, faith

Vacation Bible school, camp, Bible series

| PAGES 12-13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

CATHOLIC UMPIRE WITH DISTINCTION

CNS photo by Owen Sweeney III, Catholic Review

Catholic umpire attendant Ernie Tyler ended his 3,769-game streak with the Baltimore Orioles to attend the induction of Cal Ripken Jr. into the National Baseball Hall of Fame July 29. Tyler is pictured in Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore.

Orioles' staffer ends 47-year home-game streak for Ripken induction

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Witnessing the induction of former Baltimore Oriole Cal Ripken Jr. into the Baseball Hall of Fame July 29 was a heady experience for Ernie Tyler, a parishioner at St. Ignatius Church in the Baltimore suburb of Hickory.

While attending the festivities in Cooperstown, N.Y., caused the 83-year-old to end a baseball era of his own — Tyler missed his first home game as an umpire's attendant for the Baltimore Orioles since 1960 — he said he could think of no better reason to end his 3,769-game streak.

"It's actually a good feeling that my streak is over," said the father of 11, whose number of in-season home games was posted during the game at Oriole Park July 27, before he left for Cooperstown. "It takes the pressure off."

The obvious comparisons between Tyler and the baseball great have been made by co-workers and former Oriole baseball players, since Ripken still holds the record of 2,632 consecutive baseball games played in the major leagues.

"Ernie has known Cal since he was a boy," said Monica Pence, director of public affairs for the Orioles. "I think it was appropriate that he would break his streak for Cal."

Tyler began his association with the Orioles in 1954 as a part-time usher at Memorial Stadium during the team's first season in Baltimore.

Though he maintained a day job, the man who served as an altar boy as a youngster at Ss. Philip & James Church in Baltimore became a full-time usher in 1958 before moving into his current position in 1960, assisting the umpires before, during and after games.

Tyler continued working for the Orioles and didn't miss a home game until the weekend of July 28 to see his former colleague with the same work ethic presented with one of baseball's supreme honors.

In 2004 Tyler was named winner of the Herb Armstrong Award, presented by the Oriole Advocates' Hall of Fame Committee to nonuniformed personnel who have distinguished themselves in service to the team.

With no plans to retire from his baseball gig any time soon, he returned to Oriole Park Aug. 1 to help get things ready for the impending home games and doesn't foresee another reason to take time off.

Continuing a lifelong passion for sports, Tyler doesn't view his duties at the ballpark as work. As a home away from home, nine Tylers — including his wife, Juliane, and seven of their children — have worked for the club at one time or another, and sons Jim and Fred currently serve as the home and visiting clubhouse managers, respectively.

"Everything in baseball is a fun job," the spry 83-year-old said with a hearty laugh. "It has to be something special for me to want to miss a game."

No liturgical transfer for St. Patrick's Day 2008 foreseen in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In contrast to the decision of the Irish bishops' conference to request Vatican permission to move the liturgical celebration of St. Patrick's Day in 2008 to avoid a conflict with Holy Week, the feast day "will not be commemorated liturgically" in most U.S. dioceses next year, according to the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy.

Because March 17 falls on the Monday of Holy Week next year, the Irish bishops' conference requested and received permission from the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments to move the solemnity of St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint, to the nearest Saturday, March 15.

But an earlier decision by the Vatican congregation to transfer the feast of St. Joseph in 2008 from March 19, the Wednesday of Holy Week, to March 15 "impedes the transfer of the solemnity of St. Patrick to March 15" in the United States, said an article in the liturgy secretariat's newsletter for April.

CNS photo by Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier

The feast day may be moved to Friday, March 14, 2008, in dioceses "where St. Patrick is the principal patron of a particular church" and where "it is customarily commemorated as a solemnity," the newsletter said.

The U.S. bishops have not requested such a transfer as a conference, however.

"In the vast majority of the dioceses of the United States of America, where the feast of St. Patrick is commemorated as a nonobligatory memorial, the feast will not be commemorated liturgically in the year 2008," the newsletter said.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ARDEN — The *St. Martin de Porres Dominican Laity Chapter* meets the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Arden/Asheville area. Inquirers are welcome. For more information, contact Joe Kraft at (828) 648-1036 or jebkraft@juno.com.

HENDERSONVILLE — The *St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* meets the fourth Sunday of each month 1-3 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Joanita Nellenbach, SFO, (828) 627-9209 or jnell@dnet.net.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will host a three-part adult educational series entitled *"Worshipping with the Church"* Sept. 5, 12 and 19. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Allen Center cafeteria and will focus on deepening and enriching our experience of Catholic worship. For details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641, ext 221.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Sept. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213 or e-mail kschwabent@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with *"Lunchtime Spirituality"* at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Topics will be: Sept. 20: St. Bernard of Clairvaux's "On Conversion"; Oct. 18: The Jesus Prayer; Nov. 15: Caryll Houselander's "Advent"; and Dec. 13: Hans Urs von Balthasar's "Unless You Become Like This Child." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — Join thousands across the nation for the 2007 *Life Chain*. Life Chains are a very important event to save lives of precious unborn children. Stand for one hour in peaceful prayer as a witness to the sanctity of each human life. A Life Chain will form Oct. 7, 2-3 p.m., on the corner of Kings St. and Morehead St. Parking is available at The Map Shop at 1500 East Morehead St. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-annual Rosary Rally* will be held Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old tradition will include the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

HUNTERSVILLE — A *Mass to Honor Deceased Loved Ones* is celebrated the last Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. For more information, call Pam Schneider at (704) 875-0201.

CHARLOTTE — The *St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order* gathers the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. Those interested in learning more about the SFO and the Franciscan way of life are invited to attend. For more information, call Tom O'Loughlin at (704) 947-7235.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — All practicing Catholic women

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

AUGUST 24, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 37

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Spokesman: Charges that Vatican manipulates Wikipedia absurd

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Accusing the Vatican of manipulating entries on Wikipedia, a Web site billed as an encyclopedia that anyone can contribute to or edit, "lacks any seriousness and any logic," the Vatican spokesman said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the spokesman who also serves as director of Vatican Radio, said Aug. 17 that even if another Web site accurately identified a Vatican Radio computer as the source of a change to the entry on Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, the person using the computer was not acting on behalf of the radio agency, let alone the Vatican.

WikiScanner, a new Web site that tries to identify the owners of computers used to make changes in Wikipedia articles, reported in mid-August that Vatican-owned computers were used to make at least 86 edits in Wikipedia articles since 2003.

Most were spelling changes, clarifications or updated information.

However, the change that drew attention and controversy regarded the entry on Adams, leader of the predominantly Catholic Sinn Fein party in Northern Ireland. In October 2006, the computer user allegedly deleted references and newspaper links to stories about accusations that Adams' fingerprints were found on a car used in a 1971 murder.

Father Lombardi said it was "absurd" to think someone at the Vatican officially was directed to make the change in the Wikipedia article.

According to Wikipedia itself, the edit that supposedly was made by the Vatican Radio computer Oct. 17, 2006, was reversed three minutes later by another Wikipedia reader.

of Irish birth or descent, or who are the wife of a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians are invited to participate in *the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians*, a social, cultural and charitable group for an ongoing series of fun and informative activities. LAOH will meet Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Please join us for refreshments and to learn more about our group. Any questions can be directed to Mary Driscoll at (336) 785-0693.

GREENSBORO — *Catholic Daughters of the Americas*, Court Greensboro 1200 will meet Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady's Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. Catholic Daughters strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all. For more information, call Lawrene Kirwan at (336) 292-2776.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Park and Campgrounds Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass at 12 p.m. Please bring covered dish and a 2-liter drink. Other events include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks and hiking/nature trails for children. For more information and directions, call Kathy Hack at (704) 548-1834.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will celebrate 50 years as a Jesuit with a *Mass of Thanksgiving*, Sept. 9 at 12 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — There will be a *Day of Prayer based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius* at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, Sept. 8. For more information, call David and Cathie Tilly at (828) 479-9278

FRANKLIN — *The Respect for Life group* meets the first Wednesday of every month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the Family Life Center at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 299 Maple St. All those interested in promoting the sanctity of human life are invited to attend. For more information, contact Julie Tastinger at (828) 349-9813 or jatastinger@aol.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will meet Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. The Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP is safe and medically proven 99.9% effective. Couples with marginal fertility will also benefit from working with their natural mutual fertility instead of against it. Call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Compassionate Care-Givers* meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This group provides affirmation, support and prayer for people who have cared for and are caring for loved ones living with Alzheimer's and any other chronic illnesses. For more information, call Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at (336) 725-9200.

WINSTON-SALEM — The *Healing Companions* is a grief support group for the bereaved that meets the first and third Thursdays of the month in conference room B at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. For further details, call Joanne Parcel at (336) 924-9478.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Aug. 28 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Aug. 30 — 10 a.m.
Foundation Board meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Aug. 31 — 10 a.m.
Home School Association Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Sept. 1 — 11 a.m.
Consecration of Sacred Heart Cemetery
Jake Alexander Blvd., Salisbury

Vatican: Pope's meeting with priest does not affect Jewish relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's brief encounter with a Polish priest accused of anti-Semitism does not indicate any change in the Vatican's position concerning Catholic-Jewish relations, the Vatican said in a written statement.

Redemptorist Father Tadeusz Rydzyk, who heads Poland's largest Catholic broadcast agency and has been accused of making anti-Semitic remarks, met with the pope Aug. 5 at the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, after the pope's noontime Sunday Angelus prayer, a Vatican source told Catholic News Service Aug. 8.

The Vatican statement, released Aug. 9, said the fact that the pope met briefly with Father Rydzyk "does not indicate any change in the Holy See's well-known position regarding relations between Catholics and Jews."

The statement was issued after Jewish groups expressed concern over the meeting after photographs of the pope with Father Rydzyk and two other priests surfaced in the Polish media Aug. 7.

The Vatican statement, written in Italian, described the Aug. 5 encounter as a "baciamano" or a brief handshake rather than a private audience.

Both Father Rydzyk and the radio station he heads, Radio Maryja, have been criticized for inflammatory broadcasts. Complaints have been levied against Radio Maryja, which ranks fifth in Poland's national ratings, for producing nationalist, anti-Semitic broadcasts.

Father Rydzyk faced possible jail time recently after describing Polish President Lech Kaczynski as "a crook subservient to the Jewish lobby."

The priest denied making the remarks, published in July, and insisted he was the victim of "another provocation."

Some church leaders in Poland have tried to rein in the radio. In April, in response to the complaints of anti-Semitism, the Vatican's representative in Poland urged the nation's bishops to reassert control "in a united action."

Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw also complained the station had promoted "only a specific kind of godliness" and "selectively applied church teaching."

"If Radio Maryja wants to be Catholic, it should help unify the church, whereas its activities are fomenting divisions," the cardinal said in a December 2005 interview with the Polish Catholic news agency KAI.

Hanging on to hope

nk God
for
our

CNS PHOTO BY KENNY CROOKSTON, REUTERS

A tattered sign hangs on a fence outside Canyon View Junior High where family members wait to hear the status of rescue efforts at the Crandall Canyon Mine to save six trapped coal miners in Huntington, Utah, Aug. 13. Family and friends continue to pray for the men trapped since Aug. 6 when the mine collapsed.

Father Donald E. Hope, pastor of San Rafael Mission near the mine, has been meeting with miners' families every day since the collapse. He said the families were "coping as well as they can amid the slow progress of rescue operations and their attempts to keep their hopes up that the miners are still alive."

Mine and rescue officials decided Aug. 16 to suspend rescue efforts. The decision came shortly after another cave-in took the life of three rescue workers and injured six others. They had been trying to dig through rubble to try to reach the trapped miners. On Aug. 17 the head of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration said underground rescue efforts will be suspended indefinitely.

Bishop Baker to head Birmingham Diocese

WASHINGTON — Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, S.C., as bishop of Birmingham, Ala. He succeeds Bishop David E. Foley, who retired in 2005.

The appointment was announced in Washington Aug. 14 by Msgr. Martin Krebs, charge d'affaires of the Vatican nunciature. The same day, Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte issued a statement regarding Bishop Baker's appointment.

"I am offering prayers to the Lord for God's blessings upon Bishop Baker as he begins his ministry as Bishop of Birmingham," said Bishop Jugis.

"Bishop Baker is known for his affirmation and encouragement of his collaborators in sacred ministry. This is a true reflection of his episcopal motto 'Rejoicing in Hope,'" said Bishop Jugis.

"I am confident that he will continue to serve Christ and his church with the same zeal and love which marked his faithful service as Bishop of Charleston," said Bishop Jugis.

Bishop Baker, 63, has headed the Charleston Diocese since 1999. He will be installed in Birmingham Oct. 2.

Renewing faith in families

Couples for Christ strengthens faith lives

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Catholics dedicated to renewing and strengthening Christian family life are growing in North Carolina.

About 900 Catholics, mostly Filipino-Americans, gathered at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte Aug. 10-11 for the East Coast Leaders' Conference for lectures, inspirational talks, forums, music and worship.

"North Carolina is fertile soil for the Lord," said Glen Santayana, Couples for Christ regional head for the Southeast United States.

Couples for Christ found its start in 1981 in Manila, Philippines, where a local Christian community tried out a new approach in evangelizing married couples for renewing and strengthening Christian family life.

The early ministry consisted of small groups of prospective couples meeting in private homes. There they were invited to a renewal of the Holy Spirit's power through a series of weekly informal discussions of the Gospel in a social setting.

Four years later, Couples for Christ expanded beyond its Filipino borders to India, then to China. In 1987, the first Couples for Christ group began in the United States. Today, Couples for Christ ministries exist in 160 countries.

Although Couples for Christ's membership remains primarily Filipino and Catholic, Santayana said that Christians of all denominations and ethnic backgrounds are welcome.

Couples for Christ is not solely a ministry for married couples — ministries for children, young adults, single women and widowed people are also offered.

Couples for Christ has only been in North Carolina for two-and-a-half years, but there are already 32 couples, four handmaids (single women) and two servants (single men) meeting in Charlotte.

Santayana said the mission of Couples for Christ is "renewing the face of the earth" by bringing God to families, and families to God.

New members are assigned to a household group, usually consisting of six other couples, which meets weekly for faith sharing, moral support and Scripture study.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

PJ Solon of Hillsborough, N.C., dances with a young boy during a break in the East Coast Leaders' Conference for Couples for Christ at the Westin Hotel in Charlotte Aug. 10. PJ attended the conference with his parents and sister, AJ.

The conference in Charlotte included Masses celebrated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis; Msgr. John McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte; and Father James Hawker, vicar of education in the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Aida Solon of Hillsborough called Couples for Christ a "womb-to-tomb" ministry.

"This conference provides 'spiritual reinforcement,'" Solon said. "It's a renewal for us, to get together with our brothers and sisters from other places."

Solon's 17-year-old daughter, AJ, agreed.

"It's exciting to see so many people gathered together to worship God," she said. "We're like one big family, because we have so much in common."

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on Couples for Christ, visit www.couplesforchrist.us or call Glen Santayana at (954) 345-5428 or e-mail santayanadesign@msn.com.

'Called and Gifted'

Parish workshop explores God's gifts to laity, stewardship opportunities

CHARLOTTE — No matter who you are, you have a role to play in building up God's kingdom on earth.

That was the message discerned by nearly 100 people, including clergy and seminarians, who attended "Celebrating the Role of the Laity: Called and Gifted" at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte July 28.

The workshop, organized by parishioners Bob and Rachinda Faille, was designed to help Catholics in the parish discern their gifts of service and understand the laity's important and unique roles in the mission of the Catholic Church.

The event began with Mass and included lectures, activities and prayer. Deacon John Kopfle, permanent deacon at St. Vincent de Paul Church, gave a presentation on the history of the laity in the church. Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, helped participants complete a "Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory," which helped them identify their top five or six spiritual gifts and how those could be expressed through parish ministry.

"Each of us has a unique call or mission in both communicating our faith to the world and applying our faith in the world as lay apostles," said Gaddy in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

"When we are called, the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts, or charisms, needed to answer that call," she said. "Knowing our charisms enables us to be more effective in our parish ministry, avoid 'burn outs' and reduce conflicts."

> "Each of us has a unique call or mission in both communicating our faith to the world and applying our faith in the world as lay apostles."
>
> — Barbara Gaddy

Other presentations included the structure of a Catholic parish and the roles of pastoral councils and commissions.

"The workshop provided a good impetus for the process of updating the parish pastoral plan and staffing the parish commissions," said Deacon Kopfle. "Work on the plan will continue and meetings will be held to identify members of the commissions."

Gaddy said that Catholics are stewards of the gifts given by God, and those charisms are given to us for the sake of others, "not for us to keep, but to give away."

"As our parishes promote stewardship as a way of life, the parish will grow more vibrant when the parishioners know their own unique charisms — gifts that they are called to give away for the sake of the Kingdom," she said.

COURTESY PHOTO

Barbara Gaddy, associate director of the diocesan development office, speaks during the "Celebrating the Role of the Laity: Called and Gifted" workshop at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte July 28.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Family's stewardship honored by Secular Franciscans

SFO, *from page 1*

Year in the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region (BSSF) of the Secular Franciscan Order.

They were honored at the BSSF Annual Regional Gathering in Ridgecrest Aug. 10-12.

The nomination, from Randy Hair's fraternity, St. Francis of the Hills in Hendersonville, described how the family exemplifies Franciscan values of faith and community service and their involvement in his vocation.

Laureen; son, Matthew, 18; and daughter, Bethany, 14, supported their father during his three years of Secular Franciscan initial formation. He made his perpetual profession to the order (a permanent commitment to the gospel life) in September 2006 and was elected fraternity treasurer in November.

Hair converted to Catholicism after the family moved from Charleston, S.C., to Hendersonville in 2002. St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity member Tim Gibson, an RCIA facilitator at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, told his group about St. Francis of Assisi and the Secular Franciscan Order.

In St. Francis, Hair said saw a connection to Hannah and Samuel (1 Sm 1:24–28), his favorite Scripture story:

"Instead of holding onto that child, the most precious thing in her life, instead of being selfish, she gave that child to God. I see Francis doing the same thing. Instead of holding onto the glory of becoming a knight, he gave that service to God, realizing that everything you have is God's."

The family has helped with the fraternity's apostolate — doing mailings for the Free Clinics in Hendersonville, which provide medical care to needy individuals. They also prepare some of the food and attend fraternity celebrations.

St. Francis' example "is part of their natural way of looking at things because of our family lifestyle," said Hair.

Sharing God's gifts

Bethany sings in the Immaculata School children's choir and assists her father in teaching fourth-grade faith formation classes.

She received the Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award when she graduated this year as valedictorian of her eighth-grade class at Immaculata School.

She and other class members organized service projects, such as cleaning up around the school and reading to pre-kindergarten and first- and second-graders.

Matthew has been an altar server since second grade, an extraordinary minister of holy Communion in his LifeTeen group, has volunteered as a tutor at Immaculata School and worked in the food pantry at the Interfaith Apostolic Ministry, which assists people with emergency needs.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

The Hair family — mother Laureen (left), daughter Bethany, father Randy and son Matthew — are honored as Family of the Year in the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region of the Secular Franciscan Order in Ridgecrest in August. Randy Hair is a member of St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity in Hendersonville.

Among his awards when he graduated this year from Hendersonville High School was the $8,000 Mary Evelyn and Harry Laurent Community Foundation of Henderson County scholarship. He plans to study civil engineering at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

When he received the Hannah L. Edwards Service Award for his community work, his civics teacher, Kendall Taylor, said that Matthew exemplies St. Francis' peaceful spirit.

"Of course, Matthew would never tell you these things," Taylor said. "He lives according to St. Matthew's gospel: 'Don't pray in order to be seen.' He's very humble and quiet about the things he does."

Immaculate Conception Church sponsors Bounty of Bethlehem, and Randy, Matthew and Bethany are there to help. Some 2,500 people enjoy an in-the-gym, takeout or home-delivered dinner on Christmas day.

Bounty preparation begins months in advance, and Randy Hair takes vacation time from his job to coordinate the event during the week before Christmas.

Bethany helps wrap presents and fill stockings; in 2005 and 2006 Matthew coordinated the kitchen volunteers and helped cook the from-scratch dinner.

"That's the other part of Franciscanism for us," Randy Hair said. "All the (early Franciscan) brothers had different gifts. Matthew has very good rapport with adults. Bethany has the same things, and she's very creative, helping me with posters and decorating the gift bags.

"Laureen is kind of like Peter: She's the rock of this little domestic church. She makes sure everything is taken care of at home."

An emergency-room nurse at Margaret R. Pardee Memorial Hospital in Hendersonville, Laureen is always on duty Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

"That's one reason we got involved with Bounty — so we could be close to her on Christmas," Hair said.

He invited his fellow fraternity members to help with Bounty, and they chopped herbs for the dressing. In an e-mail the day after Christmas, he wrote that, "It is most appropriate that you chopped herbs, the fragrant seasoning of the meal. May we season everything with the fragrant love of Christ."

Every June for the past eight years the Hair family has spent a week at Camp Billo, sponsored by Immaculate Conception/St. Anthony Shrine parishes in Montgomery/Boomer, W.Va. The children from the two parishes, and their guests, experience positive adult role models, worship services and encounter groups, and play games.

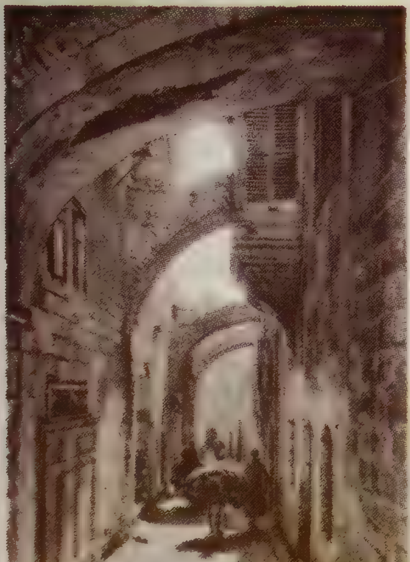
Laureen and Randy Hair give vacation time to work at Camp Billo: Laureen as camp nurse; Randy as a counselor for 9- to 11-year-old boys. Bethany helps with the younger girls, and Matthew obtained his certification so he could volunteer as a lifeguard.

After returning from Camp Billo this year, Matthew went with a BSSF Region youth group for a weekend at St. Francis Inn, a soup kitchen in Philadelphia, Pa., then helped give a presentation about it at this year's annual regional gathering.

In 2005, Randy Hair and Matthew participated in "Il Poverello," a play that Capuchin Franciscan Father John Salvas, Immaculate Conception Church's parochial vicar, wrote about St. Francis's life. Hair played a friar and Matthew was the pope's attendant.

VERY FEW SPACES LEFT—
CALL TODAY!

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A
DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO



THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,499 from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

'One of a kind'

Dawson retires after 34 years of parish work

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — After three decades of devotion and service, Carol Dawson has retired from her parish post.

A reception was held Aug. 4 to acknowledge her 34 years as business manager of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

"It was a job I got paid for, but I loved it and I felt at home here," said Dawson as she sat surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as parishioners and staff.

"I will miss the closeness I have with the priests, being able to see them everyday. I'll miss seeing everyone," she said.

During her tenure, Dawson saw the construction of two church buildings, worked through the terms of four bishops and served seven pastors. She witnessed the growth of the parish from 400 families to more than 4,000 families, and she became the trusted guide for those who entered the church offices and needed assistance regarding church or school related issues.

For 24 years until his death, Dawson's husband, Digger, worked as parish maintenance director. When he passed away, Dawson found the added challenge of coming to work every day — she felt his spirit remained in the parish.

"Digger is here in every room, in every nail," said Dawson.

The Dawsons converted to Catholicism in October 1959 while living in Miami, Fla. They moved to Hendersonville in 1976. Their son Dale Dawson spoke of learning from his parents' example.

"If I had to use one word to describe them, it would be commitment. No matter where we were — on vacation, camping — they always found a church and we went to Mass," he said.

Their commitment to their faith was evident in their work at the parish.

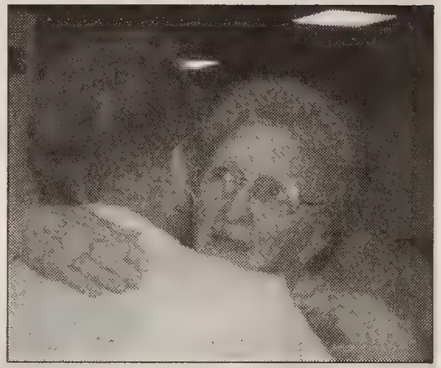


PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Carol Dawson hugs a fellow parishioner during a reception to honor Dawson's 34 years as an employee at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville Aug. 4.

"For them it wasn't a 9-to-5 job. Many nights they were still working, or on the weekends. If the priests called, they would go to the church. Commitment was always there," he said.

"Her (Carol's) friendship is the heart and soul of her faith," said Sandy Donecho, parish faith formation director. "She gives it freely, without question. Carol is a loving and caring person and I will miss her day-to-day hugs. She is the inner spirit to Immaculate Conception."

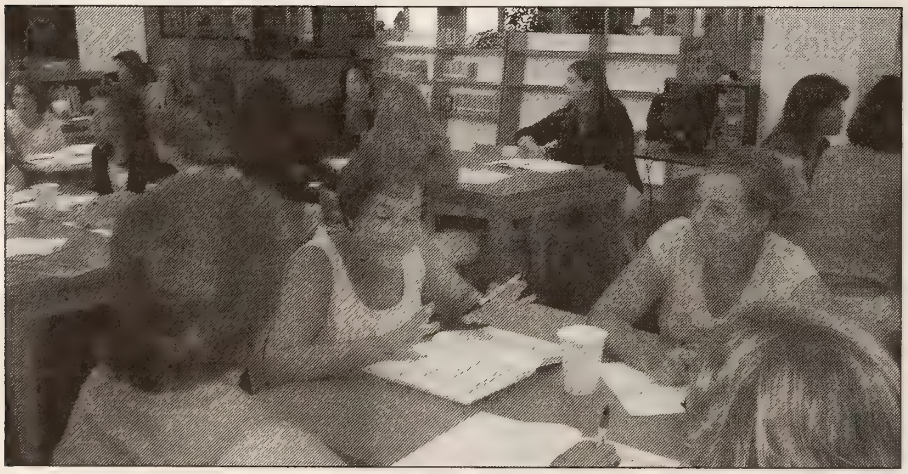
"Carol is one of a kind — difficult to find, more difficult to lose," said Capuchin Father John Aurilia, pastor.

As for Dawson, her plans include spending time with her still-growing family and time with her beloved church.

"This is my life, I'll always be involved," she said, adding, "I've already told the office I'm not changing my phone number — right away."

The Dawsons' legacy will live on through Digger Dawson Scholarship Endowment Fund, set up in June 2006 through the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte to provide scholarship assistance to Immaculata School students who otherwise might not be able to attend the school.

Becoming Smart Marthas



COURTESY PHOTO

Approximately 40 Catholic mothers take part in the Smart Martha Seminar at St. Mark Church in Huntersville Aug. 11. Let by Catholic author and speaker Tami Kiser, the seminar — named from the story of Mary and Martha in the Bible — helps women be productive, effective mothers while developing a relationship with Jesus.

"The message of Mary and Martha is a very important one for mothers today as well as the helpful information given on running a household in today's busy society," said Kiser.

The seminar included group discussions, personal workbook time and question and answer sessions.

Making music

COURTESY PHOTO

Musician Preston Smith plays the organ for Linda Elrod, music minister at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler, and Father John Pagel, pastor. Smith, organist of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Raleigh, performed a free concert on the church's newly installed Johannus Custom Edition Rembrandt Model 3900 organ to a packed house Aug. 7. The three manual full pedalboard organ features 140 speaking stops, pumping out 1,530 watts of sound. A reception was held after the public concert. While a director of an international consulting firm, Smith lived and played his way around the world, including Africa, New Zealand, Europe and Asia.

Blankets of love

COURTESY PHOTO

The "Blanketeers" of Holy Spirit Church in Denver display finished blankets in this July photo. The Blanketeers gather periodically to create "warm hugs" — security blankets for Project Linus, a volunteer nonprofit organization that donates blankets and afghans to seriously ill children throughout the United States. The Blanketeers' blankets, created in child-friendly colors and patterns, are donated to Project Linus chapters in Charlotte and Catawba County, as well as to parishioners as need arises.

The Holy Spirit Church Ladies Guild became involved with Project Linus in May 2000 and have donated more than 3,600 blankets, and are busy making more. Students taking part in Vacation Bible School and confirmation classes at the parish have helped make blankets.

Because the need is ongoing, the group is looking for more Blanketeers.

"We are always looking for ladies who are inspired by the Holy Spirit to share their time and talents to help ease the suffering of a child in distress," said Margaret Carpenter, parish coordinator for Project Linus.

To volunteer or for more information, contact the church office at (704) 483-6448.

World Youth Day 2008! – in Sydney, Australia
10 Days - departing July 12, 2008
$3,569 from Charlotte
(includes air, accommodations, tips, taxes and fees)
We invite all 16- to 35-year-olds to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime faith experience!
Sponsored and escorted by the Charlotte diocesan Office for Youth Ministry and the Office for Young Adults.
Deadline for registration — October 1st, 2007
Questions and/or registration: Peg Ruble at 704-370-3359 or e-mail pcruble@charlottediocese.org
WYD SYD 08
world youth day sydney 2008

Priests, seminarians take part in spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima

FATIMA, Portugal — Priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte recently journeyed to Fatima as part of a peace pilgrimage.

Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; Father Christopher Roux, priest secretary to Bishop Peter J. Jugis; and Father Richard DeClue, priest in residence at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte; as well as seminarians Joshua Bradford, Paul McNulty and Joel Stroot took part in the Fatima Peace Pilgrimage July 18-31, this year sponsored by the Te Deum Foundation.

Nineteen lay persons from parishes throughout the United States also participated in the pilgrimage.

The annual pilgrimage, which began in 1984, celebrates the anniversary of Mary's appearance at Fatima, Portugal, and is designed to foster a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima in priests, seminarians and other religious. The Marian apparitions to three children in Fatima began 90 years ago May 13.

"When I first visited Fatima, I had recently entered the Catholic faith and was still questioning whether the priesthood was the right path," said Father Putnam. "My pilgrimage to the holy site of Our Lady's apparitions confirmed that yes, indeed, I had made the right choice."

"Our Lady's message 90 years ago is still relevant today," said Father Roux.

COURTESY PHOTO

(Back row, from left) Father John Putnam, Father Christopher Roux, Father Richard DeClue; and (front row, from left) seminarians Paul McNulty, Joshua Bradford and Joel Stroot are pictured in the Church of the Born Jesus in Braga, Portugal June 25.

"In today's world of war, terrorism and atrocities against the sanctity of life, the people of the world need to be reminded of Our Lady's message of hope."

In addition to Fatima, other sites visited included the Church of the Born Jesus in Braga, Jeronimos Monastery and St. Anthony of Padua Church in Lisbon, the home of Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa in Balasar and the Church of the Holy Miracle in Santarem.

The Te Deum Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides for the material and spiritual needs of seminarians.

You're Invited!
Room At The Inn's
Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet
"Hope for the Future"

Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Featured Speaker
FOX News Channel's
Judge
Andrew P. Napolitano

Judge Napolitano appears daily on *The Big Story with John Gibson,* co-hosts *FOX and Friends* once a week and is a regular on *The O'Reilly Factor*. A graduate of Notre Dame Law School, he is informative, entertaining and absolutely pro-life!

Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm
**** Reservations are FREE, but required.**

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@carolina.rr.com by **September 17th.**

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a Catholic maternity and after-care program for pregnant mothers in Charlotte, N.C. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Msgr. Joseph Showfety, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, greets Victoria Eckman and her mother, Dr. Connie Eckman, following Mass at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church in Albemarle July 7. Like most retired priests, Msgr. Showfety spends many weekends celebrating Mass at parishes throughout the diocese.

Collection to benefit priests' retirement

COLLECTION, ***from page 1***

have an income provided by the annual collection, this year themed "From Ordination to Retirement...With Gratitude for Years of Service." The collection will be taken up in every church in the diocese the weekend of Sept. 8-9.

After serving in churches throughout North Carolina and as chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, Msgr. Showfety retired in 2002.

"It's a privilege to be a priest — it's something no man is worthy of," said Msgr. Showfety "I often ask myself, 'Why did God choose me?' It's not something you enter into lightly, but every night I thank God for choosing me to be a priest."

Like most retired priests, Msgr. Showfety spends most weekends filling in for other priests, hearing confessions and celebrating Mass.

"This is the best part of life as a retired priest — I can visit a parish, hear confessions, celebrate Mass and go home," he said. "There are no administrative duties, no construction hassles to worry about."

Msgr. Showfety is grateful that the stipend to retired diocesan priests is generous enough to allow them to live independently, with dignity.

"The Diocese of Charlotte has been very good to us — the priests' retirement collection is a blessing to the retired priests," he said.

Catholics in the diocese soon will have the opportunity to show their support for the 26 retired diocesan priests, including Bishop Curlin, who have faithfully served the Diocese of Charlotte for 1,119 years collectively.

"Contributing to the Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection is a tangible way for Catholics to show their gratitude for the faithful service of our retired diocesan priests," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Contributions also help provide for the future retirements of the 80 diocesan priests currently involved in active ministry, as well as the retirement funds of the 42 religious order priests serving in the diocese.

"This program is in place so that when our recently ordained priests retire, there will be funds available to help support them," said Gaddy.

The campaign's goal is to collect $1,342,417 — $928,880 to fund the diocesan priests' retirement and benefits plans; $383,537 to support the retirement funds of religious order priests currently serving in our diocese; and $30,000 to cover campaign expenses.

Each parish is assessed 3.5 percent of its annual offertory collection to raise funds needed to support the Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection. In most parishes, that amount is slightly less than two times the regular Sunday offertory.

Proportionate contributions on the weekend of Sept. 8-9 will help parishes pay the assessment.

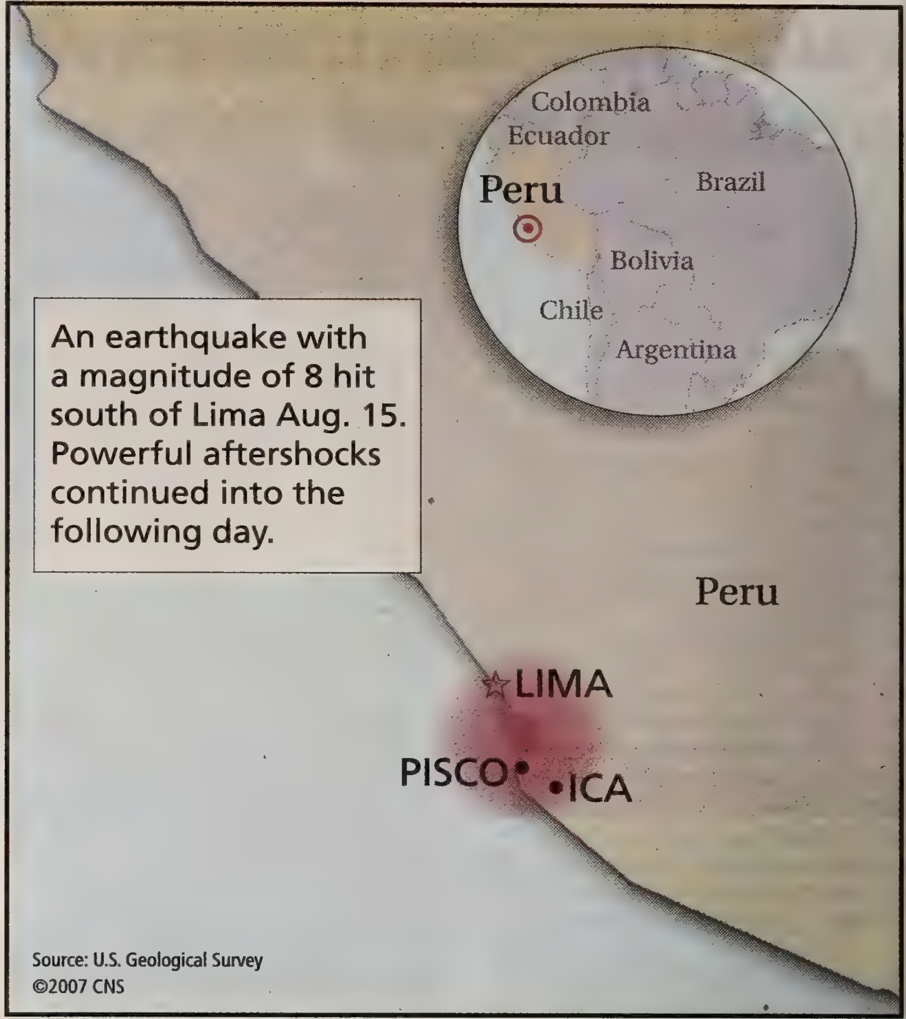
Diocese of Charlotte retired priests
Father Joseph J. Ayathupadam
Father James Cahill
Father Francis M. Cintula
Father Thomas P. Clements
Father Francis Connolly
Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Father William Evans
Father Conrad Hoover
Father Raymond Hourihan
Msgr. Joseph Kerin
Father Joseph Kelleher
Father Conrad Kimbrough
Msgr. Anthony Kovacic
Father Andy Latsko
Father Bernard Manley
Father Richard McCue
Father Gabriel Meehan
Msgr. William N. Pharr
Father Charles Reese
Father Edward J. Sheridan
Msgr. Joseph S.Showfety
Father James Solari
Father Edward Sullivan
Father John Tuller
Msgr. Thomas Walsh
Father Joseph Waters

"For the numerous dead, I invoke the peace of the Lord ... and I assure those living in extreme conditions that the church is with you with all its spiritual and material solidarity."

— Pope Benedict XVI

CNS photo by Enrique Castro Mendivil, Reuters

Earthquake survivors wait in line for food in Pisco, Peru, Aug. 18. More than 500 people are known to have been killed and 1,500 injured in a magnitude 8 earthquake that struck about 125 miles south of Lima.



An earthquake with a magnitude of 8 hit south of Lima Aug. 15. Powerful aftershocks continued into the following day.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey
©2007 CNS

Pope says Vatican official to deliver check for Peru relief

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Offering prayers for the victims of the Aug. 15 earthquake in Peru and calling again for international assistance for survivors, Pope Benedict XVI announced that his secretary of state personally would deliver a papal donation to relief efforts.

"Our thoughts and prayers constantly have been turned to the people of Peru, struck by a devastating earthquake," the pope told visitors gathered at his summer villa Aug. 19 for the midday recitation of the Angelus.

"For the numerous dead, I invoke the peace of the Lord; for the injured, a speedy recovery; and I assure those living in extreme conditions that the church is with you with all its spiritual and material solidarity," the pope said.

He said Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, who had a visit to Peru scheduled before the earthquake struck, would expand his late-August trip to show the pope's concern for the victims. The Vatican said Aug. 20 that the cardinal would deliver a papal check for $200,000 "for the urgent needs of the people" suffering the consequences of the disaster.

The Vatican did not provide the precise dates or itinerary of the cardinal's trip.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

K of C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of September

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Burke 2001
Rev. Msgr. Hugh Dolan 1981
Rev. Msgr. Arthur Duncan 2002
Rev. James King 1978
Rev. John J. Murray 1997
Rev. Edward F. O'Doherty 1998

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

CRUISE ONLY (without airfare*) FOR $2,460!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31- February 11 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with
Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

- * **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
- * **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
- * **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
- * **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
- * **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
- * **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

*Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges! Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332** or Patty at Collette Vacations **(877) 894-1245 ext. 3163**.

Catholic Church assists quake victims in Peru

PERU, *from page 1*

government official does makes it much easier to get a response effort up and running," he said.

Skrocki arrived in Peru the night after the earthquake and traveled Aug. 17 to Chincha, Pisco and Ica, the three cities nearest the epicenter.

The scene was chaotic immediately after the magnitude 8 earthquake, which killed more than 500 people, injured more than 1,000 and left at least 35,000 families homeless. Although more than 200 flights, carrying more than 600 tons of supplies, had arrived at the air force base in Pisco, distribution was slow.

"There was a lack of coordination," said Luis Cordoba, emergency coordinator for CRS in Peru. "No one knew what assistance had arrived, what had been distributed and what else was needed."

Two days after the quake, people were "waiting all day in line for one one-liter bottle of water," Skrocki said. "The longer this goes on, the more desperate people become."

Part of the problem with distribution was logistical: Electricity was cut off, water could not be pumped and roads and bridges were damaged.

But part of the problem, Skrocki said, seemed to be fed by political infighting over whether the central government or local and regional governments should oversee relief efforts.

> "More aid is arriving through the church, and we are channeling it as rapidly as possible ...."
>
> — Bishop Guido Brena Lopez of Ica

"Unfortunately, it's a similar story (in) many other countries," said Skrocki, who has been involved in CRS disaster responses to Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005, the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador in 2006, and flooding earlier this year in Bolivia.

By Aug. 21, the situation had improved in Ica. Bishop Guido Brena Lopez of Ica told Catholic News Service by telephone that electricity had been restored and some shops and markets were open again.

In Pisco, however, where more than 80 percent of the houses were destroyed, there was still no electricity. The bishop said relief efforts were concentrated in the center of the city, making it difficult for people in remote areas to get assistance.

Bishop Brena noted that in Pisco and Ica people are still very nervous because there have been a lot of strong aftershocks.

"More aid is arriving through the church, and we are channeling it as rapidly as possible so that it reaches the outlying areas," he said.

Meanwhile, people are organizing themselves.

"One characteristic in Peru is that relatives and neighbors help one another," the bishop said.

Many people, especially those with small children, are trekking north to take refuge with relatives in Lima, while southbound buses have carried a steady stream of people from Lima carrying food, blankets and other supplies to family members in the affected cities.

CNS PHOTO BY MARIANA BAZO, REUTERS

Spanish rescue worker Pablo Martinez and his dog Max look for bodies in a destroyed church after an earthquake in Pisco, Peru, Aug. 19. Pope Benedict XVI announced that a top Vatican official would personally deliver a papal donation to relief efforts for victims of the major earthquake that struck southern Peru Aug. 15.

Assessing the damage

On Aug. 18, government emergency agencies and international organizations such as CRS, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Oxfam and others set up a command center at the air force base in Pisco to exchange information and coordinate efforts.

"If a lot of agencies are involved and we don't organize well, it will only create more chaos," Cordoba said.

Security was the first obstacle. Shortly after the earthquake, looters struck, sometimes foraging for necessities and sometimes raiding the rubble of people's homes for anything of value.

Although tents and shelters have been set up in all three towns, many people have camped out in front of the ruins of their houses to protect anything that might be left.

"I saw people sleeping on the street," Skrocki said. "They took the couch out of their house, put up a couple of chairs and put a sheet over the top, and that's where they're living."

That worried Dr. Manuel Pena, director of the Pan American Health Organization office in Lima. In an interview with the Channel N cable TV station, Pena warned that if people stayed near their homes the lack of water and toilets could lead to the spread of disease.

On Aug. 20, the Health Ministry dispatched health brigades to the cities to set up portable toilets, assist with hygiene and provide vaccinations against illnesses such as hepatitis.

The full extent of the earthquake's effects remained unclear. The CRS emergency team visited several rural communities where the facades of adobe houses showed only cracks, but back rooms had collapsed.

Cordoba worried that if inspectors make only a quick visual check of those communities, they will underestimate the damage.

CRS will work with Caritas Peru to provide essentials such as food, water, shelter and medicine. Meanwhile, the agencies will be planning for the long-range, painstaking task of helping people rebuild their homes and their lives.

Caritas Peru is the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, the international confederation of Catholic aid agencies. CRS is part of the Caritas network.

Celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year?

If you were married during 1957 or 1982, you and your family are invited to the

Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass
at
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
in Charlotte
Sunday, October 28 — 2pm

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Please note: To receive an invitation, you must call your parish office to register.

Sponsored by the Family Life Office
of Catholic Social Services

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?
A Lifeline for Marriage
September 12 - 14 in Raleigh

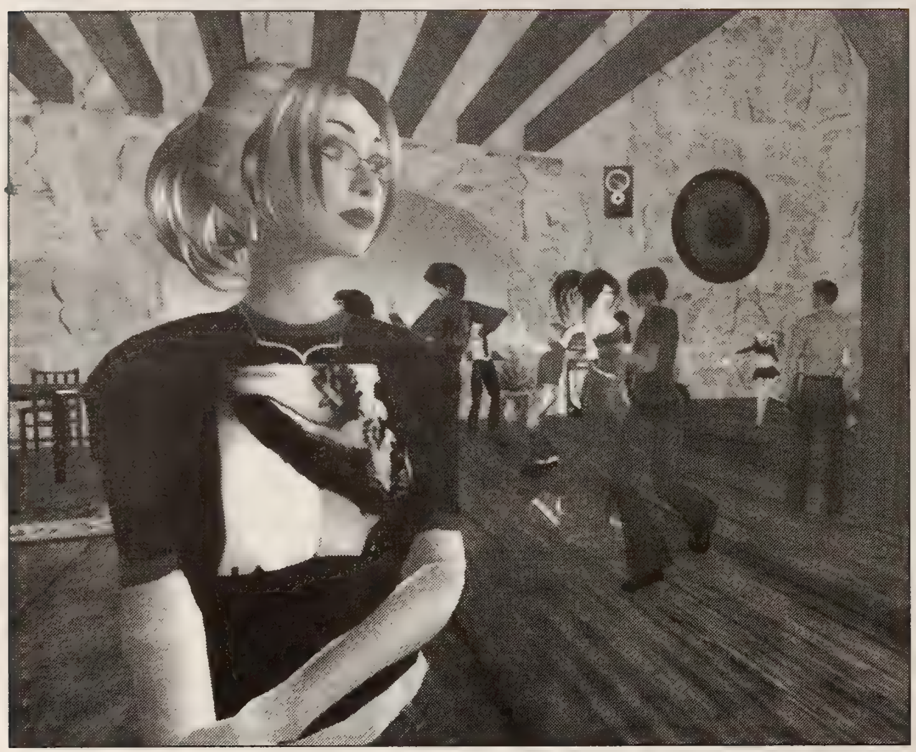
Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "retro-vi").
Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.
Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaille@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: www.retrouvaille.org.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Simulating life



CNS photo courtesy of Linden Research

The virtual world of Second Life, which has been open to the public since 2003, has about 8.4 million residents. Each Second Life resident is referred to as an avatar — an embodiment of a person. Shown are young avatars attending a party in the online universe.

Jesuit magazine discusses dangers, opportunities in digital worlds

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — Digital worlds where viewers can interact with each other and create vast social networks carry several risks, but they also might be grounds for evangelization, said an influential Jesuit magazine.

One virtual world called Second Life is gaining such widespread popularity that it is not "possible to turn a blind eye to this phenomenon, or offhandedly pass judgment glorifying it or condemning it," said La Civilta Cattolica (Catholic Civilization) in an August 4 article.

The Rome-based biweekly, reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State before publication, dedicated most of the 13-page article to discussing Second Life. That virtual world, which can be found online at secondlife.com, is entirely created and owned by its more than 8 million residents.

From shopping to chatting to studying university courses, residents also are making room for God and spirituality, said the article written by Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro.

Cathedrals, mosques, synagogues, temples — and even convents and cloisters "with spartan rooms for virtual rent" — are peppered across the user-created world, giving residents a chance to pray alone or with others, it said.

"Virtual churches exist in which it's possible to find a minister who is able to welcome and strike up a dialogue with whomever enters," it said.

The popularity of virtual worlds may reflect people's longing for "another life" and the human need for becoming better people, the article said.

With so many people looking online for meaning beyond the temporal world, the article said, "at heart, the digital world may also be in its own way considered to be mission territories."

"The best way to understand (the Second Life phenomenon) is to enter into it, (and) live inside it to recognize its potential and dangers," it said.

But living a second, virtual life also could carry some risks, it said.

Because one's real identity is confidential, one's virtual appearance can be completely open and honest, "but on the other hand one can also get caught up in a spontaneity that knows no limits or discretion," it said.

It also said that in creating or being part of such a lifelike, imaginary world, one might become alienated from the real world and begin to identify oneself according to one's self-created myth.

"There may be a kind of diffidence and resignation in opting for the simulated" instead of real life, it said.

Another problem is that events or experiences are erased easily without consequences, it said. Simulated realty allows the user to do almost anything at a "low level of risk," it said.

"This has worrying emotional and affective consequences," noted the article. In the virtual world everything is "under control and reversible," making the real world look frightening.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 2, 2007

Sept. 2, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
   Psalms 68:4-7, 10-11
2) Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
3) Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Extending God's love will bring that love back to us

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

A few years ago I was invited to be one of the vocal soloists at the wedding of the daughter of my second cousin. Although I knew her mother fairly well, I had actually never met the bride, so at the reception hall I seated myself at a table with the other wedding guests.

I had just begun to join the long buffet line when my cousin sought me out and invited me to the head table. I proceeded with some surprise to my new seat, where there was not only a place card with my name on it, but attentive wait staff standing by to bring me the food I had prepared to wait in line for.

The unexpected honor that day reminded me of today's parable in which Jesus imparts some commonsense advice on social etiquette, but also teaches more profoundly about those who are to be included at the table of the reign of God. True to form, he names those in his culture who would be least expected to receive an invitation — the "poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind."

Clearly this is no abstract or imaginary banquet but one that should occur with regularity, as he instructs his host, "when you hold a lunch or a dinner." God's inclusiveness, praised by the psalmist as giving a "home to the forsaken," is brought about by those in a position to do the inviting without expectation of return.

This approach is at the heart of the "new covenant" that Jesus "mediates," according to the writer of Hebrews. While mediation is usually thought of in terms of reconciling two parties in conflict, it also can describe a "medium" that transfers something from one place to another.

Ever the generous host, Jesus becomes the mediating means of extending God's justice and merciful love beyond the children of Abraham to an entirely new group of people.

Likewise, by thinking and acting outside my limited comfort zone, I can be a means of bringing God's embrace to one who might not normally expect to receive it.

And by practicing humility, I might even experience God's love coming to me in new, unexpected and surprising ways.

Questions:

When did you last move beyond your "comfort zone" to extend God's love to another? When have you been surprised by God's unexpected graciousness to you?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF AUG. 26-SEPT. 1

Sunday (Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time), Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30; **Monday (St. Monica),** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8-10, Matthew 23:13-22; **Tuesday (St. Augustine),** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 23:23-26; **Wednesday (Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist),** 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Mark 6:17-29; **Thursday,** 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday,** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Matthew 25:1-13; **Saturday,** 1 Thessalonians 4:9-11, Matthew 25:14-30.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 2-8

Sunday (Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24, Luke 14:1, 7-14; **Monday (St. Gregory the Great),** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday,** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday (Bl. Teresa of Calcutta),** Colossians 1:1-8, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday,** Colossians 1:9-14, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday,** Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday (Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary),** Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349 Concord**
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Coming Soon...
Going Fast!

The exciting Pennybyrn at Maryfield is 86% reserved — that means only a few more can take advantage of pre-opening pricing. Will you be one of them?

This architecturally stunning new community is scheduled to open in Winter of 2007. An active, modern lifestyle that offers you gorgeous private residences, superior amenities and a professional staff to provide unparalleled services... it's the retirement lifestyle that you've been waiting for!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by.
Call (336) 821-4050 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 today...
prices will never be this low again!

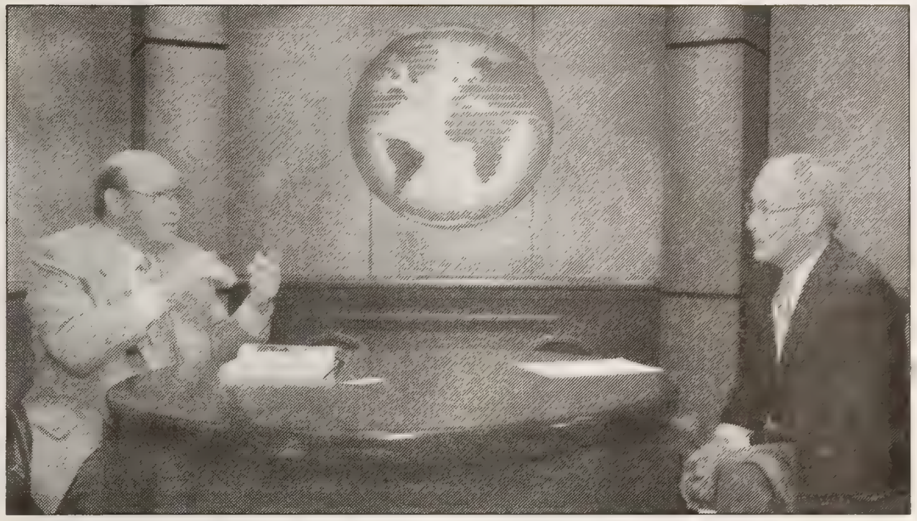
PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

NP/CNH/Urg0707

That's a wrap



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHRISTOPHERS

Veteran baseball commentator Joe Garagiola talks with "Christopher Closeup" host Dennis Heaney in one of the program's final productions. The syndicated half-hour TV show, which has been running for 55 years, will cease broadcasting at the end of summer.

Long-lasting 'Christopher Closeup' show to end its 55-year run

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — "Christopher Closeup," the television show sponsored by the organization that says it's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness, will no longer be broadcast after the end of the summer.

"Christopher Closeup" enjoyed a 55-year run on TV — exceeded only by CBS' evening newscast, NBC's "Meet the Press" and "Today," and the CBS soap opera "Guiding Light."

"It was a very difficult decision," said a statement by Christophers president and CEO Dennis Heaney, the show's host, "but given the evolving media landscape, we think it's the right opportunity to focus our resources on emerging technologies like podcasts and webcasts, as well as reinforcing our presence on broadcast and satellite radio."

Heaney added, "We take pride in the fact that we had such an outstanding run in a fickle TV universe where 10 years is considered a long time."

In its heyday in the 1970s, "Christopher Closeup," a syndicated half-hour public affairs program, reached 200-300 TV stations, including the ABC affiliate in New York City and five-days-a-week airings in Washington.

Today, it's available in 166 countries through the Armed Forces Network, but its U.S. presence is limited to about 70 individual broadcast and satellite TV stations and cable outlets, according to Christophers spokesman David DiCerto.

Over thousands of installments, the show played host to politicians, celebrities, sports figures, journalists, scientists, social activists and Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Each head of the Christophers has done double duty as the show's host, from Maryknoll Father James Keller, the Christophers' founder, to Fathers Richard Armstrong, Tom McSweeney and John Catoir, Msgr. Jim Lisante and now Heaney, the show's first lay host.

Father Armstrong had a lay co-host, Jeanne Davis Glynn.

The name "Christopher Closeup" won't be consigned to the dustbin. A radio version of the show, on the air since the 1970s, will continue to carry the name, and DiCerto told Catholic News Service the Christophers are looking at expanding it to the half-hour format the TV show used over six decades.

The radio show is carried by the Sirius satellite radio network as well as on some local stations.

DiCerto said discussions were taking place on whether to use the "Christopher Closeup" name for its podcast and webcast applications.

'CLOSEUP' GUESTS

Among the guests on "Christopher Closeup" were Elie Wiesel, Arthur Ashe, Ed Bradley, Dorothy Day, Pete Seeger, Charles Osgood, Hugh Downs, Jim Henson, Ralph Nader, Tim Russert, Cesar Chavez, Bob and Dolores Hope, Mike Wallace, Alex Haley, Ken Burns, Bill Moyers, Fred Rogers and Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille.

CFCC

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Vacation Bible school unites Christian children in Hendersonville

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — Five churches in Henderson County recently united to bring together 110 children for a vacation Bible school experience focusing on how they are chosen, taught, protected and provided for through their common savior, Jesus.

The program's leaders were Sandy Donecho, religious education director at Immaculate Conception Church, Sue Filson of Grace Lutheran, Gail Colter of Providence Baptist, Dee Zeller of St. James Episcopal and Becky Stanley of Trinity Presbyterian, which served as the host church for "Fiesta," the VBS program for children in kindergarten through fifth grades June 12-15.

"This is truly a week to build community with one another," said Donecho. "We learn so much from our children and from each other."

The program utilized the "Avalanche Ranch: A Wild Ride through God's Word" curriculum to teach the children about the gifts they receive through the common faith of Christianity.

"We share our differences and respect our differences," said Donecho. "We come together for the love we have for Jesus in our lives."

The children used the lessons to give back to the community as well, raising money and collecting food through donations during the week. Daily offerings were sent to Interfaith Assistance Ministry, a faith-based, nonprofit organization providing temporary relief to those in need.

PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Tables display the donated items collected by children, including those from Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville, during the vacation Bible school held June 12-15.

"They did a great job and every day we collected more," said Donecho.

More than 260 pounds of food and personal products were packed and transferred to Interfaith. Cash donations of $341.05 were also collected.

Closing ceremonies included games, food and play equipment.

COURTESY PHOTO

Children and young adults perform during the vacation Bible school at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill July 16-20. One hundred and five children took part in the program, this year themed "Avalanche Ranch: A Wild Ride through God's Word."

Join with the Archdiocese of Atlanta
and Archbishop John F. Donoghue for a
PILGRIMAGE TO SICILY AND ROME
including the Amalfi Coast and Sorrento

November 5-16, 2007

$3,299 per person, double occupancy*

Come and experience the religious sites of these areas as well as the beauty of their surroundings, their culture and their people!

Your 12-day pilgrimage includes airfare from Atlanta; airfare from Rome to Catania; hotels in Syracuse, Taormina, Sorrento and Rome; 15 meals; full-time English-speaking escort; porterage at hotels; entrance fees to sites; private motorcoach.

*Price, based on exchange rate of 3/07, reflects a cash or check discount of $75; does not include air taxes currently estimated at $275 per person. Fuel surcharges, tariffs and taxes are subject to increase before departure.

Call Corporate Travel Service for information: 313-565-8888, ext. 121
(This trip is privately sponsored and not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Summer fun and faith

COURTESY PHOTO

Students dance during the vacation Bible school held at St. Mark Church in Huntersville. More than 350 students and 200 youth and adult volunteers participated in the four-day program, themed "Take the Plunge with Jesus," July 22-26. The students took part in Bible stories, crafts, games, music and skits, as well as writing letters and decorating more than 100 yo-yos for U.S. Marines stationed in Iraq. The yo-yos are popular with both military personnel and Iraqi children.

During the program, two U.S. Army soldiers who had served in Iraq spoke to the students July 26. They told those gathered that even the smallest gestures of kindness and words of encouragement and support, especially from children, make a difference in the lives of military personnel serving overseas.

INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting applications for an internal auditor. Responsibilities include performing internal audits at locations throughout western North Carolina; providing training for parishes, schools and financial councils; and assisting the finance office with financial projects. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field. A CPA or MBA would be a plus. Applicants should have a minimum of three years related experience, including two years in public accounting. EOE. Resume and salary history should be mailed by Sept. 5, 2007 to:

CFO, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, N.C. 28203

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS: Requirements: High school diploma/GED; Clean criminal record; Noteworthy employment history. Excellent pay and benefit package. Apply to: The Wackenhut Corporation, 1 Centerview Drive, Suite 105, Greensboro, NC 27407, 1701 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103 or in Asheville area at 9-H Walden Drive, Arden, NC 28704. www.wackenhut.com. EOE M/F/D/V Security Guard & Patrol 753-GP

CATECHISTS NEEDED: St. John Lee Korean Catholic Church (Charlotte) needs two or more catechists for middle and high schoolers. Requirements: practicing Catholic, experience with youth and teens, catechist certification, and references. Further information: Helen Choi 704-763-3753 or helen.choi@atcmail.com

SERVICES

COUNSELING: Individuals, couples, family, depression, anxiety, relationships, spiritual issues. Lucille Moses, Licensed Professional Counselor. Charlotte. 704-366-6507

FOR RENT

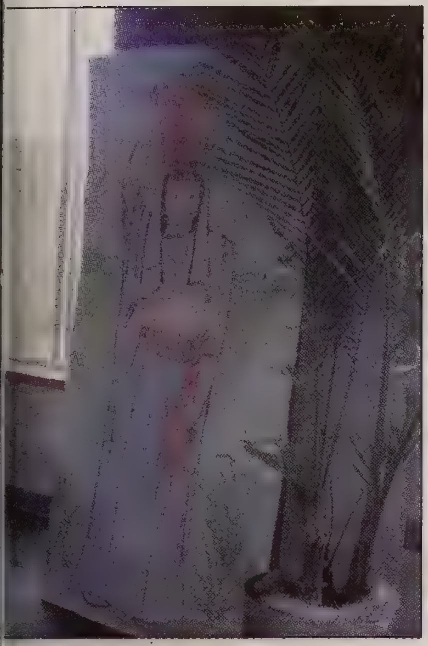
CONDO: Oceanfront – Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Two day minimum; weekly for under $1,000. Additional units available. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

HOUSE: 3 bedrooms. 2 baths. 1500 square feet. Large fenced-in backyard. Central air. 1-car garage. Charlotte. $975/month. 704-443-5362.

LOST AND FOUND

WANTED: Lost recliner, gold-colored fabric. Given to Salvation Army in Charlotte by mistake. Has sentimental value; will pay $500 for return. 803-548-61852

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.



COURTESY PHOTO BY PAT WHITE

Displaying the Gospel of John

A display is pictured from the third annual Summer Bible Institute at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte Aug. 6-10. This year themed "Born from Above" and led by Susan Brady, parish adult education coordinator, the institute allowed participants to explore and take part in the Gospel of John.

"For five days, the participants walked around in and lounged about in St. John's Gospel," said Pat White, parish volunteer and communications coordinator. "From a prayerful point of view, they explored the uniqueness of John's vision, especially as it is illustrated in the account of Jesus' death. Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus, as well as his meeting with the Samaritan woman, was visited in depth."

Many participants are already looking forward to next year's Summer Bible Institute, said White.

Cursillo

Are you a Cursillista looking for a small group reunion or an Ultreya?

Have you heard of Cursillo and want to learn more about it?

We are blessed in our diocese to have a vibrant, active Cursillo community—come join us!

Upcoming Events!
August 30th..........Women's 69th Weekend
September 22nd...See us at the Eucharistic Congress
September 29th...Annual Grand Ultreya in Morganton

www.charlottecursillo.org

Contact Tom Sperrazzo at: tsperrazzo@carolina.rr.com or (321) 652-4558

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

FIVE DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Thursday, Sept. 13 – St. Pius X, Greensboro – 10:30 am – 3:30 pm
Deadline for registration: Wednesday, Sept. 5
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Bishop Emeritus Curlin

Tuesday, Oct. 9 – St. Barnabas, Arden – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 1
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Fr. Kiernan Neilson

Thursday, Oct. 11 – St. James, Hamlet – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 1
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Koterski, SJ

Wednesday, Nov. 7 – St. Mark, Huntersville – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 29
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Frank O'Rourke

Thursday, Nov. 15 – Catholic Conference Center – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Friday, Nov. 2
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West

Cost: $12 - includes coffee and snacks, and full lunch
Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203-4003

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

Making friends and treats

COURTESY PHOTO

Students proudly display the cakes they learned how to decorate July 12 during summer camp at St. Michael Church in Gastonia. In addition to cake decorating, the school's June 18-July 12 summer camp program offered basketball, art, reading, sewing, science and chess lessons. In the cake decorating class, students learned how to design cupcakes, make roses and picked up tips for baking from Brenda Barber, a middle school teacher at St. Michael School. The summer camp was open to both kindergarten-through-eighth-grade Catholic and public school students in Gaston County.

St. Matthew Council 10852
ANNUAL CAR RAFFLE

K of C

1st Prize: Choice of vehicle or $15,000 cash *(up to $25,000 value)* from Keffer Automotive Group
2nd Prize: $1,000 cash
3rd, 4th, 5th Prizes: each $250 cash

Tickets: $25 each - 5 for $100
Drawing: September 19th - maximum of 3,000 tickets sold
Proceeds support numerous K of C charitable activities!
Buy tickets online at: www.kofc-stmatthew.org or mail check (made out to K of C #10852) to PO Box 49403, Charlotte, NC 28277 (** Include complete address and phone number)

Join Other Catholics on an...

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

Join other Catholics and depart (your choice) May 11 or June 22, 2008 on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL's ms Statendam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only $1848 (per person, double occupancy) (add $150 for the June 22 departure). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest; transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Enjoy springtime on the May 11 departure or longer daylight hours departing June 22. Add $600 for round-trip airfare from Charlotte.

$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure, Call 7 Days a Week:
***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Of homicides and hopelessness

Strength, solutions needed to combat crime, despair

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

My hometown, Philadelphia, is on track to pass, for the third consecutive year, the 400 mark when the homicide count is totaled up. Can anything be done to reduce the rate or eliminate this dreadful problem in what we still call the City of Brotherly Love?

"Gun your neighbor" is the prevailing attitude in many urban poverty-stricken areas. Youths are in disproportionate numbers on both the sending and receiving end of that message.

It embodies a value that shapes a culture of violence. Easy access to handguns facilitates the death-dealing delivery of that message. Access to handguns could be cut off if there were sufficient political will to take that step.

"Love your neighbor" would, of course, be the counter message, the offsetting value.

Preachers deliver that message, but those who need to hear it are not in the pews. Schools teach the golden rule and encourage an ethic of respect, but those unfamiliar with that ethic are typically not in school, or are positioning themselves attitudinally out of reach of teachers struggling to get that message across.

Preschool and very early childhood education that imparts values and learning skills could make a difference here.

The rules of the game are followed in organized sports, but the potential killers are not into those kinds of games. Instead of being on the fields or courts inside the recreation centers, they are on the streets and in and out of detention centers on their way to early graves.

Not to mention the role that drug use and drug trafficking plays in all of this.

I served for several years on the board of directors of what was originally called the Commission on National and Community Service (now the Corporation on National Service), a federal initiative begun in 1990 to encourage volunteer activity in this country.

Once, at the urging of another board member, Richard F. (Digger) Phelps, former basketball coach at the University of Notre Dame, the commission members went "across the street," as Digger liked to put it, into a storefront church in a poor neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

Our aim was to see some of the problems that service initiatives there and around the country would, we hoped, be addressing.

Two women, members of a support group for mothers of youths killed in drug wars, described the conditions that brought their sons to early graves and themselves to unrelenting grief.

A street-smart young man explained his willingness to risk arrest by dealing drugs "in order to get money, to get clothes, to get girls," and to use firepower in the street in self-defense whenever he and his supply were attacked: "I'd rather be tried by twelve than carried by six."

That was in 1992 when Malcolm X came back to life on movie screens and the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. were being widely quoted in discussions (including ours) on community service as a neighborhood rescue strategy.

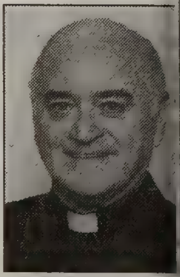
The youth who had expressed a preference for a jury over pallbearers also remarked, "Any community that has to look to dead men for role models is in real trouble."

We the living have to overcome our ignorance of the causes of this problem and our fear of getting involved in the search for and application of solutions. We also have to find better ways of communicating to young men the peace message that was given to us by a dead man who came back to life.

Finding your purpose

Fulfilling earthly mission helps attain heaven

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

Finding your purpose in life requires an understanding of the big picture.

Keep in mind that you live in a world surrounded by death and decay. In time, the sun will burn itself out along with the entire solar system.

In fact, the whole material universe will one day cease to exist; and of course that means you too will die.

Those who are in denial of death fail to see it as the gateway to heaven. Out of fear they look for ways to escape it. Some turn to drugs and alcohol, forcing the soul into a humiliating form of slavery.

How sad! These unfortunate people forget their nobility.

Your soul is immortal! One day it will be reunited with a glorified body in heaven! Then you will experience the bliss of living in perfect harmony with God, your neighbor and yourself.

You can begin that life right now, once you decide to follow the words of Jesus: "Seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides" (Lk 12:31).

The challenge before you is one of getting your priorities straight. The soul yearns for life beyond the grave.

Human beings have always believed in an afterlife. Primitive men placed tools in the tombs of their dead to help them on their journey to the next world. Anthropologists call this human instinct "a nostalgia for paradise."

The body, on the other hand, is terrified at the thought of death. This internal conflict is ongoing.

Jesus wisely advised us that our primary mission on earth is to save our soul. You were born for eternal life, and you have a job to do here that nobody else can do. The exact nature of this calling may be hidden from your eyes, or perhaps you may be already living it.

Either way, fulfilling your mission here will help you to attain heaven.

When you try to live in harmony with your purpose on earth, peace of soul will become more attainable. You will find it easier to rise above your trials and tribulations, and spiritual joy will take root in your soul down deep beneath all the surface noise.

Your highest purpose is not only to save your soul, but also to live joyfully because of the knowledge of God's love. St. Catherine of Siena wrote, "All the way to heaven is heaven."

Command yourself to live an upright life, and follow your gifts and talents. Put the spirit of loving service into your work; it will give you a high degree of job satisfaction. Even if it pays less, the right job can be a comfort for your soul.

The body and soul are complimentary parts of your personality. Each one needs spiritual tending in order to live in harmony with the other. Love your body. Do not abuse it, and do not let it abuse you.

Do not let it impose its excessive demands on your spirit. Your chances for happiness will increase significantly if you strive for inner harmony.

You will need all the grace you can get for this mission. As such, "ask and it will be given you" (Mt 7:7). Turn your life and your will over to the God of your understanding. He will do for you what you are not yet able to do for yourself.

May the Lord be your strength and your joy.

The honoring power of endowments

Funds will benefit worthy cause, carry honoree's name into future

Guest Column

JUDY SMITH
GUEST COLUMNIST

If you wanted to honor your parents or another person who has influenced your life, you would be hard pressed to find a more fitting way than to establish a named endowment fund.

A named endowment fund carries the honoree's name far into the future as it benefits a worthy cause through ongoing gifts.

For example, you could create an endowment fund in honor of your mother. The fund could be established to benefit your parish, a Catholic school, the diocese, Catholic Social Services or another Catholic organization.

This fund, bearing her name, would produce spendable income to support the purpose of the endowment. It could be for special projects, for ministry training, for scholarships or even for general needs.

Every time the fund is mentioned, the memory of your mother would be acknowledged and honored. The association of her name with the parish, Catholic school, diocese or other Catholic organization would act as a statement of her Catholic values.

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren would identify with the endowment and perhaps contribute to the fund through their own charitable gifts, thus developing their values and philanthropic interests.

Endowment funds are easy to establish and they exist in perpetuity. They can be launched now with current gifts or created later through a bequest in a will or other deferred gift.

Another possibility is to establish an endowment now and add to it later through a planned gift. The advantage of getting an endowment started now is that you can enjoy the experience of seeing your loved one honored during your lifetime.

If you would like to learn more about establishing an endowment, I would be happy to talk with you and send you an annual report listing all of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte's current endowment funds.

Judy Smith is the planned giving director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Contact her at (704) 370-3320 or jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

Without community, there is no church

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

If you've never been awakened early on a Saturday morning to the grating whine of a miniature John Deere tractor being driven through the neighbor's backyard by a 3-year-old, well, lucky you.

On the other hand, I have to admit miss that irritating little noise a bit now. Our wonderful neighbors moved to Oregon, and we won't get to see their children grow past the toy-mechanized-ractor age. Truthfully, we may never see hem again.

And whether you like it or not, in Anchorage, Alaska, it's easy to get to know your neighbors in the summer.

In the summer, everyone has the windows open — no air conditioning needed here. Everyone is out doing yardwork, barbecuing or taking walks. People snoop around at each other's garage sales mainly as an excuse to catch up on the news after a hard winter.

My other next door neighbor is an rish tenor who performs around town on St. Patrick's Day. Sometimes, I can hear him practice, and once he told me I had a nice voice, too.

I realized, with a blush, that I must be singing a little too loud with the windows open.

We don't have a lot of secrets in the summer. If a noisy argument erupts in someone's house, I'm sure the neighbors strain to hear that.

Community isn't what it used to be, though. Air conditioning where it's necessary probably did more to end summertime neighborliness than anything.

Who, in the blistering summer, sits outside on their front stoops fanning themselves and chatting with the neighbors if they can sit in the cool indoors?

Death to the neighborhood also came in the form of automatic garage door openers — as we drive in, we practically hermetically seal ourselves against the outside world.

This dearth of community extends to parishes as well. Gone are my childhood days, when everybody in church knew not only me, but my parents and grandparents. And if I missed Mass one Sunday? That was known too.

Anonymity brings its freedoms, but at heart I think we all yearn for a spot where we are known and recognized, where our presence brings a welcoming smile and our absence raises a question. Christianity is at heart a communal faith.

Parishes today can be big, impersonal affairs, so different from what Christ must have envisioned at the Last Supper, so different from the early days of the church when people gathered with friends in homes.

Today we have the challenge of being really intentional about forming community at church.

Extension Magazine just published Gallup study statistics that showed 77 percent of highly satisfied congregation members had shared a meal with people in their church over the past year.

What does that mean? It means if you want to be happy in your parish, you need to make the effort to form community. At my parish there's little excuse. Our social committee provides an event a month, from Halloween and Christmas parties to spaghetti feeds and Oktoberfests.

At these events I nearly always make one new friend, another person who smiles in genuine recognition when it's time for the sign of peace.

In the fall parishes generally begin sign-ups for classes, or hold stewardship drives to get us involved in committees. This is the perfect time of year to take a small step toward community.

What do you have to lose? Sure, community's never perfect — that noisy little tractor on a sleepy Saturday morning proves that.

Nevertheless, community is priceless. Without it, we're really not church.

Pope says to follow Christ, show charity, solidarity with suffering

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Charity and solidarity with the suffering are indispensable signs of truly following Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Citing the teaching of St. Gregory Nazianzen on charity at his Aug. 22 weekly general audience, the pope again appealed for international assistance for the victims of the Aug. 15 earthquake in Peru.

The pope returned briefly to the Vatican from Castel Gandolfo for the weekly audience and continued a talk he began Aug. 8 about St. Gregory, the fourth-century doctor of the church.

"Gregory reminds us that as human persons, we must be in solidarity with each other," said the pope.

St. Gregory also emphasized the importance and necessity of prayer, the pope said.

Pope Benedict said that in prayer "we allow our masks to drop" and present ourselves honestly to God as an offering to be purified and transformed.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the teachers of the ancient church, we now continue our reflection on St. Gregory Nazianzen.

Gregory considered it his mission to employ his learning and literary talent in the service of the Gospel. Inclined to study and prayer, he nonetheless took part in the many controversies which followed the Council of Nicaea.

Gregory forcefully defended the church's faith in one God in three equal and distinct persons. He upheld the full humanity of the incarnate Son, arguing that Christ took on our human nature in its integrity, including a rational soul, in order to bring us the fullness of redemption.

He likewise defended Mary's dignity as the mother of God, her purity and her intercessory power.

Gregory often stresses our Christian responsibility to imitate God's goodness and love through charity and solidarity with others, especially the sick and those in need. He also speaks eloquently of the importance of prayer, in which we see everything in the light of Christ, are immersed in God's truth and inflamed by his love.

The life and teaching of St. Gregory are a celebration of the divine love which is revealed in Christ. Let us open our hearts to this love, which overcomes our weakness and gives lasting joy and happiness to our lives.

Caring for all

Being just, generous to world's poor builds global solidarity, lasting peace

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Pope Benedict XVI recently warned that wealth "does not ensure salvation, rather it could even seriously compromise it." He said that Christ aught us to guard against greed and hat we should become detached from earthy possessions.

Referring to the Chapter 25 of he Gospel of St. Matthew in another address, Pope Benedict said, "In a word, God at the final judgment will ask us if we have loved not in an abstract way, but with concrete acts."

Calling on St. Basil the Great for added support, the pope said that St. Basil taught that "the Christian living in conformity with the Gospel recognizes hat all people are brothers and sisters."

But do we really see all people as our brothers and sisters? Do we genuinely strive to help as many of them as possible with concrete acts of love?

Most of us consider our loved ones as brothers and sisters. But when it comes to the poorest of the poor living in places like Darfur, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, India and Haiti, we often instead consider them as statistics.

Although we sometimes feel sorry for the 18,000 children who die each day from hunger and disease, we don't really think of them as brothers and sisters. After all, would we allow a brother or sister to go hungry or sick without doing our best to help them?

And what about our enemies? Do we consider terrorists our brothers and sisters? Not likely. But then what do we do with Jesus' command to love our enemies and to do good to those who persecute us? Tough question.

Maybe it's the fact that most of the world's poor are so far away. Maybe we are just too busy to give them much thought.

Maybe we are too stingy. Maybe we don't believe in foreign aid. Maybe we hate terrorists and desire to do to them as they want to do to us.

Whatever maybes we are holding onto, we had better let them go. Our peace of soul, as well as peace on earth, depends largely on our willingness to embrace all people as brothers and sisters.

Even when they are doing evil, they are still our brothers and sisters. And our Father calls us to help them in every way possible.

Very soon Congress will consider legislation that will determine whether millions of the world's poorest people live with misery or dignity.

Please be a caring brother or sister and quickly urge your two U.S. senators and congressperson to fully support the following federal budget requests by Catholic Relief Services:

1) Increase funding to at least $140 million for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and make required funding for it a permanent part of the farm bill.

2) In that same farm bill, place stricter limits on commodity subsidies given to large commercial farms and instead greatly increase financial assistance to small- and medium-size U.S. family farmers who really need the help.

3) Increase funding to at least $1.5 billion for Title II poverty-reduction programs in the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

4) Increase funding to at least $1.8 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Funding below this amount will dangerously delay grant money to very poor countries that have worked hard to meet all U.S. requirements.

Being just and generous brothers and sisters to the world's poor builds global solidarity and lasting peace.

2007
Diocese of Charlotte
Eucharistic Congress

TO KNOW
JESUS CHRIST

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS K-12

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SATURDAY — SEPTEMBER 22
CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

CARITAS CHRISTI URGET NOS

Dear First Communicants,

I would like you to help me honor Jesus in a very special way at our diocesan Eucharistic Congress on Saturday, September 22, 2007 in Charlotte. I am inviting all of our First Holy Communicants to walk with me and our Blessed Lord from St. Peter's Church to the Charlotte Convention Center. I ask you to wear the same clothes you wore for your First Holy Communion.

I will be carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance, and you will be in the Procession in front of me dropping rose petals to honor our Lord. Your parents will walk along the sides of the streets where they can watch you. When we reach the Convention Center your parents will take you to your seats as all the banners of our parishes are brought in for the celebration. We will then have a Holy Hour of prayers with Jesus at the Convention Center.

After the Holy Hour, a full day of programs, music and the Celebration of the Holy Mass is planned. Please visit the Eucharistic Congress website at www.GoEucharist.com for more information.

In Christ,

+ Peter J. Jugis

The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte

New this year: Children cannot be admitted to any children's track programs at the Convention Center without online pre-registration.

NO REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CONGRESS.

Children's Tracks

Grades K-2
"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"
- Age-appropriate instruction and activities
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

Grades 2-5
"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"
- Age-appropriate instruction and activities
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

Middle School Track

Grades 6-8
"To Know Jesus Christ in Middle School"
- Age-appropriate instruction and activities
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

High School Track

"To Know Jesus Christ in High School"
- Fr. Leo Patalinghug, "In the beginning – a vocation story"
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Lunch provided

Schedule

8am-10am: Check-in — Children may NOT be dropped off at this time
9am–11am: Eucharistic Procession and Holy Hour -- (Children must remain with parent/guardian)
11am: Drop-off children
11:30am-3:30pm: Track sessions
3:30pm: Track sessions end – All children and teens picked up

SPACE IS LIMITED so register NOW!

PRE-REGISTER NOW ONLINE ONLY for all tracks at www.GoEucharist.com.

FC 282
C365

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 38

Perspectives

A revealing look at those in unsafe working conditions; Mother Teresa's birthday; the secret to a sane life

| PAGE 7

Protecting God's children

Diocese found in compliance with U.S. bishops' charter

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte was found to be in compliance with the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" during a recent audit.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis received the official notification of the compliance in late August from the Massachusetts-based Gavin Group, which conducts the audits of dioceses around the country.

The audit examined compliance to the 17-point charter of abuse response and child protection standards approved by the U.S. bishops in 2002. The charter was updated in 2005.

Audits of 195 Catholic dioceses and Eastern-rite

See AUDIT, page 6

A resting place for resurrection

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Knights of Columbus surround a crucifix as Bishop Peter J. Jugis blesses the new Catholic cemetery in Salisbury Sept. 1. Assisting are Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, and Deacon James Mazur, permanent deacon. The cemetery is located on the future site of Sacred Heart Church.

Bishop Jugis blesses new Catholic cemetery

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

SALISBURY — A Knights of Columbus color guard led the procession up the grassy hill, where a crowd stood silently, reverently, around a giant wooden crucifix.

It was here that Bishop Peter J. Jugis blessed with holy water the Diocese of Charlotte's new Catholic cemetery in Salisbury Sept. 1.

"It is beautiful that we are gathered here on this mountain. In Isaiah Chapter 25, we learn that on the mountain the Lord will destroy the veil that veils all people … he will destroy death forever and open up for us eternal life," said Bishop Jugis to those gathered.

"We have a reflection of that here, on this mountain, this hill, here in Salisbury," he said.

See CEMETERY, page 5

COURTESY PHOTO

Jesuit Father Bill Ameche stands with a few of the 150 people who attended the first Spanish-language Mass at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Aug. 12.

Creating an inclusive church

Parish groups work to welcome Hispanics

BY JOANITA
M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA — At St. Eugene Church in Asheville, it's the Latino Advocacy Group (LAG); at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, it's the Hispanic Ministry Committee (HMC).

Whatever the name, these groups and their parishes are responding to the needs of Hispanic immigrants coming to their areas.

"The Latino Advisory Group helps the larger English-speaking community be more aware of the Hispanics and how to help out," said Jesuit Father Bill Ameche, who works with Hispanics in the Asheville Vicariate.

The LAG and HMC have Hispanic members, but most committee members are Anglos.

"The dominant culture has to have the welcoming

See OUTREACH, page 9

Funding the future

Foundation grants assist students, Hispanics

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — Students at St. Leo the Great School and Hispanics throughout the Winston-Salem Vicariate will soon have better opportunities for learning and expanding their Catholic faith, thanks to grants from the Foundation for the Roman

See GRANTS, page 7

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Vocations

Priests, seminarians, youths meet, discuss vocations

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch

New book on Father Judge; Talbot celebrates 50 albums

| PAGES 10-11

Youths in Action

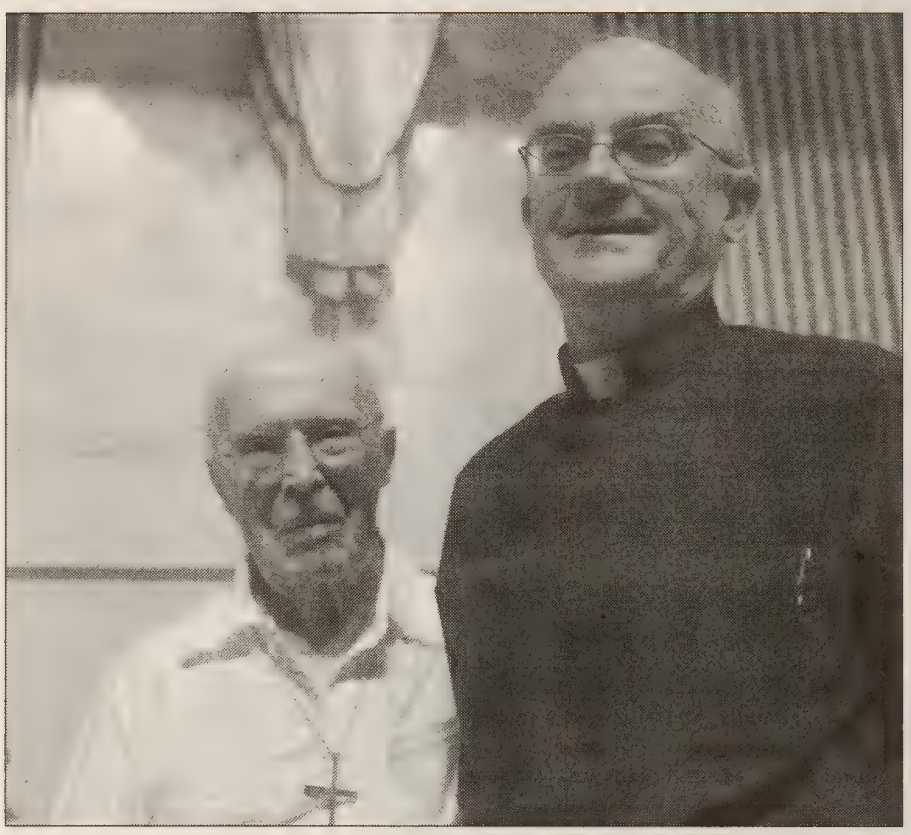
Youths explore faith; back-to-school photos

| PAGES 12-13

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

'MONSIGNOR' MARTINELLI



CNS photo by Douglas Kaup, Pittsburgh Catholic

Joseph Martinelli stands with his pastor, Father James Kunkel, after morning Mass in early August at St. Colman Church in Turtle Creek, Pa. Martinelli, at 95, is still active in his parish, with duties that include overseeing the parish's money counters on Sunday mornings and helping with the parish festival.

Active 95-year-old is listed as pastoral assistant in parish bulletin

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — At age 95, Joseph Martinelli is a regular at daily Mass at St. Colman Church in Turtle Creek.

In the parish bulletin he's listed as pastoral assistant, just hinting at the many roles he fills.

"He's been active for many decades," said Father James Kunkel, pastor. "He serves liturgically as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion and reader, he takes Communion to the sick, does the prayers at funeral homes and goes to the cemetery."

Martinelli also oversees the parish's money counters on Sunday mornings and helps with the parish festival.

"He's very holy, spiritual and dedicated to the church. He's willing to help," Father Kunkel said. "We call him 'the monsignor.' He looks like an Italian monsignor."

Martinelli's extensive church involvement is nothing new. It started the day he retired after 42 years as an electrical instrument calibrator. That day, his pastor told him he had something for him to do, and the work hasn't stopped since.

Small in stature and agile, Martinelli is still able to genuflect and care for his own garden.

He was playing golf twice a week until a year ago when the people he played with got sick, as he put it.

And, after 12 years, he recently stopped delivering for Meals on Wheels, concerned about driving the winding, challenging roads of the area.

Martinelli came to the United States when he was 9 with his parents from the Abruzzi region of Italy. He earned his electrical engineering and political science degrees from the University of Pittsburgh by going to night school.

"I was blessed with good parents," he said.

It was after he married his wife, Sophia, that he became really involved in church life at St. Colman. And as the father of four girls, he said he wanted to set a good example for them.

Though Sophia died 23 years ago, he talks of her often.

"She's guided me a lot," he said. "She came from a very good Catholic family."

It was that influence, he said, that made a genuine impression on him.

As for his lifetime of work with the church, he said, "It's pretty hard to describe. It seems to be the proper thing to do. I've enjoyed 95 years of my life, and I want to give something back."

CHA president chosen most powerful figure in U.S. health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More powerful than bodybuilder-turned-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger? It's true if you're Sister Carol Keehan.

The issue isn't about who can lift the greatest weight in the gym. It's about who's got more muscle in the health care arena.

Sister Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, the trade group for Catholic hospitals, finished first in the sixth annual reader poll conducted by Modern Healthcare magazine of the 100 most powerful people in health care.

California Gov. Schwarzenegger, finished third. Mitt Romney, Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts governor, was second.

Sister Keehan topped all comers, including presidents, presidential candidates, congressional movers and shakers, federal officials, hospital executives, educators and public policy vanguards in the survey, which was published Aug. 27.

She was ranked 26th in the 2006 survey. Sister Keehan had just assumed the CHA presidency the previous November.

In profiling Sister Keehan, the magazine said she "has somehow managed to connect with all the disparate interest groups without alienating any of them."

But being the most powerful doesn't get you everything.

"Quite frankly, I think we won't have health care reform worthy of this country until the American people demand it," Sister Keehan told the magazine.

Sister Keehan, 63, is the first woman to have ever topped the Modern Healthcare list, as well as the first former bedside nurse and the first former hospital CEO to make it to No. 1.

Over the past year, the CHA, under her leadership, has stumped for renewal of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, lobbied for greater access to health care for all, and advocated for the continued tax-exempt status of hospitals.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West., will host a five-day mission Sept. 15-19 at 7 p.m. Deacon Norm Carroll will speak on *"Accepting the Spirit of Vatican II."* Other mission topics include the Bible, conscience, personal freedom and calling to greatness. We explore these topics in a deeply spiritual setting where at its conclusion you will be closer to Jesus and his church. For more information, call the faith formation office at (828) 697-7420.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will host *"Men's Spirituality"* the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. The hour-long meetings will include silence, prayer and faith sharing. The reading for Sept. 11 is Luke 14:1, 7-14; and Chapter 3: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Pope Benedict's "Jesus of Nazareth"). The reading for Sept. 25 is Luke 16:19-31; and Chapter 4: The Sermon on the Mount. For more information, call Michael LaVecchia at (704) 363-7729 or Kevin Bezner at (704) 907-3875 or e-mail mjl@seafoods.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will present *"The Acts of the Apostles"* Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., Sept. 12-Nov. 14. This study program will include individual study, small-group discussions and taped lectures. For registration and more information, call Mary at (704) 948-8285 or Angela at (704) 400-8517.

CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will continue its three-part adult educational series entitled *"Worshipping with the Church"* Sept. 12 and 19. Classes will meet 7-9 p.m. in the Allen Center cafeteria and will focus on deepening and enriching our experience of Catholic worship. For details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641, ext 221.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Sept. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213 or e-mail kschwabent@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services will host a second *Refugee Forum* Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Levine Jewish Community Center in Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Rd. This event will focus on the work of resettlement agencies, how they operate and explain specific volunteer opportunities. Also, business owners and managers who have hired refugees will speak about the positive influence they bring to their workforce. Refugee Resettlement Office employment specialists will be on hand to answer questions. At 8:15 p.m., a live interview with Ishmael Beah, author of the New York Times bestseller "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," detailing his childhood experiences fighting a civil war in Sierra Leone, will be broadcast via satellite. For more information, call Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3283 or e-mail mjbruton@charlottediocese.org

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with *"Lunchtime Spirituality"* at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The topic for Sept. 20 will be St. Bernard of Clairvaux's "On Conversion." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 38

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope condemns arson attacks, says people must care for creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God gave people the duty to take care of the earth, but they "often abuse creation and do not exercise" their responsibility to be stewards of nature, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Citing the teaching of St. Gregory of Nyssa at his Aug. 29 weekly general audience, the pope condemned as criminal the suspected arson attacks that have hit parts of Europe.

Highlighting his concern for the recent "serious calamities" of flooding in Asia and "disastrous fires in Greece, Italy and other European nations," the pope said it was impossible "to not be troubled by the irresponsible behavior of those who put people's safety at risk and destroy the environmental heritage — a precious asset for all of humanity."

"I join those who rightly stigmatize such acts (as) criminal and invite everyone to pray for the victims of these tragedies," he said.

CNS PHOTO BY JOHN KOLESIDIS, REUTERS

Smoke and flames from a forest fire are seen behind the houses of a village south of Athens, Greece, Aug. 26.

Greece was the hardest hit by wildfires that began Aug. 24 and killed at least 64 people. The government suspects many of this year's blazes were started by arsonists because the number of major forest fires throughout Greece more than doubled from last year.

CHARLOTTE — *"God Loves Us into Creation: A Retreat for Young Adults (ages 18-40)"* will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). Please join us for a morning of prayer and reflection focusing on God's love. We will close our retreat together with a celebration of the Mass at 11:30 a.m. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next to the Church. To register call Kelly Payne at (704) 661-3302 or e-mail kelleepain@aol.com.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *Free Italian Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Wednesdays, Sept. 5-Nov. 7, 7-8 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, e-mail Gianfranco Vettor at gvettor@yahoo.com or call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — Father Daniel Mahan, a mission priest, will preach at St. Pius X Church, 2210 North Elm St., Sept. 8-11. Father Mahan will preach at the 5 p.m. Mass Sept. 8 and at the 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses Sept. 9, and at 7 p.m. Sept. 10-11. The topic will be *"Catholic Stewardship as a Way of Life."* For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

HIGH POINT — *Free Spanish Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays, Sept. 13-Oct. Nov. 1, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail nsskee@hotmail.com or call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

GREENSBORO — *The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will start its 2007-08 fiscal year with a luncheon Sept. 26 at Cardinal Country Club. A social hour 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m., lunch 12-2 p.m. Speaker will be Laurie Thore, marketing director for the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department. For more information, contact Carmen Wood at (336) 545-9266.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — Dr. Ronda Chervin will present *"Spirituality of the Emotions II: Personality, Character and Emotions"* Thursdays at 7 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St. This will be teachings, group sharing and prayer with the goal of allowing God to bring us healing and improvement in dealing with negative emotions. For some, this will be a follow-up to the summer sessions but anyone can join at any time. For more information, call Dr. Chervin at (828) 413-4624 or the church office at (828) 437-3108.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOORESVILLE — Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., will celebrate 50 years as a Jesuit with a *Mass of Thanksgiving*, Sept. 9 at 12 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A course on *Natural Family Planning* will meet Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. The Sympto-Thermal Method of NFP is safe and medically proven 99.9% effective. Couples with marginal fertility will also benefit from working with their natural mutual fertility instead of against it. Call Todd and Stephanie Brown at (336) 765-2909 for more information.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 8 — 5 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville

Sept. 11 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council meeting
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Sept. 12 — 6:30 p.m.
MACS Ed. Foundation Circle of Celebration
Charlotte

Sept. 15 — 4 p.m.
50th Anniversary Jubilee Mass
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

During visit to Austria, pope expected to strengthen faith's impact

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI makes his first papal visit to Austria in early September, a three-day mission to strengthen the faith and its public impact in one of Europe's traditionally Catholic countries.

The visit Sept. 7-9 will focus on the 850th anniversary of the Marian sanctuary at Mariazell, which has long been a spiritual beacon for Central Europe.

In keeping with the theme of the visit, "Look to Christ," the pope is expected to emphasize Mary's role as a gateway to faith in Jesus and as a model of the church as mother.

The rest of the pope's schedule is designed to spotlight the importance of the Christian faith in Austrian history, the church's recent signs of parish vitality, and its presence in social debates and works of charity.

Among Austrian church leaders, the hope is that the papal visit will mark a new and positive chapter after a troubled period. Over the last 10 years the number of Austrian Catholics declined by 6 percent, partly as a result of a seminary sex scandal and a bishop's resignation, as well as new tensions between lay Catholics and the hierarchy.

The trip, the pope's seventh foreign journey, will take him back to a country where he frequently visited and vacationed before his election in 2005. Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna said Austrians sense that the German pope loves their country and they have shown a positive and growing interest in the substance of his visit.

Essentially, he said, Pope Benedict is coming "to demonstrate how beautiful it is to follow Christ" and to encourage Christians to "live their faith in daily life."

These two fundamental objectives are in perfect sync with the pope's back-to-basics approach to his papal ministry. In the pope's view, confronting secularization in Austria or elsewhere requires a double strategy: helping Catholics to reinforce their own faith and inviting them to make it count in society.

After arriving in Vienna, the pope will begin his public program in the city's historic Am Hof Square. In keeping with the Marian focus of the visit, he will pray before the baroque Column of Our Lady that stands in the center of the square.

Then the pope will stop at the Holocaust memorial in Vienna's "Judenplatz," or Jews Square, where he was expected to briefly greet Jewish leaders. Most of the country's approximately 200,000 Jews left Austria after it was annexed by Nazi Germany in 1938, and many of those who remained were killed in Nazi death camps.

The highlight of the trip is the papal Mass in Mariazell Sept. 8, the feast marking the birth of Mary. Some 40,000 Catholics have reserved transportation to the liturgy, which will be celebrated outside the shrine's basilica.

Candles for Katrina

CNS PHOTO BY LEE CELANO, REUTERS

A man holds a candle in front of the St. Louis Cathedral during a candlelight vigil in New Orleans to mark the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina Aug. 29. With a thunderstorm providing eerie sound effects, Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans told the hundreds gathered at the vigil to persevere in their faith despite the pitfalls of a painfully slow recovery. Explaining that "hurricane" is a West Indies word for "divine wind" and Katrina means "cleansing," Archbishop Hughes told them that they have a responsibility to remain hopeful that God will deliver them from the worst natural disaster in U.S. history.

"On the second anniversary of Katrina, can we pray that the divine wind of the Holy Spirit may cleanse us of what was not right in the old New Orleans, that we might know new life in a new New Orleans," Archbishop Hughes said.

ATTENTION READERS

The Catholic News & Herald is back on its regular, weekly publishing schedule.

PRAYERS AND BURGERS

Courtesy Photo

Father Rick DeClue talks with seminarians Jason Barone and Matthew Codd during an annual cookout and social for priests and seminarians at Bishop Peter J. Jugis' residence in Charlotte Aug. 6.

Priests, seminarians gather for annual cookout

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis recently hosted a cookout and social for priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The gathering was held at Bishop Jugis' residence in Charlotte Aug. 6. Approximately 50 priests gathered with most of the diocese's 17 seminarians from four seminaries throughout the country, including two new seminarians — Brian Kaup of Brevard and Josh Bradford of Charlotte.

The annual event began in 2005, when the diocesan Presbyteral Council suggested a get-together to allow priests and seminarians of the diocese to get to know each other.

After praying evening prayer together at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, the priests and seminarians went to Bishop Jugis' residence for hot dogs and hamburgers, cooked by Knights of Columbus from St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

DAY OF DISCERNMENT

Courtesy Photo

Diocesan priests are pictured with college, high school and middle school students from around the diocese during the annual vocations day of discernment, held at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton Aug. 10.

Students explore vocation possibilities at annual event

LINCOLNTON — Male college, high school and middle school students from around the diocese recently gathered for the annual vocations day of discernment.

Diocesan priests gathered with approximately 50 students for the daylong event, held at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton Aug. 10.

The event provided a chance for the students to discern what God is asking of their lives and to explore their possible callings to the priesthood.

In addition to attending Mass, the students spent the day in prayer, eucharistic adoration and talks with priests and seminarians on discerning a call to the priesthood.

The day also included sports and games led by Chris Beal, youth ministry director at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, as well as a panel discussion with a question-and-answer session about life in the priesthood and seminary.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information about vocations to the priesthood, contact Father Christopher Gober, vocations director for the Diocese of Charlotte, at (704) 370-3353.

High and holy notes

Sacred choral music to open 2007 Eucharistic Congress

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — A choir of heavenly voices will soon be heard rejoicing.

A collection of sacred choral music will kick off the upcoming Eucharistic Congress on Friday night, Sept. 21. The congress, free and open to the public, will be held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

"The concert will feature a cross-section of choral music — from English, French and American composers — including Gregorian chant," said Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, director of music at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

This year's performance will include selections by Martin Shaw, Franz Biebl, John Ferguson, Henry Purcell, Gabriel Faure, Andre Thomas, C. Villiers Stanford and Mozart.

"Mozart's Mass is a concise work, with beautiful melodies — it's a wonderful piece for such a large choir to perform," said Stratemeyer. "The other pieces in the program fit that description as well."

Stratemeyer and Tiffany Gallozzi, music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, have prepared the choir, comprised of nearly 120 parishioners from churches around the Diocese of Charlotte.

"This is a great opportunity for individuals to perform as part of a large choir," said Stratemeyer. "Members of small parishes, especially those in rural areas, don't always get to sing with a choir."

Stratemeyer said the audience will be invited to join the choir in singing "Praise My Soul the King of Heaven" arranged by John Ferguson.

The free hour-long concert is "an opportunity to experience live choral music, which is a treat," said Stratemeyer.

The Eucharistic Congress will be "a time of celebration, adoration and teaching centered on the mystery of the Eucharist," according to Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

In addition to sacred music, Friday evening will feature eucharistic adoration and a talk by Franciscan Father Benedict Groeschel entitled "What the Presence of Christ Means in Your Life."

Saturday's events will begin at 9 a.m. with a eucharistic procession from St. Peter Church in Charlotte to the convention center. The procession will feature choirs, Catholic organizations, youth groups and parishioners from all 92 parishes and missions in the diocese.

The congress will feature seminars, speakers and activities for adults, children and youths, and conclude with a Mass Saturday afternoon.

WANT MORE INFO?

The sacred choral music concert starts at 7 p.m. in the Charlotte Convention Center's Main Ballroom. For more information on the congress, visit www.goeucharist.com.

VERY FEW SPACES LEFT— CALL TODAY!

WALK WHERE JESUS WALKED ON A DIOCESAN-SPONSORED PILGRIMAGE TO

THE HOLY LAND
November 6 – 15

with Fr. James Hawker, Diocesan Vicar of Education and Pastor, St. Luke Church

Deepen your understanding of our Catholic faith and watch the pages of the Bible come alive as you experience daily Mass at many of the historical sites of our faith.

Highlights include:

- Tiberias, Mt. Carmel, Sea of Galilee area
- Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth – Jesus' boyhood area
- Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, River Jordan
- Jerusalem area: Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Lord's Tomb at Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Mount Zion, Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, Wailing Wall
- Dead Sea (excavations and scrolls), Masada, Holocaust memorial
- Bethlehem's historic sites - **PLUS much more!**

* **Price: Only $2,499 from Charlotte includes airfare**, most meals, first class hotels and all tours. Airport taxes/fees, tips and insurance are extra.

Call Cindi Feerick at 704/370-3332 for a brochure with complete details or Pentecost Tours 800/713-9800 for registration.

Bishop Jugis blesses new Catholic cemetery

CEMETERY, *from page 1*

Bishop Jugis called the cemetery a sacred place, "because it will hold our bodies that are the temples of the Holy Spirit."

"When we make the passover from this world to the next life, we want to make sure we are uniting ourselves with Jesus and living in communion with Jesus," said Bishop Jugis. "Uniting ourselves with Jesus means … those who go to their deaths believing in him will also be united with him in the resurrection."

"May we always respect and honor this place, those who rest here and ourselves, as we wait in hope for the glory of the resurrection," he said.

A growing demand

Located on Jake Alexander Boulevard at the site of the future Sacred Heart Church, the new cemetery is the sixth Catholic cemetery in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte. It is only one of two, however, currently available for burial of the laity from any of the diocese's 92 parishes and missions.

The Salisbury cemetery has 660 plots already designated, with room to expand to accommodate more. Future cemetery plans also include lawn crypts, a chapel, a mausoleum, an area designated for priests and a memorial wall for children.

Four Catholics are already buried in the cemetery. Paul Mendez, 19, a former altar server at Sacred Heart Church who died of cancer in May, was the first to be buried on the property.

"He grew up here. He was a very active and well-known parishioner, as big a part of the parish as anyone," said Derron Dulkoski, chairman of the parish cemetery committee.

"When he passed, we agreed he should be the first to be buried here and we worked to make it happen," said Dulkoski.

The four graves are located around the 17-foot-tall wooden crucifix, which features a six-foot tall corpus of Jesus, carved by Eric Lawlor, a lifelong parishioner of Sacred Heart Church.

For the wood, Lawlor chose Eastern red cedar gathered from the church's original property on Old Mocksville Road.

"The crucifix is tremendous — it really makes it feel like a Catholic cemetery," said Dulkoski. "The fact that Eric is a parishioner makes it mean that much more."

"To stand in the middle of the cemetery, it stands as a symbol of God's love, who laid down his life for us," said Bishop Jugis. "It watches over the bodies and keeps them safe until the day of resurrection."

The cemetery is one component of Sacred Heart Church's master plan to relocate to the new property. Parish growth is necessitating the move of the church and its school, and Father John Putnam, pastor, felt it was important to include the cemetery in the master plan.

"In planning for the new parish site, a parish cemetery was consistently requested by parishioners," said Father Putnam.

"With the major influx of Catholics to our area — both transplants and converts — the need for a new Catholic cemetery is certainly here, both within our own parish and beyond," said Dulkoski.

"The parish has a list of more than 100 people already interested in burial here, and we'll soon be ready to sell plots," said Dulkoski. "We're fortunate to have enough land to do this. It's an important part of our faith."

"In addition to the church building itself, a Catholic cemetery is considered a sacred place for Catholics where the faithful departed await the final resurrection," said Father Putnam. "For Catholics, the cemetery is a place of special devotion and prayer."

Burial over cremation

The cemetery helps answer the request by Catholics for a final resting place that is identifiably Catholic. Some parishes had recently begun adding columbaria for cremated remains, but had not made any provisions for those who desired burial of the body.

In 2006, the Diocese of Charlotte implemented a moratorium on constructing and expanding columbaria and conducted a study on the use of columbaria and cemeteries.

"The church prefers the burial of the body of the deceased over the cremation of the body," wrote Bishop Jugis in a Sept. 8, 2006 column in The Catholic News & Herald.

Bishop Jugis cited the Order of Christian Funerals — the Vatican-approved rite used for celebrating Catholic funerals — which indicated three reasons for the preference:

— Jesus willed to be buried;

— the body at the funeral rite expresses in a natural way the manner people had been accustomed to relate to the person while he or she was alive, namely through a human body;

— the body at the funeral rite expresses Jesus' teaching regarding the supernatural dignity and destiny of the human body.

"These three reasons influence the church's reverence for the sacredness of the human body in death, and explain the church's preference for the presence of the body at the funeral rites and burial of the body over cremation," wrote the bishop.

The Order of Christian Funerals presents cremation as an exception to burial and allows Catholics to be cremated "when extraordinary circumstances make the cremation of a body the only feasible choice."

In March 2007, the diocese issued its new policy on cemeteries and columbaria, which states parishes may offer at one location a resting place for both the bodies and the cremated remains of the deceased.

"We'll see if there is a demand for a columbarium or mausoleum in our area," Dulkoski said.

The policy gives the diocese the option to create Catholic sections in local cemeteries and to receive or purchase land for establishing a Catholic cemetery.

"With this policy, the diocese wishes to respond in a comprehensive way to the vision of canon 1240 to provide a resting place for the remains of the faithful departed," the policy states.

"The cemeteries hold the bodies of the faithful departed, and they must be treated with respect and reverence," said Bishop Jugis.

"Hopefully, parishes elsewhere will work to establish Catholic cemeteries in other areas," he said.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Kaiden Dulkoski, 2, explores the new Catholic cemetery in Salisbury Sept. 1.

Catholic cemeteries in the diocese

— Belmont Abbey, Belmont (for clergy and religious)

— St. Benedict cemetery, Belmont (Abbey property)

— St. Joseph Church, Mount Holly (not active)

— St. Helen Church, Spencer Mountain (for St. Helen parishioners only)

— St. James the Greater Church, Concord (active)

— Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury (active)

Celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year?

If you were married during 1957 or 1982, you and your family are invited to the

Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass

at

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
in Charlotte

Sunday, October 28 — 2pm

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Please note: To receive an invitation, you must call your parish office to register.

Sponsored by the Family Life Office of Catholic Social Services

Feast for a feast day

Photos by Carole McGrotty

Above: Father Wilbur Thomas, pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, enjoys Mexican music and folk dancing with parishioners during a parish celebration of the feast of St. Lawrence Aug. 10. Below: Parishioners enjoy a covered-dish dinner as part of the celebration.

Basilica celebrates patron saint with Mass, social

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Parishioners of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville recently gathered to celebrate their parish's patron saint.

A bilingual Mass and dinner were held to commemorate the saint's feast day Aug. 10. The parish Family Life Commission and Hispanic Pastoral Committee organized the celebration, which included a Mexican band and folk dancers in the parish hall.

St. Lawrence, one of the seven deacons of the early Christian church, was one of the victims of the persecution of Valerian in 258, along with Pope Sixtus II and other clergy.

When asked by the Roman prefect to bring forth the church's treasures, St. Lawrence brought forward the poor and told him that they were the church's treasure. St. Lawrence was executed and suffered a martyr's death Aug. 10.

Diocese found in compliance with U.S. bishops' charter

AUDIT, *from page 1*

eparchies in the United States are conducted on a regular basis. The Diocese of Charlotte has been audited four times since 2004.

Church employees and volunteers throughout the 46-county diocese are required to attend the diocesan sexual abuse awareness training program, Protecting God's Children, and are subject to background checks.

Since 2003, more than 15,800 people have attended the training and 13,760 background checks have been conducted.

WANT MORE INFO?
More information about the charter and about reporting and preventing sexual abuse can be found on the diocesan Web site, www.charlottediocese.org.

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Holy Angels' CEO elected to board of N.C. Center for Nonprofits

BELMONT — Regina Moody, president and CEO of Holy Angels Inc. in Belmont, has been elected to the statewide board of directors of the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits.

Holy Angels is a nonprofit corporation providing programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation, some of whom have physical disabilities and are medically fragile.

Moody is president of the N.C. Association of Residential Resources and serves as a board member for the Gaston County Chamber of Commerce, Gaston Day School, Belmont Abbey College and the FEMA Board. She is on the advisory board for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's School of Nursing at Gaston College.

Founded in 1990, the N.C. Center for Nonprofits is a statewide coalition of 1,550 nonprofit organizations in all 100 counties across North Carolina. It serves as a network for nonprofit board and staff members, an information center on effective nonprofit organizational practices and an advocate for the nonprofit sector as a whole.

Regina Moody

Its mission is to serve, promote and represent the nonprofit sector and strengthen nonprofits' effectiveness as they improve North Carolina's quality of life.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information about Holy Angels, visit www.holyangelsnc.org or call (704) 825-4161.

ATTENTION READERS! HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

You're Invited!
Room At The Inn's
Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet
"Hope for the Future"

Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Featured Speaker
FOX News Channel's
Judge
Andrew P. Napolitano

Judge Napolitano appears daily on *The Big Story with John Gibson*, co-hosts *FOX and Friends* once a week and is a regular on *The O'Reilly Factor*. A graduate of Notre Dame Law School, he is informative, entertaining and absolutely pro-life!

Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm
**** Reservations are FREE, but required.**

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@carolina.rr.com by **September 17th.**

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a Catholic maternity and after-care program for pregnant mothers in Charlotte, N.C. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.

Foundation grants assist students, Hispanics

GRANTS, *from page 1*

Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

Jim Kelley, director of diocesan development, presented two checks — one to Father Brian Cook, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, and to Georgette Schraeder, principal of St. Leo the Great School; and one to Pedro Trinidad, coordinator for the Winston-Salem Vicariate Hispanic ministry, during Mass at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Aug. 26.

Listen and learn

At St. Leo the Great School, a grant for $4,000 will be used to install an Audio Enhancement infrared sound system in the first-, second-, third- and fourth-grade classrooms.

With the system, the teacher wears a wireless microphone, which transmits her voice to a receiver mounted on the classroom's ceiling and evenly distributes her voice throughout the room. The students sitting in the back of the room hear at the same volume as their classmates in the front row.

Although the system is designed to help the 15 percent of students who have hearing or speech impairments, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or other learning impairments, Schraeder said research shows that all students can benefit from the system.

"We're excited to have this system — it will 'level the playing field' for our students who have learning impairments," she said.

The system will be installed later this fall, and Schraeder said she will track the students' test results to measure the system's effectiveness.

St. Leo the Great School will be the only school in Winston-Salem using the Audio Enhancement system. Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point also uses the system.

"This is the latest in a series of grants we have been fortunate to receive from the foundation," said Father Cook.

"In addition to the audio system, we have also been able to provide continuing education for our teachers and an innovative summer reading program for our students who need extra help in that area," he said.

"We are grateful to the foundation for the opportunities to enhance our teachers' continuing education and special consideration for students," said Father Cook.

¿Por qué ser católico?

Kelley also presented a $1,500 check to Trinidad for the Winston-Salem Vicariate Hispanic ministry. The funds will be used to purchase reading materials and supplies for the Spanish-language version of the Why Catholic? program, ¿Por qué ser católico?

Why Catholic? is a program that fosters spiritual renewal and evangelization through parish-based small Christian communities.

"The Why Catholic? program has proven itself to be an invaluable catechetical tool for baptized Catholics who want some 'updating' in their faith, as well as for those people considering joining the Catholic Church," said Father Cook.

"The funding provided by the foundation is a tremendous gift to Hispanics in the diocese," he said.

Participants meet for six weeks at a time, twice a year for four years. Each year, an aspect of Catholic life is explored in small Christian communities.

The Hispanic program in the Winston-Salem Vicariate began meeting during Advent in 2006. The next session will begin meeting during Advent this year.

Trinidad said that about 60 Hispanics from three churches — St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, Good Shepherd Mission in King and Holy Cross Church in Kernersville — currently gather in small faith-sharing groups, to explore their Catholic faith.

"We hope the foundation will continue to support this valuable program," Trinidad said.

"Over the last several years, the foundation has awarded 150 grants to parishes, schools and agencies in the Diocese of Charlotte," said Kelley. "Through these grants, we are helping those recipients to accomplish their life-changing work."

The Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte has more than 155 endowments, all but four of which have been established for specific parishes, schools and agencies. The four general endowments provide income to fund grants such as those presented at St. Leo the Great Church.

COURTESY PHOTO

Jim Kelley (left), director of diocesan development, stands outside St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem Aug. 26 with Father Brian Cook, pastor; Principal Georgette Schraeder of St. Leo the Great School; and Pedro Trinidad, Winston-Salem Vicariate Hispanic ministry coordinator.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION:

The diocesan foundation provides endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, agencies and organizations. Over the past 11 years, more than $2 million has been distributed by the foundation to parishes, schools and agencies.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

The Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte distributed $69,500 among 31 grants in 2007

St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, Stoneville
Scholarships for the Justice & Peace Weekend Experience: $1,000

Sacred Heart Church, Brevard
Youth leadership training: $2,000

CSS Office of Economic Opportunity
Far West Families First Program: $2,000

International Friendship Center
Hispanic newsletter printing: $2,500

Catholic Hispanic Ministry-Smoky Mountain Vicariate
Hispanic Ministry in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate: $1,500

CSS Latino Family Center, High Point
Academic and socio-cultural camp: $2,000

CSS Host Homes, Winston-Salem
Children and teen outreach: $2,000

New Creation Monastery, Charlotte
Facilitate a clergy association: $500

St. Joseph Church, Kannapolis
Pre-school for low income non-English speaking children: $4,000

St. Leo the Great School, Winston-Salem
Student Learning Support Services: $4,000

Spirit of Assisi Center, Winston-Salem
Outreach Programs $4,000

Charlotte Catholic High School
Research lab for faculty, students: $4,000

St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Mars Hill
Cross-cultural outreach: $5,000

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte
Hispanic ministry: $1,000

Holy Angels, Inc., Belmont
Van acquisition project: $1,500

Diocesan Hispanic youth and young adult ministry office
Catholic Hispanic sexuality formation program: $1,000

African American Affairs Ministry
African American Affairs Ministry program: $2,500

Sacred Heart School, Salisbury
Tutoring program: $5,000

Sisters of Mercy Services Corp. DBA ARP/Phoenix, Asheville
African American Youth Empowerment Program: $4,000

Hispanic Ministry, Boone Vicariate
Equip and maintain Hispanic ministry office: $1,500

Hispanic Ministry, Greensboro Vicariate
Hispanic evangelization: $1,500

Hispanic Ministry, Winston-Salem Vicariate
Hispanic evangelization: $1,500

Our Lady of Consolation Church, Charlotte
English for Speakers of Other Languages: $2,000

Genius of Africa, Inc., Charlotte
Development of office for communication and education: $1,000

Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville
Hispanic marriage ministry: $2,000

St. Pius X Health Care ministry, Greensboro
Fund a community health fair for the Greensboro Area Community $2,000

CSS Refugee Resettlement Office
Rent for program site office: $2,000

St. Matthew Church, Charlotte
Hispanic "Why Catholic?" program: $1,000

St. James the Greater Church, Concord
Hispanic ministry: $2,000

St. Michael School, Gastonia
School and church playground equipment project: $2,000

St. Aloysius Church, Hickory
Youth scholarships and trailer purchase: $1,500

Experiencing difficulties in your marriage?

A Lifeline for Marriage

September 12 - 14 in Raleigh

Come for a weekend to rediscover your spouse under the ministry of Retrouvaille, (pronounced "retro-vi").

Designed to provide tools for difficult times, this weekend will help married couples examine their lives in new, positive ways.

Retrouvaille has helped many thousands of couples experiencing everything from disillusionment to deep misery.

For confidential info or to register: 336-297-0595 or retrouvaille@msn.com.
Visit our Web site: www.retrouvaille.org.

¡Bienvenido!

St. Luke Church welcomes Hispanic parishioners with Mass, outreach

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church in Mint Hill is joining other churches in the Diocese of Charlotte to minister to the needs of their Hispanic parishioners.

About a year ago, Edra Alonso recognized the need at St. Luke Church to offer a Spanish-languages Mass, as well as programs in Spanish.

Alonso, who grew up in Manhattan and spent 40 years living in Madrid, Spain, enthusiastically began working on ways to reach out to the local Hispanics.

This Sunday, Sept. 9, will see the culmination of the work of a small but dedicated group of volunteers led by Alonso, as the first bilingual Spanish-English Mass will be celebrated in the parish. Alonso isn't expecting overflowing pews at the Mass, but she is optimistic.

"Most parishes have about five people at Mass when they first start offering it in Spanish," she said. "So, if there are 15 people there, I'll be thrilled."

Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church and vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte, will celebrate the Mass. He isn't fluent in Spanish, but Alonso isn't worried.

"Father Jim will do his best, and the people appreciate the effort, even if his Spanish isn't perfect," she said.

Alonso has printed missals in Spanish and English, so that worshippers can understand the readings and prayers, no matter what their primary language is.

"They're just like the kind we used when the Mass was said in Latin, but with Spanish on one page and English on the other," she said.

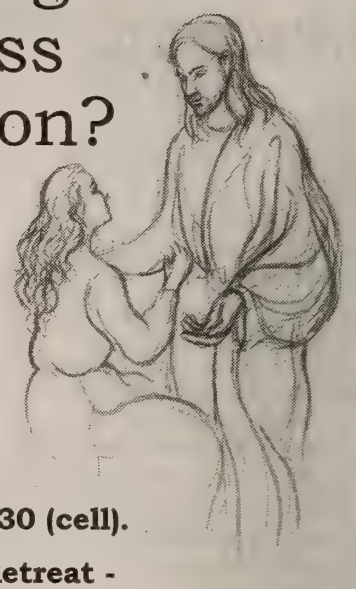
In the near future, Alonso plans to offer faith formation classes, spiritual and social ministries targeted for Hispanics. She also wants to offer English-as-a-second-language classes.

The bilingual Mass will be celebrated each Sunday at 1 p.m. at St. Luke Church.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

> "Most parishes have about five people at Mass when they first start offering it in Spanish. So, if there are 15 people there, I'll be thrilled."
>
> — Edra Alonso

Seeking healing and forgiveness after an abortion?



Experience God's love and compassion once again –

The Charlotte Diocese Respect Life Office of Catholic Social Services offers help to both men and women at

704-370-3229 and 704-231-2030 (cell).

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreat - September 28-30 in Rock Hill, SC

You may also want to visit Rachel's Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org for helpful articles, retreat information and other direction to new hope and meaning for your future.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

135,000 people will read these words this week!

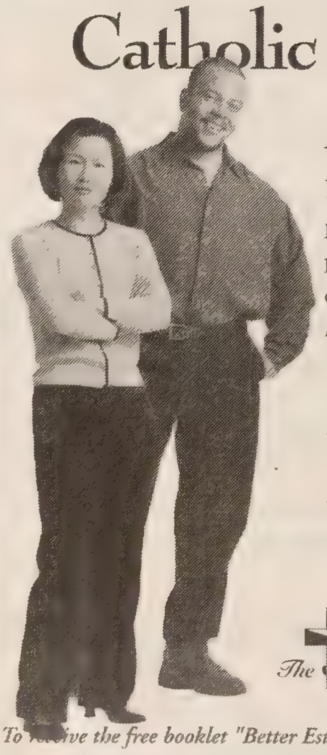
***Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S** name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald

Catholic Heritage Society



Please join us

Honoring the generosity of Catholic friends who provide for the future of the Church through a planned gift to the Diocese of Charlotte or a diocesan parish, school, agency, or diocesan foundation.

Become a member by making:

- *a gift from a retirement plan*
- *a gift of life insurance*
- *a bequest in your will*
- *a gift of real estate*
- *a gift of a trust*
- *a gift of life estate*
- *a gift of an annuity*

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

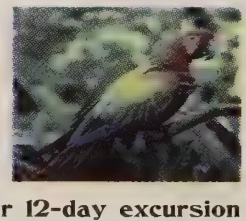
CRUISE ONLY (without airfare*) FOR $2,460!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN and the PANAMA CANAL

January 31- February 11, 2008

All family and friends are welcome to join with Fr. Mo West as we cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.



Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

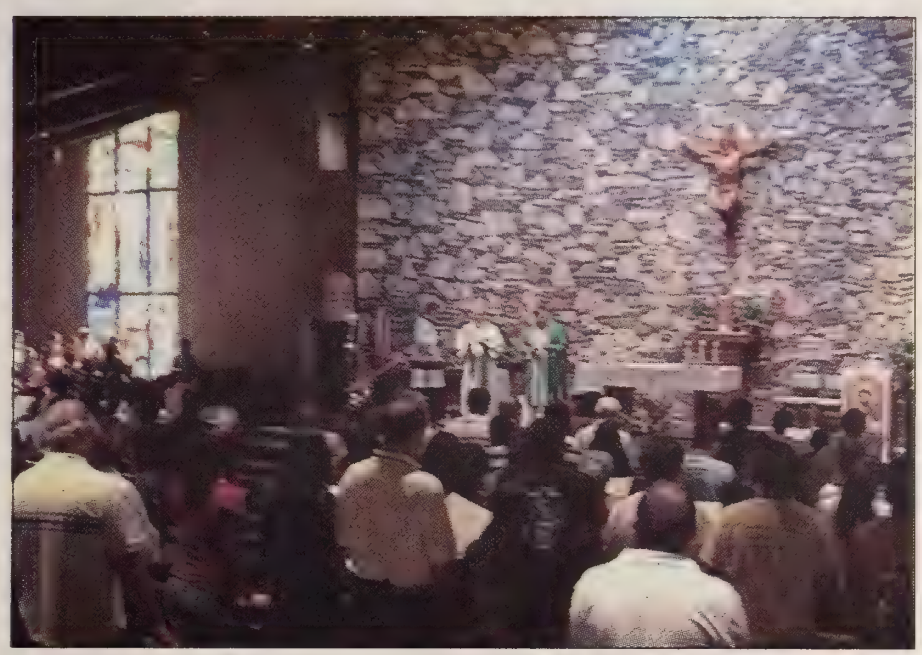
PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

*Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, baggage handling and all port charges! Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332** or Patty at Collette Vacations **(877) 894-1245 ext. 3163**.

Parish groups work to welcome Hispanics

OUTREACH, *from page 1*



COURTESY PHOTO

Father Dean Cesa celebrates and Jesuit Father Bill Ameche concelebrates the first Spanish-language Mass at St. Barnabas Church in Arden Aug. 12.

committee to welcome the other culture," Father Ameche said. "It's very simple; it's very humble."

St. Eugene Church's LAG, begun more than two years ago, focuses on identifying needs in the Hispanic community. About 16 people regularly participate on the committee.

"When you have a group of Anglos advocating for the Hispanic community, it's more likely that something will happen right away," said Antonio Garcia, Hispanic ministry coordinator for the Asheville Vicariate.

Among their activities, committee members go to Asheville City Commission meetings to advocate about Hispanic concerns.

It's also essential to respond to Hispanics' religious needs. Each year, Father Ameche said, more than 600,000 Hispanic immigrants leave the Catholic Church. Other denominations actively recruit and welcome the immigrants, even bringing pastors from Mexico.

"They don't feel welcome (in U.S. Catholic churches)," Father Ameche said. "No one says 'Hi.'"

That changes when Anglos see Hispanics as vital members of the U.S. Catholic community.

"If we are welcoming to them, they are welcoming to us," Father Ameche said. "There's a new energy. I've noticed that the people on the committees are older, but they're open to the gift."

"If we just had national churches, we would have lost out. This allows us to be who we are as Catholics — we're inclusive," he said.

St. Eugene Church

Anglo parishioners at St. Eugene Church asked for a Spanish-language Mass, which began in October; 250-300 people regularly attend.

Prior to starting the Mass, St. Eugene Church had an informal English-as-a-second-language class, with 45-50 students. Soon, however, a more formal class will begin. The Asheville Literacy Council will provide some materials and will train the volunteers who will teach the class.

Like other Catholic churches, St. Eugene Church has an Easter triduum, but this year there was an added Hispanic dimension.

It began at 6 p.m. on Holy Thursday, with Hispanics from all four Asheville Catholic churches participating. They walked the Way of the Cross — the stations set up on the Asheville Catholic School's baseball field, with people portraying Mary, Veronica and others.

Mass was at 7 p.m.: in English in St. Eugene Church, just up the street from the school, in Spanish in the school gym. After the Spanish-language Mass, the 400 attendees sang together as the Eucharist was carried to the church for adoration along with the Eucharist that had been consecrated in the church.

Together, the two communities adored the Blessed Sacrament.

Snow fell on Good Friday, so in the gym, after the liturgy, a special service was held, called the "Pesame a la Virgen." A woman portrayed Mary. As the worshipers sang a song about Mary's thoughts as she held her dead son, the cross was placed in her lap to represent Christ in death.

There followed a silent procession to the burial site, also set up in the gym.

"In the silence there's no language problem," said Father Ameche.

The Anglos liked what they saw of the Hispanic Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, Father Ameche said, "and were asking if they could have something like that next year."

St. Barnabas Church

At St. Barnabas Church, HMC formed about three months ago, after Father Ameche gave a presentation there about Hispanic advocacy groups.

> "If we are welcoming to them, they are welcoming to us."
>
> — Jesuit Father Ameche, Hispanic ministry

About seven or eight people regularly serve on the committee, including Father Dean Cesa, St. Barnabas Church's pastor; Nick Grasberger, Gina Horecky, Ken Marino, Carlos Rangel and Lia Terrey.

"As a Roman Catholic parish, our ministry is to everyone within our parish boundaries," Father Cesa said. "We want to be welcoming to everyone. So, offering Mass in Spanish opens the doors to an even wider population."

Horecky and Marino attended an LAG meeting to learn more about how St. Eugene Church's committee operates.

HMC developed a mission statement: "To support the Catholic faith of the Spanish-speaking among us by offering worship, friendship and assistance."

HMC's primary goal has been achieved: St. Barnabas Church has a Spanish-language Mass. Some 150 people, mostly Hispanic, attended the first one, at 5 p.m. on Aug. 12, with Father Cesa celebrating and Father Ameche concelebrating.

"I was really upbeat about the whole thing," Marino said. "I thought it came off really well."

About 100 people attend the weekly Mass, celebrated by Father Cesa or Father Ameche.

In addition to its plans to organize events that will bring the Anglo and Hispanic communities together, HMC is "collecting the needs of the people," Father Cesa said. "We're working to get a baptism class started for Hispanic parents who want their children baptized."

A custom popular in Mexico is blessing children when they reach their third birthdays. St. Barnabas Church has already had one such blessing at the end of Mass. The outreach is important, Marino said.

"It just seemed to me that was something out there that had to be done. I viewed it as a Christian situation, as do other people in our parish," he said. "After Father Bill gave his talk, Nick was in the social hall signing up people."

Restoration House
704-291-7945

"Come all who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Restoration House is a place for people to reflect, relax, and find peace in the scenic North Carolina mountains. It is a log cabin with beautiful views located off I-40 near Marion, NC — 90 minutes from Charlotte and 40 minutes east of Asheville. It is far from cell phones, email, and the hurried pace of daily living — perfect for restoring the mind, body and spirit. Restoration House is ideal for rental to small groups (small faith-groups, women's groups, music groups, etc.) at $160 for an entire group per night. It is also available for rental to individuals and couples. Create your own get-a-away…or attend one of our planned retreats listed below.

Upcoming Facilitated Catholic Retreats for Adults:

September 28-30	**Moms:** "Slow Down, Recharge, and Create Space for God" with the book "Breathe" by Keri Wyatt Kent. (special $150)
October 12-14	**Women/Men:** "Growing Closer to God in the Midst of Personal Trials" with a video, inspirational speaker, and a Bible study on Job.
October 26-28	**Women/Men:** "Wisdom for Living" shares valuable insights through Bible studies on proverbs and parables.
November 9-11	**Couples or a Spouse Alone:** "Finding Christ in Your Marriage" uses a Bible study to look at what the Scriptures say about marriage.
December 7-9	**Women:** "Experiencing a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas" includes both reflective and festive activities — a great seasonal celebration.

Retreats are $190 per person ($290 per couple for Nov. weekend). Rate includes 2 nights of lodging, a facilitated program by Tom and/or Amy Barsanti, workshop materials, and meals. Retreats begin Friday evening and end mid-day Sunday. Call Tom for more details: 704-291-7941.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

New book pays tribute to priest who said 'yes' to God

BY JOSHUA GARNER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Kelly Ann Lynch recalls her friend, Franciscan Father Mychal F. Judge, as someone who always said "yes" to helping those in need.

That's why Lynch named her new children's book "He Said Yes: The Story of Father Mychal Judge."

"He said 'yes' to so many things," said Lynch of the New York City fire chaplain who died ministering to victims in the rubble of the World Trade Center's twin towers Sept. 11, 2001. "He was an amazing man."

His story and life of service to others was the inspiration behind Lynch's first book, which hits store shelves in early September.

The idea to write a children's book based on Father Judge's life came to her during Mass in late 2002 near her hometown of Lancaster, Pa. She was still grieving the loss of a man she'd known all her life.

"I remember thinking Father Mychal's story was too important not to be told or shared," she said.

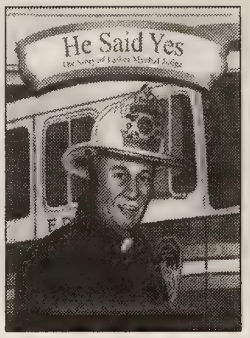
She described him as a proud Irish-American with a soft and soothing voice, recalling that he would often speak to her in a crowded room as if she were the only person there.

Her life lessons and experiences with Father Judge are found across the pages of "He Said Yes." The book features vivid illustrations by artist M. Scott Oatman of moments in her life when Father Judge was present.

Lynch said Father Judge was an emotional constant in her life, always there to provide support. She had known him since she was a young girl growing up in New Jersey.

By 23 she was married, with a 7-month-old daughter, Shannon, who was terminally ill with a failing liver.

Abandoned by her husband, whom she said could not deal with the pressure of their child's illness, Lynch said she was left to fend for herself. It was Father Judge who urged her to let go and leave it up to God, she said.



And it was Father Judge who told her, "God cannot heal Shannon until you give her back."

"I literally lifted her (Shannon) up to God and I let go," she said. "That was the hardest thing I've ever done."

Shannon Lynch, now 17, survived thanks to a revolutionary liver-transplant procedure. As with her mother, she said, Father Judge had become a constant presence in her life.

"I just remember all the love he had for us and our family," she said. "He became a best friend to our family."

And it was the love of the book that would eventually convince book publishers to print it.

Initially editors at Paulist Press said they did not know what to expect. After all, Lynch never attended college and most of her work experience was as a legal aide, not a writer.

"We loved Kelly's manuscript. We loved the incredible paintings" by Oatman, said Susan O'Keefe, children's editor at Paulist Press. "But at some point we had to step away and ask, 'Can we sell it?'

"We took the leap," she said in an e-mail to Catholic News Service.

The leap of faith is starting to pay off. The book sold more than 600 copies in preorders, an impressive accomplishment for a first-time author.

Kelly Lynch has become a minicelebrity in her hometown of Lancaster, appearing on the cover of the local newspaper and participating in book signings and interviews with national media outlets. She has already completed two more children's books.

Still, Lynch said she will remain dedicated to keeping Father Judge's memory alive and passing on his message, "Listen for (God's) voice and say 'yes.'"

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

---

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 16, 2007

Sept. 16, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
2) 1 Timothy 1:12-17
3) Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

In God's eyes, we are irreplaceable

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I rummaged through closets and drawers trying to make as little noise as possible because I knew I was indulging in obsessive behavior. But my grown son, visiting from out of town, heard me.

"Mom!" he called from downstairs. I heard the familiar mix of amusement and mild irritation in his voice. "Are you still looking for my sunglasses? Stop. I'm just going to get another pair."

Really, I know I have this obsession — spending way too long and hard looking for lost things. Maybe it's that son's fault.

My memory is etched with the experience of a week when he, as an infant, lost his pacifier — the one and only that would, well, pacify him. It was "The Longest Week" as we tried numerous replacements to no avail and much wailing.

Somehow we all survived, but I think it left me a little weird about going out of my way to find lost things.

However, that primal need for security is in all of us. It's not so surprising that we constantly search for the ultimate security of being loved.

The God of love placed that desire in us, reflective of his own desire for our love.

The Gospel parable of the lost coin could just as easily be for me the parable of the sunglasses. It tells me that just as I am irrationally driven to find this lost item, God can't help but go out of his way to try to retrieve even one lost soul.

In the vast eyes of God, not one of us can be replaced — so his desire and his effort to bring back the lost cannot be dissuaded.

Completing the parable of the sunglasses, imagine them falling from a car's roof onto the street where they are smashed under the wheels of a van, then swept into a storm drain.

Then imagine obsessive me finding one intact lens and following a trail of plastic bits into the storm drain and picking through the mud to find every last piece and miraculously (this would be me being God) restoring them to their original condition of infinite coolness, the basic quality of sunglasses.

That's a distant approximation of God's desire to have us always with him.

Questions:

What experiences of loss speak to you about the joy of reunion with a loved one? When have you recognized God going out of his way to bring you, or someone close to you, back into his loving presence?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 9-15
Sunday (Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time), Wisdom 9:13-18, Philemon 9-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33; **Monday,** Colossians 1:24--2:3, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday,** Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday (Holy Name of Mary),** Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday (St. John Chrysostom)**; Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday (Exaltation of the Holy Cross),** Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Saturday (Our Lady of Sorrows),** 1 Timothy 1:15-17, Luke 2:33-35.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 16-22
Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14,1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday,** 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday (St. Januarius),** 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon, St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions),** 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday,** 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Diane Bullard (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

Saint Therese of Lisieux

Reverse of Centerpiece

FIND HEALING IN HER 'SHOWER OF ROSES'

Share your special healing needs with Saint Therese, the Little Flower, who promised to let a "shower of roses fall from Heaven."

Open your heart to this beloved Carmelite Saint when you pray with the Little Flower Rose Petal Chaplet.

- Features 25 rose-scented beads, made from real rose petals.
- Silver-tone medal with detailed image of Saint Therese.
- Blessed by the Carmelite Friars.
- Comes with instructions… "How to say the Little Flower Chaplet."

Ask Saint Therese for a "shower of roses" today! *Request your Little Flower Rose Petal Chaplet with a gift of $12 or more in support of the Carmelite Friars.*

Carmelite Friars • National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel™
P.O. Box 868 • Carmelite Drive • Middletown, NY 10940-0868
(845) 344-0876 • (Calling Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST Mon.-Fri.)

☐ YES… I believe in the healing power of prayer! Please send me _____ **Little Flower Rose Petal Chaplet(s)**. I have enclosed a gift of $_______ in support of Carmelite ministries. *(The suggested donation is **$12** for **each** Chaplet requested.)*

☐ Please send me a FREE Blessed Scapular.
Please Note: You must check boxes to receive items.

☐ My check is enclosed made out to the Carmelite Friars.
☐ Please charge my gift of $_______ to my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
Acct. no. _______ - _______ - _______ - _______ Exp. date _____ /_____
Signature ______________________

Name ______________________
(please print)
Address ______________________
City ______________ State _______ Zip _______
Phone (_____)______________ Email ______________
Please allow 3-6 weeks for delivery of items Your gift is tax deductible to the extent of the law.
CNH-TH07

Into the unknown future

Talbot celebrates 50 albums, prepares for break in recording, touring

BY ANDREA SLIVKA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — John Michael Talbot's newest album, "Living Water," will mark more than one noteworthy occurrence.

In addition to being his 50th album, it will also be his last recording for an unknown period of time as he prepares to take a break from recording and touring.

"I don't know whether or not I'm going to quit it, but I am going to pause for a while," Talbot told Catholic News Service in an interview about his new album and his writing style.

He spoke by telephone from his Little Portion Monastery in Arkansas.

For the past 15 years, he has performed in four concert tours a year, traveling back and forth across the country numerous times and also visiting Europe.

"I'm kind of preferring to spend some time with nothing for a while," he said, adding that what God wants him to do after that is God's business.

He still plans to tour in the fall of 2008 and the spring of 2009 to promote his new album, which was released Aug. 15.

Although touring is a lot of work, he said he loves doing concerts and would continue them, except, in prayer, he hears God telling him to stop and "stand still for a while" so God can direct him.

That could be back into touring, doing prayer walks again or even being a recluse for the remainder of his life.

"It's up to God," Talbot said.

"Living Water" contains a variety of new songs orchestrated in his traditional meditative style, which he hopes will help his listeners feel at home with the milestone album.

While he worked from his traditional style, he also experimented with different orchestrations. He said some songs have a more intimate feel with few instruments beyond his guitar, while others have full orchestration.

His own favorite songs are those that contain a combination of both styles, with intimate verses and musically expanded choruses.

In the world of Christian music, Talbot said, his music in general is unique because he does not follow the trends of popular music.

Instead, he listens to a variety of music — from chant to rock 'n' roll — and then sits down with his guitar and "the music that comes out is the music that comes out," he said.

CNS FILE PHOTO

Catholic singer and songwriter John Michael Talbot, who recently released his 50th album, is now preparing to take a break from recording and touring.

As his songs go from the writing stage to recording, he identifies a theme for his album, chooses songs that reflect that theme and then begins recording his songs with his guitar and primary vocals.

Then he dubs his own voice for background vocals — often six overdubs of each part for a chorus of 18 voices. Orchestration is added as the final touch.

Talbot said he is influenced by the Scripture of the day, prayers of the saints and his own current spiritual life when writing lyrics. He is particularly partial to the Psalms, Isaiah, the books of Wisdom, the Sermon on the Mount and the sections of Paul's letters where "he really lets his heart show."

In addition to Scripture, Talbot's new album also contains Mass parts, although Talbot said he's writing more for personal prayer than for its use as liturgical music.

But in writing music, Talbot believes it's not his job to create the music but, instead, to let God inspire it.

"In the mind of God, the song has been there forever, and the job of the composer is to find that song," he said.

However, he thinks a musical artist can fail by not working diligently enough to find the song and can also fail by overworking the song. The key is to find the right balance.

At the monastery that he founded in 1980, the community has recently started raising free-range chickens — those raised outside any kind of pens — in the middle of Tyson chicken country in Arkansas. He wants the community to be self-sufficient beyond what he provides through his music's profits.

Local college student wins in video contest

NEW YORK — Robin Taylor, a communications major at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., is a winner in The Christophers 20th Annual Video Contest for College Students.

Robin's video, "Remembering Pamela," was one of five entries to receive a $100 honorable mention.

Each year, entrants are asked to create a short film running five minutes or less — narrative or documentary — around the theme, "One Person Can Make a Difference."

The $3,000 first prize was awarded to Sean Brown of Southern University in Carbondale, Ill., for his film "Bright Idea."

The Christophers, a non-profit organization, uses the mass media to encourage individuals to use their God-given abilities to make a positive difference in the world. The Christophers' motto, adopted from the ancient Chinese proverb, is: "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Dancing in Denver

Courtesy Photo

Students dance during the vacation Bible school held at Holy Spirit Church in Denver in July. Approximately 100 students and 30 volunteers enjoyed the program, themed "Avalanche Ranch: A Wild Ride through God's Word." The program included Bible skits, games and songs all centered on building a closer relationship between the students and God.

A highlight of the week was the craft room, where more than 200 fleece bears were stuffed and sewn to be donated to Amy's House, a shelter for domestic violence victims in Lincolnton, and to local police and fire departments to give to children in need.

View from the top

Courtesy Photo

Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, is pictured with Ascension, the parish's teen choir, outside St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley as part of a retreat July 21-25.

Teens ascend to learn about Jesus, unity

LAKE JUNALUSKA — Ascension, the teen choir at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, recently shared a bonding and faith experience in the N.C. Smoky Mountains.

The group took part in a retreat, themed "More of Jesus, Less of Me," at Lake Junaluska July 21-25.

Each day, the 24 teenagers and six adults shared prayer and devotional time, as well as team-building and recreational activities.

"Any time you get the teens away from their busy schedule, true bonding takes place. It's really a mountaintop experience," said April Ryder, an assistant with Ascension.

"Our goal is always to bring that spirit of unity back from the mountaintop and into the valley of everyday life," she said.

To conclude the retreat, Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church, joined the teens for a roundtable discussion and celebrated Mass at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley.

PARISH BUSINESS MANAGER

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charlotte, is seeking a full time Business Manager. Responsibilities include management of the human resource system, budget, financial accounting and reporting, asset management and replacement, approval of all purchases and expenses within the fiscal year budget, and compliance with all diocesan and parish administrative policies. Requirements are: knowledge of accounting principles; personnel management skills; computer skills including spreadsheet, word processing, Internet and e-mail processing. Call Greg Bove at 704-549-1607 ext. 230 for an interview appointment.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Full-time Director of Major Gifts

Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, business administration or related field; five years experience in fund development and major gifts. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include developing strategies, events, and materials to inform, engage, cultivate and solicit current and prospective major gifts prospects.

Please submit resume to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by July 30, 2007. Questions to 704-370-3301 or email at jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

J.S. Paluch Co., established in 1913, the nation's oldest Catholic Publisher, is now interviewing for the position of Sales Representatives for parish church bulletins. Realistic earnings potential of 40K+, health insurance, paid vacation, 401K. Some travel required. Self-motivation a must. Bilingual helpful in some areas. To arrange an interview call Les Black at 800-432-3240. Seniors welcome to apply. EOE

Classifieds

SERVICES

COUNSELING: Individuals, couples, family, depression, anxiety, relationships, spiritual issues. Lucille Moses, Licensed Professional Counselor. Charlotte. 704-366-6507

FOR RENT

CONDO: OCEANFRONT on Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Great off-season rates: by the day, week or month. Consider a long weekend — close by getaway. Good swimming until October. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

FOR SALE

MOBILE HOME: Excellent 2BD/2BA full-furnished mobile home. Landscaped ½ acre, screened lanai, carport. Two miles to Withlacoochie River, 4 miles to Rainbow River in beautiful Dunnellon, FL. $49,900 firm. 336-984-4486. glynnmaryann@hotmail.com for pictures.

LOST AND FOUND

WANTED: Lost recliner, gold-colored fabric. Given to Salvation Army in Charlotte by mistake. Has sentimental value; will pay $500 for return. 803-548-61852

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Scholastic achievement

Courtesy Photo

Transition kindergarten teacher Bernie Armstrong at St. Matthew School in Charlotte reads to her class during the Scholastic spring book fair held at St. Matthew Church in May. The school recently won third place in Scholastic's national elementary school book fair contest.

St. Matthew School wins third place in national book fair contest

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew School in Charlotte was among eight schools to take third place in the Scholastic Book Fairs national elementary school contest.

Scholastic, a global children's publishing, education and media company, announced the winners of the contest on its Web site Aug. 3.

As a third-place winner, St. Matthew School's library receives a $1,000 shopping spree for instructional materials in the Scholastic Book Fairs' "Instructional Resource Catalog."

"The competition was very steep, with hundreds of entries submitted nationwide," said Deb Lee, school librarian.

"The contest process required us to document parent, student, teacher, administration and community involvement in the (school's) Scholastic spring book fair," said Lee.

The spring book fair was held in the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte May 11-18, with students, parents and faculty participating in the promotion and running of the event.

"A great big 'thank you' to the entire St. Matthew community for their heartfelt support," said Lee.

First Mass of the year

Courtesy Photo

Students of St. Matthew School in Charlotte serving as altar servers are pictured with Father Patrick Cahill and Father Patrick Toole, parochial vicars of St. Matthew Church, during the school's first Mass of the year Aug. 29.

Back to the books

Courtesy Photo

Students prepare to play instruments in music class during the first week of classes at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville.

Courtesy Photo

Second-grader Lexi Starets is greeted on the first day of classes Aug. 27 at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem by Principal Georgette Schraeder; Father Brian Cook, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church; and Abigail, Father Cook's dog.

Courtesy Photo

Principal Mark Akerman welcomes eighth-grader Patrick O'Shea to the first day of classes at St. Pius X School in Greensboro Aug. 27. Patrick is a member of the teams of eighth-graders who walked new students to their classrooms.

The school welcomed 460 students to the new school year, the highest enrollment in the school's 52-year history.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Working in misery

Lord calls us to help those who labor in unfair, unsafe conditions

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

Millions of workers in developing countries around the world did not have the day off on Labor Day.

Instead they toiled like they do every day — in misery. Laboring long, exhausting days in hot, dirty factories for pennies an hour is their sad fate in life.

In recent testimony before the congressional Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade and Tourism, Charles Kernaghan, director of the National Labor Committee, explained how many American corporations abuse poor workers worldwide for profit.

Citing the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement as an example, Kernaghan said that from 2001 to 2006, apparel exports from Jordan to the U.S. soared by 2,300 percent — from $52.1 million to $1.2 billion.

But what most American consumers do not know is that these hefty corporate profits often come at the expense of human trafficking and involuntary servitude.

"Bangladeshi guest workers had to pay $1,000 to $3,000 each to unscrupulous manpower agencies in Bangladesh to purchase a two- to-three-year contract to work in Jordan," said Kernaghan.

As poor workers, they had to borrow the money on the informal market at exorbitant interest rates of five to 10 percent per month.

"From the minute they took the loans, these workers were in a trap and a race against time to pay off their large debts," said Kernaghan. "But the workers were promised that they would be able to earn $134.28 a month for regular hours and up to $250 a month with overtime. All housing, food and medical care would be free."

But there was a catch: The contract tied the guest workers to just one factory, prohibiting them from working elsewhere.

Upon their arrival in Jordan, Kernaghan said, 115 workers from Bangladesh had their passports and residency permits immediately confiscated by company managers. Without residency permits, the workers could not go out on the street without fear of being detained by the police.

Kernaghan reported that instead of being paid the $250 a month they were promised, the workers earned $2.31 for a 98-hour workweek!

"Workers who asked for their legal wages could be imprisoned up to three days without food. ... Twenty-eight workers had to share one small 12-by-12-foot dorm room, which had access to running water only every third day. These workers sewed clothing for Wal-Mart."

One of the most effective ways we can help desperately poor workers is to lobby Congress for the passage of the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act. This anti-sweatshop legislation would prohibit the import, export or sale of sweatshop goods in the United States.

Once passed into law, this legislation would be an extremely powerful economic incentive for corporations to insure that humane working conditions and just wages are guaranteed to every worker making goods sold in the United States.

In 2000 the Dog and Cat Protection Act sailed through Congress and was signed into law by President George W. Bush. If Congress can pass legislation protecting dogs and cats, they can at least do as much for suffering human beings!

Please call, write or e-mail your two U.S. senators and congressperson, urging them to co-sponsor the Decent Working Conditions and Fair Competition Act (S. 367/H.R. 1992). Also ask parishioners, family and friends to do the same.

In the Gospel, Jesus instructs us to remember that the laborer is worth his or her wage. The Lord is calling us to work overtime for those who labor in misery. Will you answer his call?

A new look at bananas

Costa Rica visit coaxes different perspectives on life, food

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS COLUMNIST

I will never think of bananas the same way again. Not after my recent trip to Costa Rica.

Three years ago I broke my ankle while whitewater rafting in Costa Rica. After the hospital let me go, I was sitting in a little cafe in Quepos, wondering how I was going to get around town to buy crutches or my medicine.

A young man in the cafe, Eduardo, spoke English well. He offered to run errands for me if I paid him a little something.

Over the years we have corresponded. His family is very poor. I have kept in touch with them and help them out from time to time as they seem to go from crisis to crisis.

This was my first trip back in several years. Eduardo wanted me to meet his mother in Cariari on the Caribbean side of Costa Rica. His family lives in workers' housing on a huge banana plantation owned by a large American corporation.

So we drove down from the cool mountain plateau to the hot coastal plain near the swamps of Tortuguero.

It was hot. Really hot.

Once past Cariari, we drove for mile after mile through banana plantations with thousands upon thousands of banana trees. Each tree had large banana fronds.

Most of the fruit had been wrapped in blue plastic bags to keep the insects and birds from getting to the green bananas.

The family was delighted to have a "gringo" visitor. They sat up late talking. Their pet parrot kept jumping into the conversation.

The roads were bad, so we spent the night on the plantation rather than risk driving off a one-lane bridge in the darkness.

I thought that after the sun went down it would get cooler. Hardly. Not a breath of a breeze.

The cloudy sky covered the moon and stars, making it so dark that I could not see my hand in front of my face.

One of Eduardo's cousins gave up her bed for me to sleep in. As I lay there, sweating profusely, I could hear the mosquitoes hitting the screen over the window.

The combination of the heat, darkness and oppressively still air made me feel claustrophobic. I thought to myself, "This must be what hell is like."

The next morning was beautiful. The sun was bright on the banana plants. The men were going out to the banana trees on bicycles or in groups riding on the back of pickup trucks. They all wore heavy rubber boots.

Eduardo explained that the ground around the banana trees was wet and there were snakes. Even though the boots were hot, it was better than the snake bites and jungle rot you would get without them.

I could hear small planes flying very low overhead. They were spraying the banana trees for insects, apparently with indifference to the health of the workers standing directly below.

As we bounced out of the plantation on the rough roads, I thought to myself, "I will never see a banana the same way again."

I will think of the people at the other end of the supply chain. I will think of the heat, the sweat and the insecticide.

I will think of all the work it takes to bring that pleasant tropical fruit to the tables of the rich, that is, to us.

These are our brothers and sisters in Christ. They are members of our church.

When you sit down to the slices of banana on your morning cereal, think of them. Say a prayer for them.

The secret to a sane life

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"Will those who work 40 hours or less please raise their hands?"

When I asked this question recently, no hands went up. Some people work from sunup to sundown. Others are forever taking "red eyes" to be on time for the next morning's meeting.

No one is exempt from being over-stretched! Where might we find the antidote to this? How about revisiting the biblical story of Mary and Martha?

It begins with Martha inviting Jesus to dinner. As she busies herself preparing the meal, her sister Mary sits quietly listening to Christ. Unlike Martha, who is rushed and multitasking, Mary is still.

Here we have two sisters whom we can presume love each other. Loving brothers and sisters are a blessing and help to fill out each other's lives. Even if we don't have a sibling, having a good friend who acts as one creates this same dynamic.

Many see Martha and Mary as sisters who are anything but complementary. Mary seems to be the good one, while Martha is not so good.

When, however, we delve into the Greek version of the story, we learn Christ is not lauding Mary over Martha, but rather he is lauding a good Mary has chosen. The good is the grounding Mary adds to Martha's multitasking, rushed life, the anchor that keeps a highly active life under control.

As much as we admire Mary, most of us are Martha in real life: frenzied and out of breath. We have very little Mary in us: contemplative, prayerful and still.

There is a growing interest in revisiting the benefits of Benedictine monasticism and other contemplative orders. In today's hectic living, people sense a need for the powers of meditation.

Put another way, they are seeking the complementarity of Martha and Mary: Mary who is all "here" still and contemplative, and Martha who is all "there" with her multitasking.

It goes without saying that the world is forever urging us to be all there with it. When, however, we are all there, we don't find the real peace that we seek.

No matter what our state of life or position, it need not be a hectic existence, an "all there" existence. All we need to do is to practice the complementarity of Martha's being "all there" with Mary's being "all here." Achieving this balance is the secret to living a sane life.

Mary's September birthday

Month is good time to learn more about the Blessed Mother

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

I wager that if I asked my fellow Catholics when we celebrate the birthday of our mother Mary, most would either hesitate or blank out altogether.

Not to keep you all in suspense, it's Sept. 8. Ever since I was very young, September was a very special month.

And why not? My sister Rosemary, two years older than I, was born Sept. 2, my mother's birthday was Sept. 17 and mine, Sept. 18.

More so, our mother had been given the very special name of Maria Nunciato (Mary/Annunciation) at her baptism, and she remained ever devoted to Mary, a spiritual gift she passed on to her children.

Most Catholics have no problem remembering Mary's assumption into heaven, celebrated in August. But I think we should give equal time to her entry into earth. So I propose celebrating Mary's September birthday by learning more about her.

I have just read an astoundingly detailed book, "The Catholic Companion to Mary," written by Notre Dame Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich. Sister Glavich calls many of her surprising stories "trivial tidbits," but I call them "gentle gems."

She writes:

"A charming legend highlights Mary's heart for sinners. One day Jesus asked St. Peter, the gatekeeper of heaven, why certain sinners were walking around paradise when he had banned them. Peter replied, 'I shut the door to keep them out, but Mary opened the windows.'"

A good writer gets the reader to consider truths he or she may not have thought about before. Sister Glavich is very good at this.

"In Mary's womb, Jesus drew his flesh and blood, his human life from her," she writes. "Because Catholics believe that no man shared in Jesus' conception, all of his DNA, all of his human traits, must have been derived from Mary alone.

"In effect, Jesus was more like his mother than any son has ever been. ... What the incarnation means more than anything else is that there is no longer a gulf between God and humankind. God is one of us and knows what it is like to be a mortal being. ... We have Mary to thank for allowing that to happen."

Another story in this book "tells of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest executed by the Nazis during World War II when he voluntarily took the place of a man who had a family," Sister Glavich writes.

"According to St. Maximilian's mother, at the age of 10 he had a vision of Mary offering him two crowns, the white crown of purity and the red crown of martyrdom. Mary asked which one he wanted, and he answered, 'Both.'"

Mary is the mother for everybody, including Muslims.

"Muslims, who regard Jesus as a great prophet, also highly esteem his mother Mary as a pure and holy saint. They, too, call her Our Lady, and the Quran upholds the Immaculate Conception and the virgin birth. Mary is the only woman named in the Quran. It has 42 verses about her, more than the Bible. ...

"Perhaps Mary someday might provide a bridge for dialogue between Muslims and Christians," Sister Glavich comments. Only Mary and John the Baptist are celebrated on their birthdays.

"The feasts of other saints are celebrated on their day of death, their birth into heaven," the author informs us.

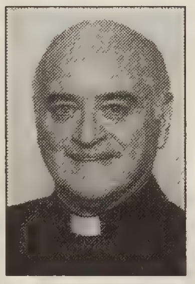
On Sept. 8, let's not forget to say "Happy Birthday!" to our loving mother in heaven.

Abortion and human rights

Church stands as beacon of light in darkened world

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



Is it a woman's fundamental right to take the life of a helpless infant in her womb if she so chooses?

There is a strong block in this country that insists that it is, based on the Supreme Court's split decision in Roe v. Wade.

Back in March of 1994, the U.S. State Department sent an "action cable" to all its embassies instructing them to tell their host governments: "The United States believes that access to safe, legal and voluntary abortion is a fundamental right of all women."

John Leo, writing in U.S. News & World Report (Sept. 19, 1994), stated: "The use of the term 'fundamental right' was part of an aggressive U.S. lobbying effort at the 1994 Cairo Population Conference" where abortion was being promoted as a component of a population control policy.

"It was a breathtaking leap," Leo continued, "since abortion is nowhere outside of North America considered a fundamental right."

This State Department memo amounted to an attempt to impose the ideological structure of Roe v. Wade on the rest of the world, thereby overriding the religious beliefs, laws and customs of other countries.

Leo added, "Most Third World nations are heavily dependent on U.S. foreign aid, so the implication left hanging in the air was that resistance to the concept of abortion as a fundamental human right might prove costly to the member nations.

"The March cable made it clear that the U.S. intended to play hardball, stating that 'senior-level diplomatic interventions' with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund would advance U.S. population policy interests."

A spokesperson for the U.S. Catholic bishops at the time quoted a Guatemalan government minister as saying, "If I do not go along on abortion, there goes my aid money."

American cultural imperialism did not begin after Sept. 11, 2001; the United States has been flexing its muscles for many years. How did the world react to that State Department memo in 1994?

Pope John Paul II intervened and got about 30 other nations to oppose the United States in its efforts to foist on the whole world the idea of abortion as a "fundamental right of all women."

The Clinton administration quickly backed down, and by the end of the week the U.S. abortion policy was removed from the family planning section of the Cairo conference. Clinton won his election with 43 percent of the votes; half of the voters considered abortion to be immoral.

The Catholic Church may have its faults and issues on the human level, and we apologize for our sins, but the church must always strive to speak the truth with love and to instruct the faithful to follow God's will.

In favoring principle over the expediency of the moment, the church stands as a beacon of light in a darkened world. The church always has the right to oppose immorality even if a large majority is for it.

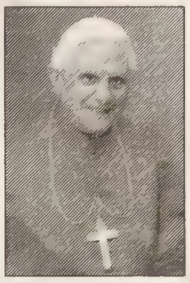
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the church to love the sinner but hate the sin. This means that we are for women, not against them.

The church has made a monumental effort all over the world to help women who are in post-abortion distress. The church is the mystical body of Christ on earth.

Global wealth, resources also belong to world's poor, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world's wealth and resources do not belong to a select few, they also belong to the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said as he urged people to aid the needy and protect the environment.

"Christ is present even in the poor so they must never be insulted," abused or deemed worthless, the pope said, citing the teachings of St. Gregory of Nyssa at his Sept. 5 weekly general audience.

Pope Benedict returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa south of Rome for the weekly audience and continued a talk he began Aug. 29 about St. Gregory, the fourth-century bishop and doctor of the church.

He said St. Gregory showed the different ways humanity could get closer to God, through prayer, "purification of the heart," and love for others.

"Love for one's neighbor is the true path up to the Lord because love is the stairway that leads to God," he said.

According to St. Gregory, the pope said, becoming similar to God means "'becoming just, holy, good.'"

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict XVI's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our catechesis on the teachers of the early church, we once again consider St. Gregory of Nyssa, one of the great Cappadocian Fathers of the fourth century.

At the heart of St. Gregory's teaching is the innate dignity of every man and woman, made in the image of God and called to grow more fully into his likeness.

Human fulfillment is found in a dynamic process of growth towards that perfection, which has its fullness in God; daily we press forward towards union with God through love, knowledge and the cultivation of the virtues. This ascent to God calls for a process of purification which, by his grace, perfects our human nature and produces fruits of justice, holiness and goodness.

In all of this, Jesus Christ, the perfect image of the Father, is our model and teacher. Gregory insists on Christ's presence in the poor, who challenge us to acknowledge our own dependence on God and to imitate his mercy.

Finally, Gregory points to the importance of prayer modeled on the Lord's own prayer for the triumph of God's Kingdom.

May his teaching inspire us to seek that holiness and purity of heart, which will one day enable us to see God face to face!

HIS EXCELLENCY, BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS, INVITES EVERYONE TO THE THIRD

2007

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

Friday, September 21: Doors open at 6 pm
7 pm – Sacred Music Concert featuring a large diocesan choir performing multicultural musical works.
Concert will be followed by **Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.** – "What the Presence of Christ Means in Your Life."
10 pm – Eucharistic Adoration at St. Peter Catholic Church, Tryon Street at 1st Street.

Saturday, September 22: Doors open at 8 am
9 am – Eucharistic Congress Procession through uptown
10:30 am – Eucharistic Holy Hour with Homily
11:30 am – Programs and speakers for adults, Hispanics, teens, children, young adults and cultural groups. Also, Eucharistic Adoration, sacrament of Reconciliation, culture hour and vendors offering books, CDs, sacred objects and many more unique items.
3:30 pm – Sacred music to prepare for Holy Mass
4:30 pm – Closing Vigil Mass concelebrated by the Religious and Diocesan Priests of the Diocese - Bishop Peter J. Jugis, principal celebrant and homilist

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER — COLLEGE ST. & STONEWALL

NO ADMISSION FEE – ALL ARE WELCOME! **SIGNING AVAILABLE**

CONGRESS SPEAKERS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis
Host of the Congress - Celebrant of the Eucharistic Procession, Principal celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Eucharistic Holy Hour Homilist

General Track

Steve Ray
"They Recognized Him in the Breaking of the Bread"

Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Mary as Magnifier for Jesus"

Helen Alvare
"To Know Jesus Christ – A Catholic Woman's Perspective"

Patrick Madrid
"A Course in Eucharistic Miracles"

Liz Luke
WDYT Radio Morning Personality – Master of Ceremonies

Hispanic Track

Hector Molina
"¿¡Señor, danos siempre de ese pan!?"

Roberto Ramirez
"Jesus, Pan del Cielo"

Juan Bautista Cantillo
"La Presencia de Cristo en nuestras Vidas"

Language/Culture Tracks - "To Know Jesus Christ in Culture"
African American, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, College - Young Adult

NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for Teen, Middle School and Children's Tracks! There will be NO registration for these tracks at the Convention Center. Register online at www.GoEucharist.com.

Teen Track - High School Students
"To Know Jesus Christ as a Teen"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Fr. Leo Patalinghug "In the Beginning, a Vocation Story."
Lunch provided.

Middle School Track (Grades 6-8)
"To Know Jesus Christ in Middle School"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Lunch provided.

Children's Tracks (Grades K-2 and 3-5)
"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Lunch provided.

www.GoEucharist.com
- Register for Children's, Middle School and Teen Tracks
- Latest Eucharistic Congress news - To volunteer

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

2007 Eucharistic Congress

The third diocesan Eucharistic Congress is taking place Sept. 21-22 in Charlotte. See details on pages 7-10, 16.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 39

Taking faith to the airwaves

Catholic radio coming to Diocese of Charlotte

BY DAVID HAINS
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE — Catholicism will soon be on the airwaves in the Charlotte area.

Thanks to the efforts of a small but determined group of people in the Diocese of Charlotte, a weekly three-hour Catholic radio program will premiere Sunday, Sept. 23.

Sacred Heart Communications has been working for the past three years to bring Catholic radio to the diocese. Currently, no station in the 46-county diocese carries Catholic radio programs.

Charlotte radio station WDYT-AM 1220 and Sacred Heart Communications recently signed a contract to provide three hours of Catholic

See RADIO, page 4

Conviction, charity, commitment

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd gathered in the rain during an outdoor Mass in Mariazell, Austria, Sept. 8.

In Austria, pope sticks to core theme of Christian values

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VIENNA, Austria — On a three-day pilgrimage to Austria, Pope Benedict XVI brought a core theme of his pontificate to Central Europe, warning that a drift away from Christian values is leaving society unfulfilled, less charitable and without a real future.

Although the pope's events during the Sept. 7-9 visit were low-key, his message was not.

To diverse audiences of Catholic faithful, politicians, church ministers and volunteers, he argued that Europe risks adopting a godless vision that will inevitably lead to a spiritual, social and demographic dead end.

One of the pope's most telling speeches came in

See AUSTRIA, page 5

INSIDE: 2007 Eucharistic Congress pull-out section

PHOTO BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis leads a eucharistic procession through Charlotte Oct. 7, 2006. This year's Eucharistic Congress takes place Sept. 21-22. See pages 7-10.

Passing down the faith

National Catechetical Sunday recognizes vital role of teachers of the faith

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — If you can recite the Apostles' Creed, have ever received a sacrament or know the names of the four Gospel writers, then Sept. 16 is the perfect day to thank a catechist.

"We can't depend only on an 8-minute homily to fully convey the teaching of the church," said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of diocesan faith formation.

"We also need the involvement of catechists," he said.

Each year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops designates the third Sunday in September as National Catechetical Sunday.

See FAITH, page 6

Braided together

'Why Catholic?' explores God's revelation

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ARDEN — Catholics from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently studied the interrelated aspects of Jesus, Scripture

See WORKSHOPS, page 13

#DXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-6 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

In Brief
Senate votes on abortion; Vatican news
| PAGES 2-3

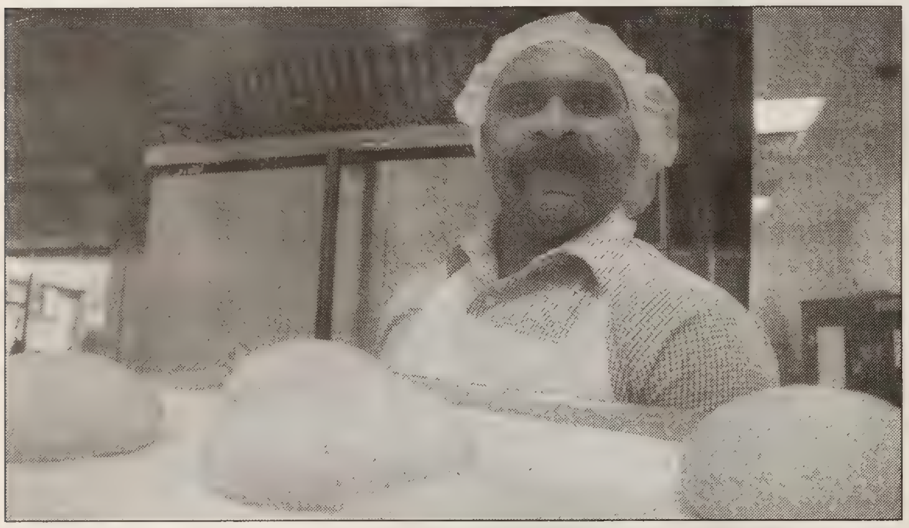
Culture Watch
New book on Mother Teresa; Scripture readings
| PAGE 11

Perspectives
Rabbi's Catholic heroes; church's divine elements
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

RAISING BREAD AND HOPE



CNS photo by Marylynn G. Hewitt, Michigan Catholic

Edward Collins, a former inmate, prepares to put a pan of rye bread dough into the oven at the ROPE house in late May in Detroit.

Capuchin bakery project: Beyond feeding poor to 'saving generations'

DETROIT (CNS) — After 23 years in food service, from training as a sous-chef at a Detroit hotel to working in prison kitchens, Edward Collins felt he had something to offer after his fourth release from prison on robbery and theft charges — if he could find someone willing to take a chance.

"I was ready to give back. I'd been taking for so long," said Collins, who had spent 33 of his 58 years incarcerated.

He knew nothing about the work of the Capuchins when he went to the soup kitchen where they handed out bread during the Great Depression. These days, the Capuchins are helping some of the most unemployable by teaching them to bake bread and other pastries.

Or, as Collins puts it, "Instead of just feeding us, they are saving generations."

Capuchin Father Ray Stadmeyer took a chance on Collins. For nine years the priest has been a chaplain at two soup kitchens. Recently, he said, passing out bread and meals didn't seem to be enough.

"We needed to do something that's proactive in people's lives," he said.

In 2006, a bakery owner offered to teach the homeless to bake. For a few Saturdays she taught cookie-making and then bread-baking. By then Father Stadmeyer knew there was something about baking and changing lives. That's when Collins came along.

After volunteering to bake a few Saturdays, the former prisoner found something he'd been seeking: "To be able to come here and be accepted, well, it means a lot to a guy to be accepted."

His food industry experience "really changed the whole tone for us," Father Stadmeyer said.

It also changed the focus of the baking employment project and became the foundation for the ROPE (Reaching Our Potential Everyday) program.

There are now four men involved — three have been incarcerated and one just left an alcohol rehabilitation program. Collins bakes full time, the other three bake part time while working on their lives through counseling, Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, or completing their education.

They bake pies, cookies, breads, muffins and rolls, selling the goods at parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit. The four men, all formerly homeless, live in a house paid for by part of what they earn selling baked goods.

Each of the men has made a one-year commitment to ROPE. Volunteers from local parishes come in each week, wrapping baked goods and working in the kitchen. The volunteer program "just evolved," the priest said. "They have been a godsend."

Father Stadmeyer says the reason he gives ex-cons and addicts a chance is "because God gives them a chance. And that's where Jesus would be going — to the people struggling the most to get it right."

CFC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Senate votes on abortion praised, faulted by U.S. bishops' spokeswoman

WASHINGTON — A U.S. bishop's spokeswoman praised the Senate's recent vote to maintain the longstanding federal law against any involvement in coercive abortion programs overseas.

Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, also faulted the Senate for voting to overturn the federal government's Mexico City policy, which denies U.S. funds to agencies that perform and promote abortion as a method of family planning in developing countries.

Both votes occurred during the Sept. 6 debate on the State Department and foreign operations funding bill.

The Senate voted 48-45 to restore the Kemp-Kasten amendment, which bans support for organizations that themselves support or help manage programs using coerced abortion and sterilization.

"I commend the Senate for refusing to participate in such atrocities against vulnerable women and their children in the developing world," said McQuade. "At the same time, it is disconcerting to think that this was considered debatable at all — and that the vote was so close."

By a vote of 41-53, the Senate voted to negate the Mexico City policy.

"I am extremely disheartened to see our Senators reject the Mexico City Policy," said McQuade.

Instituted in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan, the policy was rescinded by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and reinstated by President George W. Bush in 2001.

President Bush has said he would veto a foreign operations budget that doesn't include the Mexico City policy.

"We hope and expect that due to his pledge, and the pledge by many members of Congress to uphold such a veto, the Mexico City policy will be preserved in law this year," said McQuade.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West., will host a five-day mission Sept. 15-19 at 7 p.m. Deacon Norm Carroll will speak on *"Accepting the Spirit of Vatican II."* Other mission topics include the Bible, conscience, personal freedom and calling to greatness. We explore these topics in a deeply spiritual setting where at its conclusion you will be closer to Jesus and his church. For more information, call the faith formation office at (828) 697-7420.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will present *"The Acts of the Apostles"* Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., through Nov. 14. This study program will include individual study, small-group discussions and taped lectures. For registration and more information, call Mary at (704) 948-8285 or Angela at (704) 400-8517.

CHARLOTTE — In keeping with the theme of this year's Eucharistic Congress, "To Know Jesus Christ," Catholics from Charlotte parishes will gather on the steps of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. for the *Third Annual Blanket Banquet* to reach out to our homeless brothers and sisters. We will share a simple meal with invited guests from Charlotte Rescue Mission and Urban Ministries while distributing blankets, coats and undergarments to help them prepare for the cold weather to come. Donations of coats and blankets are needed. All are welcome. For more information or to volunteer with the banquet, call Linda Flynn (704) 366-9889 or e-mail flynnlin7@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., will host a *Christian Coffeehouse* Sept. 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Banquet Room of the New Life Center. Single and married adults are invited for an evening of contemporary Christian music, food and fellowship. For more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 400-2213 or e-mail kschwabent@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — The Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services will host a second *Refugee Forum* Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Levine Jewish Community Center in Shalom Park, 5007 Providence Rd. This event will focus on the work of resettlement agencies, how they operate and explain specific volunteer opportunities. Also, business owners and managers who have hired refugees will speak about the positive influence they bring to their workforce. Refugee Resettlement Office employment specialists will be on hand to answer questions. At 8:15 p.m., a live interview with Ishmael Beah, author of the New York Times bestseller "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," detailing his childhood experiences fighting a civil war in Sierra Leone will be broadcast via satellite. For more info, call Mary Jane Bruton at (704) 370-3283 or e-mail mjbruton@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE — James Morgan, an expert in contemplative prayers, will present *"Understanding Contemplative Prayer"* Sept. 19, 7-9 p.m. in the Allen Center of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd. For details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641, ext 221.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., will host *"Men's Spirituality"* the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12 p.m. The hour-long meetings will include silence, prayer and faith sharing. The reading for Sept. 25 is Luke 16:19-31; and Chapter 4: The Sermon on the

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 39

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Pope mourns death of Pavarotti, praises Italian tenor for his talent

MODENA, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI mourned the death of Luciano Pavarotti and praised the Italian tenor for his extraordinary talent.

In a telegram sent to Archbishop Benito Cocchi of Modena-Nonantola, the pope offered his condolences for the death of this "great artist who honored the divine gift of music through his extraordinary interpretative talent."

The archbishop read aloud the telegram Sept. 8 during the Catholic funeral Mass held in the city's cathedral, where Pavarotti had sung as a child in the choir.

Thousands of mourners turned out for the ceremony to honor Pavarotti, who died Sept. 6 at the age of 71 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan was present for the funeral along with Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, numerous Italian pop stars, and U2 singer Bono. Pavarotti was divorced and remarried; his first wife of more than 30 years, his widow and his children were also present.

Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli and Bulgarian soprano Raina Kabaivanska sang for the funeral ceremony.

In his homily, Archbishop Cocchi praised the artist who also "expressed himself in charity for those who suffered."

Through his annual "Pavarotti and Friends" charity concerts, Pavarotti performed with pop stars like Elton John, Sting and Bono, raising money for victims of war and poverty. He also performed benefit concerts for refugees, the poor and victims of natural disasters.

His internationally recognized generosity often overshadowed tax evasion scandals back home. He was convicted of dodging Italian tax payments in 1999 and was acquitted after a second charge in 2001.

New Vatican official wants cultural duel to become duet of dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The new head of the Pontifical Council for Culture said he wants to help turn the duel between different cultures and religions into a harmonious duet of dialogue and understanding.

Msgr. Gianfranco Ravasi, a noted biblical scholar and former prefect of the Milan Archdiocese's Ambrosian Library, was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI Sept. 3 to replace the long-serving council president, French Cardinal Paul Poupard. Msgr. Ravasi will be ordained an archbishop in late September.

The pope accepted the resignation of the 77-year-old cardinal, who was a leader of the council since its creation by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Pope Benedict also appointed Archbishop-designate Ravasi, 64, president of the pontifical commissions for the Cultural Heritage of the Church and for Sacred Archeology.

Archbishop-designate Ravasi said he would continue the council's work of using culture as a bridge for dialogue between people of other faiths and traditions.

The concept of a clash of civilizations has to be abandoned, he said Sept. 3.

Instead of cultures and religions engaging in a "duel," they should be part of a "duet, like in music, when two voices remain different, but harmonious," he said.

The great urgency today is to rediscover unity in a fragmented and sectarian world, he said. Just as one diamond has numerous faces, today that diamond has been "shattered, (and) everyone is looking at his fragment convinced of possessing the truth."

Archbishop-designate Ravasi said he also would like to boost dialogue through the use of the Internet.

Pope John Paul created the Pontifical Council for Culture with the aim of helping the world's cultures encounter the message of the Gospel. He named then-Archbishop Poupard head of the new council's executive committee and president of the council six years later.

Mount. (Pope Benedict's "Jesus of Nazareth"). For more information, call Michael LaVecchia at (704) 363-7729 or Kevin Bezner at (704) 907-3875 or e-mail mjl@seafoods.com.

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with *"Lunchtime Spirituality"* at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The topic for Sept. 20 is St. Bernard of Clairvaux's "On Conversion." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *Free Italian Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Wednesdays through Nov. 7, 7-8 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, e-mail Gianfranco Vettor at gvettor@yahoo.com or call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

HIGH POINT — *Free Spanish Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays through Nov. 1, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail nsskee@hotmail.com or call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Parka and Campgrounds Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass at 12 p.m. Please bring covered dish and a 2-liter drink. Other events include guitar music, group reunion, spiritual talks and hiking/nature trails for children. For more information and directions, call Kathy Hack at (704) 548-1834.

MORGANTON — Dr. Ronda Chervin and Annette McMahon will facilitate a planning meeting for "Widows Journeying Together With Jesus" at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St., Sept. 29, beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by the meeting, 10-11:30 a.m. For more information call Annette at (336) 433-0935 or Dr. Chervin at 828- 413-4624.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., offers a monthly *Adult Faith Formation Experience* to promote the development of the faith education. Frank Villaronga, director of diocesan evangelization and ministry formation, will present "The First 300 Years of the Catholic Church" Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. The program will explore how the beliefs and practices of the early church promote understanding of current practices. For more information, call Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000 or e-mail stwilliamfaithformation@msn.com.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series,* 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations on a variety of topics. Franciscan Father Joseph Madden will present "Centering Prayer" Sept. 19. Beverly Isley-Landreth, a clinical chaplain, will present "Chi Kung Meditation as Prayer" Sept. 26.You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 15 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 15 — 4 p.m.
50th anniversary jubilee Mass
St. Gabriel Church, Charlotte

Sept. 21-22
Eucharistic Congress
Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte

Sept. 25 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Sept. 26 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Remembering Mother Teresa

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Volunteers, slum dwellers and nuns from the Missionaries of Charity gather beside the tomb of Blessed Mother Teresa for a special prayer in Calcutta, India, on the 10th anniversary of her death Sept. 5. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. The order now has a worldwide presence in serving those who suffer, including the homeless, the dying and AIDS victims.

E-mail scam targets Catholics, church institutions

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A new spam scam targeting Catholics and church institutions promises recipients that they are among 100 people worldwide chosen at random to receive $650,000 from the Catholic Church in Italy "for your own personal, educational and business development."

The grants are supposedly designed "to make a notable change in the standard of living of people all around the universe." Recipients are urged to contact "the church executive secretary"— sometimes named as Sister Abrielle Gallo, at other times a Miss Mary Pepe — to receive "your donation pin number, which you will use in collecting the funds."

No such grant program exists, and the church does not allocate donations randomly or by lottery, as the e-mail suggests. An almost identical e-mail purports to be from the "eglise catholique en France," the Catholic Church in France. According to the Web site www.hoax-slayer.com, such communications are "bait used by scammers to trick victims into replying to the e-mail. If the scammers receive a reply, they will begin an ongoing correspondence with their potential victim via e-mail, phone or letter. Eventually, the scammers will request that the victim pay various fees, supposedly required to allow the 'grant' to be released or delivered."

Requests for fees will likely continue until the victim realizes that he or she has been duped. The victim may also be tricked into providing a large amount of personal information that could be subsequently used to steal his or her identity.

"While Christian organizations such as the Catholic Church do regularly donate funds to various worthy causes, they DO NOT randomly grant large sums of money to total strangers chosen solely via an e-mail address or the name on a shopping invoice. Any such claim is simply ludicrous," the Web site says.

Catholic radio coming to Diocese of Charlotte

RADIO, *from page 1*

programming on Sunday mornings, 6-9 a.m.

Bob Loughlin, a board member of Sacred Heart Communications, said the venture has been guided by the Holy Spirit from the start.

"This will bring the Catholic faith out from the four walls of our churches and into the cars and homes of many households the diocese," he said.

WDYT radio is new to many radio listeners in the diocese. It was originally licensed to Kings Mountain but a new owner has moved the station to Charlotte.

The station's signal has been boosted significantly from 1,000 to 25,000 watts. It now can be heard from Spartanburg and Rock Hill, S.C., to Monroe and Davidson, N.C.

Deacon Robert Murphy, a permanent deacon at St. Mark Church in Huntersville and a board member of Sacred Heart Communications, said the three-hour program is only the beginning.

"Our goal is to have our own radio station that broadcasts in both Spanish and English throughout the diocese," he said.

The first program will feature highlights of the Eucharistic Congress, taking place at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

Future programs will include interviews with Catholics in the diocese and stories about upcoming events of interest to Catholics.

Loughlin says programming also will be supplied by the Eternal World Television Network (EWTN), the largest religious media network in the world.

WANT MORE INFO?
To learn more about Sacred Heart Communications, visit www.sacredheartcommunications.org.

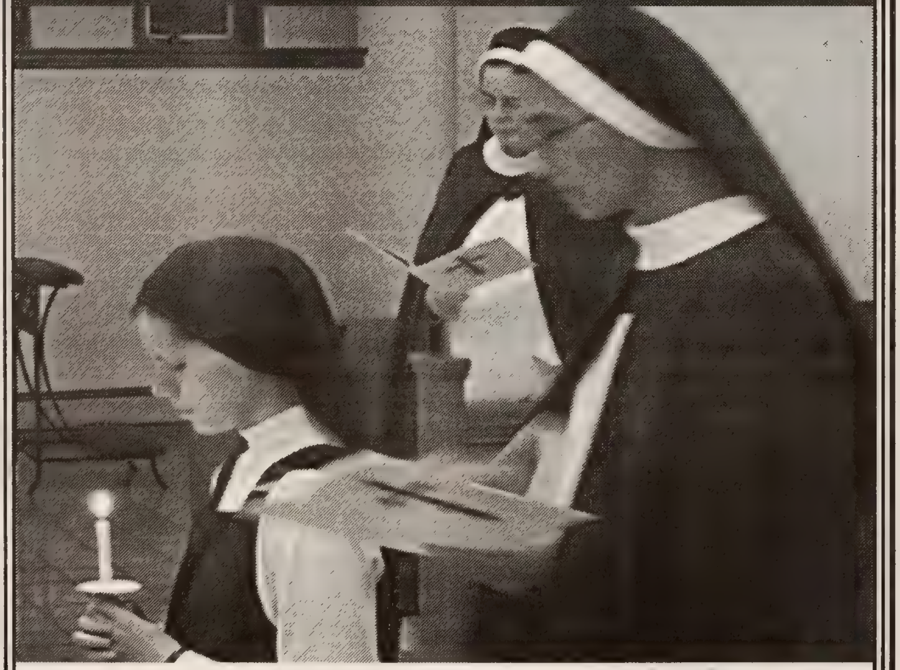
135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see ***YOUR COMPANY'S*** *name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald


IS HE CALLING YOU BY NAME?
HOW WILL YOU ANSWER?

THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE
invite single Catholic women, between 18-50, to attend our
DISCERNMENT WEEKEND - OCTEBER 5-7, 2007

For information: Sr. Alma Marie at: 914.769.4794 (0114)
or E Mail: SrAlmaMarie@aol.com
Rosary Hill, 600 Linda Avenue, Hawthorne, NY 10532
www.hawthorne-dominicans.org

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

You're Invited!
Room At The Inn's
Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet
"Hope for the Future"

Charlotte Convention Center
Thursday, October 11, 2007

Featured Speaker
FOX News Channel's
Judge
Andrew P. Napolitano

Judge Napolitano appears daily on *The Big Story with John Gibson,* co-hosts *FOX and Friends* once a week and is a regular on *The O'Reilly Factor*. A graduate of Notre Dame Law School, he is informative, entertaining and absolutely pro-life!

Registration/Reception, 5:30 pm — Seating for Dinner, 6:30 pm
** **Reservations are FREE, but required.**

To make a reservation or to host a table of 8, contact Banquet Reservations at (704) 525-4673, ext. 10 or iroomattheinn@carolina.rr.com by **September 17th.**

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a Catholic maternity and after-care program for pregnant mothers in Charlotte, N.C. Please visit our website, www.rati.org, for more information on our pro-life programs.

Travel with your Catholic Chaplain: Fr. George Almeida

24 Days – Cruise Caribbean, Europe + Holland, Belgium & Paris Land Tour

Save on this Repositioning Cruise from $1999*
Departs March 29, 2008!   Visit Amsterdam Tulip Fields!

MSC Cruise Lines has to get the new "state-of-the-art" ***LIRICA*** from Ft. Lauderdale to Amsterdam. Take advantage of this exclusive ***'Your Man'* Tours** vacation package departing March 29, 2008. You'll spend 18 days and nights sailing to San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. John, Antigua; Ft. de France, Martinique; Funchal, Madeira Island; Vigo, Spain; Le Havre, France; and Dover, England. Your 5-day motor coach tour includes sightseeing in Amsterdam to visit the tulip fields at the best time of year and visit to the Keukenhof National Flower Exhibition. Next Antwerp, Belgium with optional tours to WWII battlefields (Battle of the Bulge). Travel to Paris. In route tour Bruges, Belgium including a canal cruise in this middle ages city. Spend three nights in Paris. Sightseeing includes Notre Dame, Eiffel Tower, Louvre Museum and more! *Prices per person, double occupancy start at only $1999. Add $348 port charges, taxes and government fees. Add $1,000 airfare from Charlotte. Family & friends welcome. Space is limited and $100 deposits are now due!

MASS CELEBRATED MOST DAYS!

For information, reservations, and brochure call 7 days a week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS** *toll free* **1-800-968-7626**

In Austria, pope emphasizes core Christian values

AUSTRIA, *from page 1*

Vienna on the first day of his trip, when he addressed a group that included scores of international diplomats and representatives.

Instead of covering the usual list of global trouble spots, the pope made a strong pro-life appeal, zeroing in on the problems of abortion and euthanasia.

Beyond the moral issue of the taking of innocent life, the pope raised a wider question: whether Europe, with its low birth rate and rapidly aging population, is "giving up on itself."

He hammered home the same theme the next day, telling 30,000 people at the Marian sanctuary of Mariazell, "Europe has become child-poor: We want everything for ourselves and place little trust in the future."

His sermon at Mariazell also focused on the modern tensions among religious truth, interreligious sensitivity and the fear of intolerance. It's an issue he raised a year ago in Regensburg, Germany, in a speech that drew criticism because of comments about Islam.

This time, the pope avoided specific remarks about other religions, but insisted that the church can and must proclaim Christ as the universal savior.

"This does not mean that we despise other religions, nor are we arrogantly absolutizing our own ideas," he said.

Rather, he said, it means the church will never accept an "attitude of resignation" toward the truth, the assumption that truth cannot be known. It is this attitude that "lies at the heart of the crisis of the West, the crisis of Europe," he said.

Christian charity

The pope then emphasized a point that has become a touchstone of his pontificate: the Christian conviction that "at the origin of everything is the creative reason of God." This is the principle that has shaped Europe's history and must orient its future, he said.

More than once, the pope stressed that Christianity is not merely a "moral code" but a religion that embodies love of God and neighbor. In his final meeting in Austria, the pope applied this vision to the practical area of volunteer charity work, which he said touches the heart of the Christian message.

CNS PHOTO BY VATICAN POOL VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI receives roses from pilgrims during the opening ceremony of his visit in Am Hof Square in Vienna, Austria, Sept. 7.

The pope said this kind of personal, selfless activity cannot simply be delegated to the state or the market economy — in fact, he said, in a "culture which would calculate the cost of everything," Christian charity "shatters the rules of a market economy."

It was a strong reminder of a point the pope made in his 2006 encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), that states social policies can never replace the personal commitment of individuals.

Teaching with an edge

By design, none of the papal events in Austria were big ones and, thanks in part to steady rain, the low crowd expectations proved correct.

But most of the pope's appearances were televised, and Austrian church sources believe the trip's impact will be felt in the discussion and reflection that follow his departure.

One important factor was that the German pope spoke their language and felt at home in Austria, a country that despite internal church problems remains about 75 percent Catholic.

The pope did not directly take up the problems — including seminary sex scandals and tensions over church teachings — that have left some Catholics alienated from the Catholic Church in recent years.

He alluded to them in remarks to reporters on his plane from Rome, saying he was grateful to those who have remained faithful despite the difficulties and that he hoped to help "heal the wounds."

Instead, the pope stuck to more basic Christian themes, as he has throughout his pontificate. He offered beautifully crafted sermons on the power of prayer, the importance of Sunday Mass, and even the modern relevance of poverty, chastity and obedience in religious life.

These are eminently religious themes that do not usually produce front-page headlines around the world. But they reflect one of the big reasons Pope Benedict was elected in 2005: The cardinals felt he was the man who could revitalize the church at its base, especially in Europe.

The Austrian visit saw Pope Benedict in the teaching role he loves. It is teaching with an edge, however — the edge of a pastor concerned about the future of the faith on Christianity's home ground.

CRUISE ONLY (without airfare*) FOR $2,460!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31 - February 11, 2008

Join Fr. Mo West and cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

*Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, porterage and all port charges! Optional: Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

"We want to keep reminding people of the importance of religious education and the urgency of the ministry."

— Dr. Cris Villapando

National Catechetical Sunday recognizes faith teachers

FAITH, *from page 1*

A tradition several decades old, this national event celebrates the handing down of the Catholic faith through the generations.

The theme of this year's National Catechetical Sunday is "Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ."

"It is always important to remember that the encounter with Christ calls us to a deeper, more personal relationship with the risen Christ," said Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill and vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Just as Catholic Schools Week highlights the achievement of the Catholic school system, National Catechetical Sunday celebrates the teaching of the faith through children's faith formation, sacramental preparation, RCIA, lectures, retreats and countless other means of teaching the Catholic faith.

"We want to keep reminding people of the importance of religious education and the urgency of the ministry," said Villapando.

"Without catechesis, the Catholic faith would not be properly handed down," he said.

Villapando believes catechesis is the key to the vibrancy of the church, and there must be an explicit effort to promote catechesis of adults.

"They are the axis around which all religious education revolves," he said.

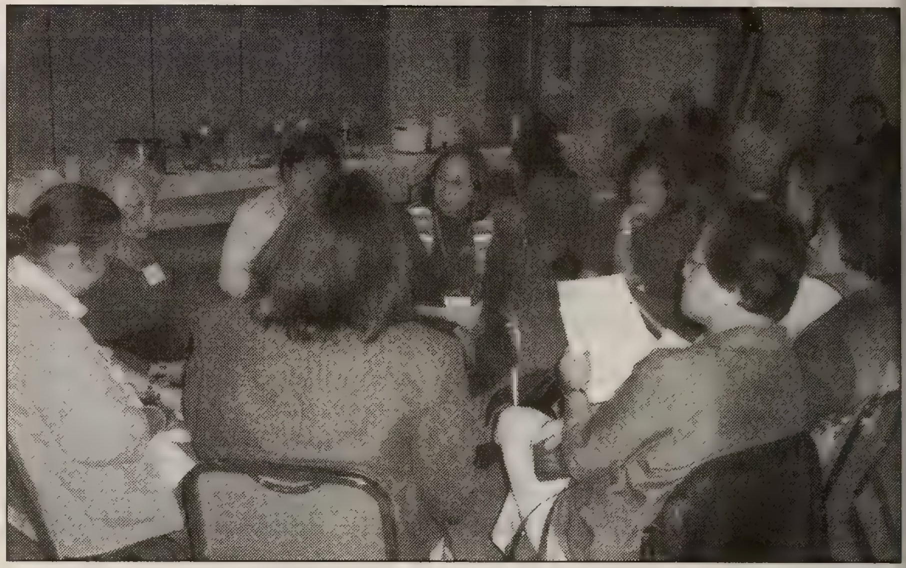
The overall aim of all catechesis is to form Christ-like disciples, Villapando said.

"We can't afford to have 'ministry fatigue' — the stakes are too high," Villapando said. "Without vibrant catechesis, we would have 'hollow' people who attend Mass, but have no substance to their faith."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, there are approximately 6,000 catechists, plus another 500 participants in the "Why Catholic?" program, which fosters evangelization though small Christian communities.

Nearly 30,000 children, youth and adults are enrolled in faith formation programs.

"In essence, everyone in the diocese benefits from catechesis, through lectures and other special programs, homilies, even the conversations in the family car on the way home from Mass, when children share what they learned in faith formation class," Villapando said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants in the Couples for Christ formation program meet at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte in March 2007. Couples for Christ is a series of 12 presentations, each of which is examines the implications of scriptural and doctrinal teachings. Faith formation is not restricted to children's program but attempts to provide adult catechesis, which the U.S. bishops say is the "chief form of catechesis around which all catechesis revolve."

Catechesis is not solely the sharing of information; it is also the expansion of the faith, knowledge of the catechism and tools for applying it to one's daily life, Villapando said.

"We are grateful for the spirit of enthusiasm and the dedication of so many parishioners, who eagerly assist adults, youths and children as they continue to encounter the living Christ through the sacraments," said Father Hawker.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

RELATED COVERAGE

See page 15 for Father Hawker's column on National Catechetical Sunday.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

FOUR DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Tuesday, Oct. 9 – St. Barnabas, Arden – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 1
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Fr. Kiernan Neilson

Thursday, Oct. 11 – St. James, Hamlet – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 1
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Koterski, SJ

Wednesday, Nov. 7 – St. Mark, Huntersville – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 29
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Frank O'Rourke

Thursday, Nov. 15 – Catholic Conference Center – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Friday, Nov. 2
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West

Cost: $12 - includes coffee and snacks, and full lunch
Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203-4003

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

"The Problem of Dirty Hands"

presented

by Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J.

Sponsored by the Offices of Family Life and Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services

Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J., is a priest of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, and Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal International Philosophical Quarterly. He received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University and his M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has authored and presented hundreds of publications and papers and twice has received Teacher of the Year Award from Fordham University.

Within a framework of Catholic moral teaching, Fr. Koterski will address such questions as: What do we do when our job requires us to do something we find to be morally questionable? How close is too close to be involved in an activity that is morally wrong? What roles do a properly informed conscience, free will, intentions, and the particular circumstances of a situation play in determining whether involvement in an immoral activity crosses a line that should not have been crossed?

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Two dates and locations to choose from:

Monday, October 8 at 7 pm — (refreshments 6:30 p.m.)
Fellowship Hall, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

Tuesday, October 9 at 7 pm — (refreshments 6:30 p.m.)
Family Center, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Please register at 704-370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org.
(For further information: www.cssnc.org)

THIRD DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SEPT. 21-22, 2007

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER

2007

Diocese of Charlotte
IHS
Eucharistic Congress

TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

'To Know Jesus Christ'

BY BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS
BISHOP OF CHARLOTTE

Catholics across the Diocese of Charlotte once again will have the opportunity to come together to celebrate our faith in the Lord. The third diocesan Eucharistic Congress, this year themed "To Know Jesus Christ," takes place at the Charlotte Convention Center on Friday, September 21, and Saturday, September 22.

The response to our first two Eucharistic Congresses in September 2005 and October 2006 was overwhelmingly positive, so we made plans for a third Congress to come together as one in praise and worship of Our Lord.

The Eucharistic Congress is the one time of the year when the entire Catholic family of the Diocese of Charlotte — our priests, deacons, women religious, seminarians and laity from our parishes, missions, schools and ministries — has the opportunity to gather to celebrate our oneness in Christ through the sacrament of unity, the Holy Eucharist. Through our sharing in Christ's body and blood, Christ makes us one in Him.

This year's Congress will begin with a Concert of Sacred Choral Music, a nationally-known speaker and all-night adoration on Friday, September 21.

On Saturday, September 22, we will start the day with a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of uptown Charlotte. When we process as one in adoration of Our Lord, we make a beautiful and reverent statement of our love for Jesus Christ. Similar to previous years, the procession will go from St. Peter Church to the convention center. Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin will deliver the homily during the Holy Hour that follows.

We will then hear from an array of inspiring speakers. Children, teens, adults and Hispanics have separate programs, or "tracks," with messages specifically directed to them. Adoration of Our Lord and the sacrament of confession will be available. Special cultural hours will be held for Filipino, Vietnamese and Korean Catholics, as well as for college students and young adults.

The day culminates with a vigil Mass for all, which I will concelebrate with my brother priests. The vigil Mass fulfills the Sunday Mass obligation.

On the following pages you will find more detailed information, as well as a map of the procession route. Other information is available at www.goEucharist.com.

The Congress is a beautiful opportunity for the people of the diocese to come together "To Know Jesus Christ." I look forward to seeing you and processing with you in praise of Our Lord.

EUCHARISTI

Watching and participating in the eucharistic procession

THE ROUTE

The eucharistic procession, led by Bishop Peter J. Jugis, will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22, at St. Peter Church, South Tryon Street and First Street (First communicants with parent or guardian, clergy, religious and banner carriers should gather on Tryon Street south of St. Peter Church at 8:30 a.m.)

The procession will head north on Tryon Street for three blocks, then turn east onto Third Street for one block. The procession will then turn south onto College Street for three blocks, then turn east onto Stonewall Street to the Charlotte Convention Center.

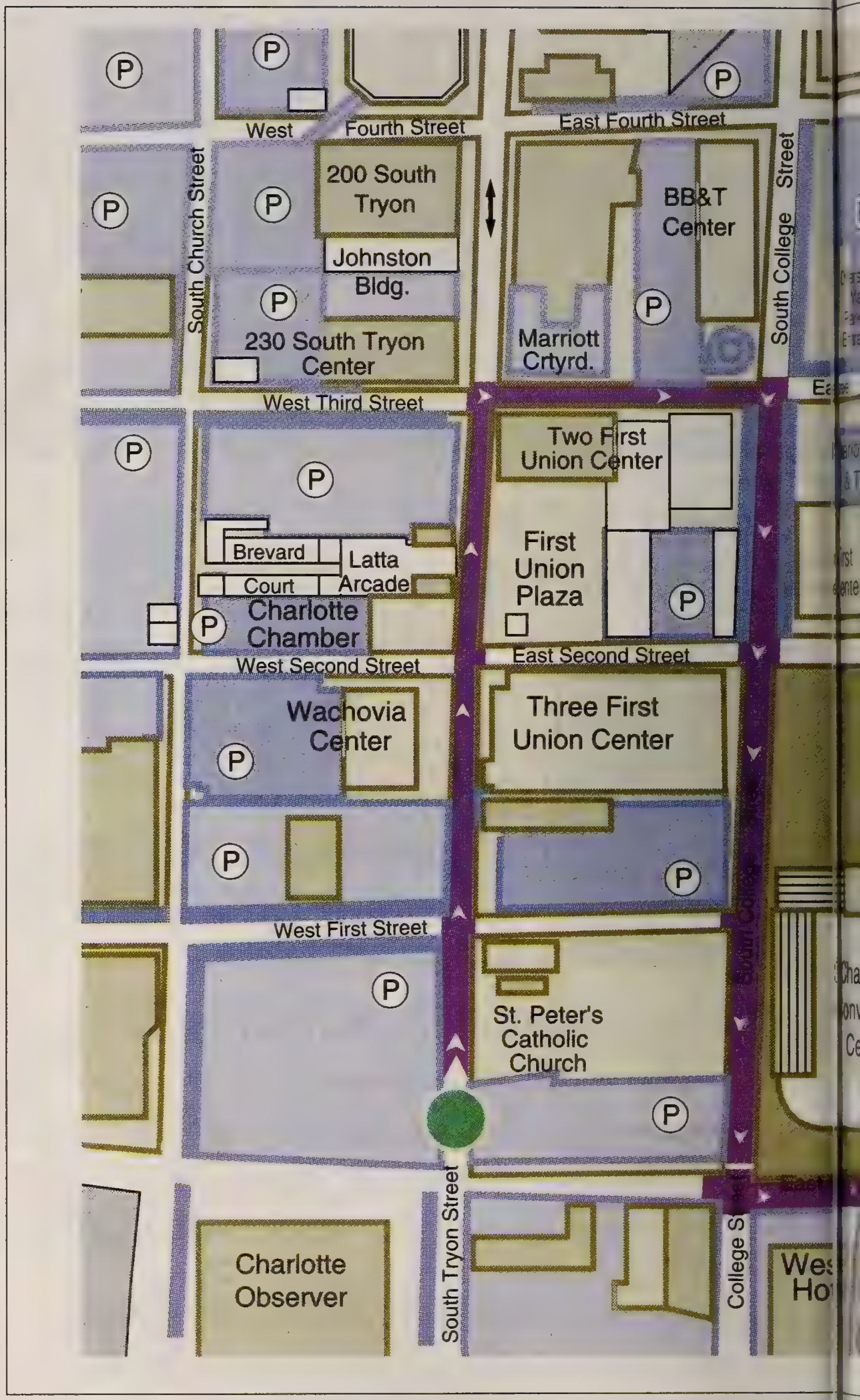
People of the Diocese of Charlotte are encouraged to line the procession route.

TO PARTICIPATE

As the Blessed Sacrament comes near, it is the custom to be silent and kneel until the monstrance passes.

After the Blessed Sacrament passes by, look for your parish's banner. When your parish banner passes by, you may fall in along with your parish to join in the procession. Once you have connected with your parish group, simply join in the communal prayers or just pray silently as the procession moves along.

When the procession arrives at the Charlotte Convention Center, move as directed by the ushers to enter the main hall. Proceed to the seating area, joining in the singing until the beginning of the Holy Hour.



Procession Map Legend

🟢 **PROCESSION STAGING AREA & PROCESSION CHECK-IN**

🔴 **PROCESSION ENTRANCE INTO CONVENTION CENTER**

🟣 **PROCESSION ROUTE**

Ⓟ **PARKING**

Frequently asked questions about the Eucharistic Congress

What is the Eucharistic Congress?

The Eucharistic Congress is a teaching and worship event that is centered on the Eucharist, the source and summit of Catholic life.

What is the schedule of events?

The Congress begins Friday evening, Sept. 21, with a concert of sacred choral music and a talk by Father Benedict Groeschel of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Father Groeschel is one of the regular on-air contributors to various programs on the Eternal Word Television Network, based in Birmingham, Ala.

Afterward, the Eucharist will be available for adoration throughout the night at St. Peter Church, South Tryon Street and First Street.

Events on Saturday, Sept. 22, begin at 9 a.m., with the eucharistic procession from St. Peter Church through downtown Charlotte to the Charlotte Convention Center, where there will be a holy hour.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m., there are programs (or "tracks") for adults, Hispanics, teens and children.

From 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. will be culture hours in native languages for Filipino, Korean and Vietnamese Catholics.

At 3:30 p.m., there will be a concert of sacred music.

During the day, the Eucharist will be available for adoration in a special chapel in the Charlotte Convention Center. Priests will be available for confessions all day and there will be an area for vendors selling religious merchandise and offering information about Catholic vocations, religious organizations and ministries, etc.

The Congress concludes with a Vigil Mass that begins at 4:30 p.m.

Where does the idea for a Eucharistic Congress come from?

The first eucharistic congress was held in Lille, France in 1881 under the direction of Msgr. Gaston De Segur. In time, eucharistic congresses developed to their present international character.

The congress of 1908, which met in London, was the first occasion on which a representative of the pope had entered England since the Protestant Reformation. Two international eucharistic congresses have been held in the United States — Chicago in 1926 and Philadelphia in 1976.

The Diocese of Charlotte celebrated its first Eucharistic Congress in September 2005.

Who is allowed to take part in the procession?

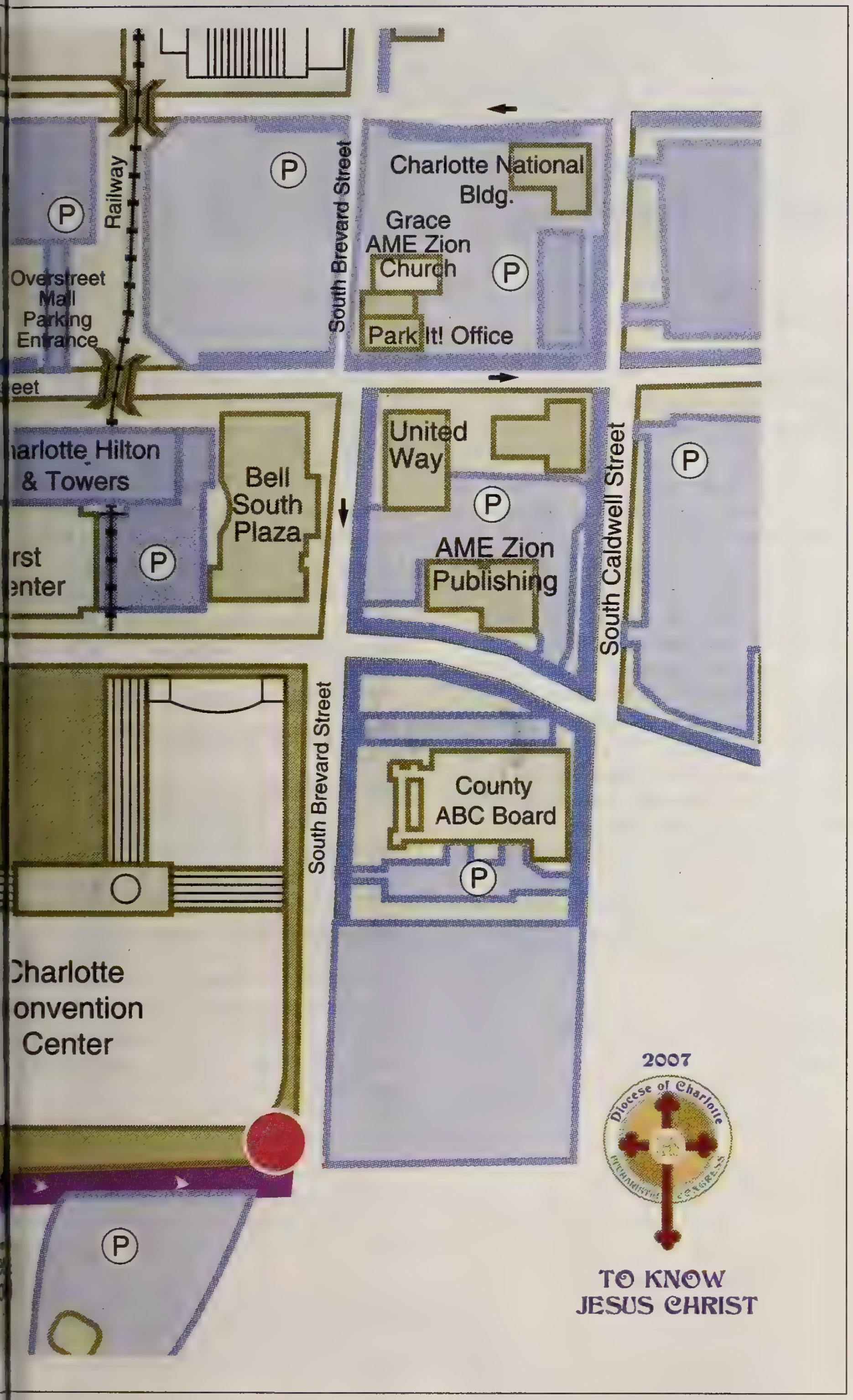
Everyone. Leading the procession will be altar servers, organized societies including the Knights of Columbus, clergy and most importantly, the Eucharist. Following the Eucharist will be banner carriers representing churches, schools and organizations in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The faithful are invited to join the procession as the banner for their church or organization passes by.

What if I am handicapped or unable to walk in the procession?

The Charlotte Convention Center is handicapped-accessible. In addition, individuals with handicaps and those who choose not to walk in the procession are invited to witness part of the procession on the video screens in the Convention Center. Music and clergy will be available in this location until the eucharistic procession arrives.

PROCESSION



Directions to the Eucharistic Congress

DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 77
At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd
At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 N/US-74 E / John Belk Frwy
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp
College St / Caldwell St / Downtown
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St
College St / Downtown
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,
(704) 339-6000

DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 85-NORTH
At exit 36 of Interstate 85- North, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
NC-16 / Brookshire Blvd / US-74 E / Downtown
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto SR-16 [Brookshire Blvd]
NC-16 / Charlotte / Bank of America Stadium
Road name changes to I-277 [SR-16]
At exit 1E, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
Stonewall St / South Blvd / Kenilworth Ave
Keep RIGHT to stay on Ramp
Stonewall St / Kenilworth Ave
Turn LEFT (North-West) onto E Stonewall St
Turn RIGHT (North-East) onto S College St
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,
(704) 339-6000

DIRECTIONS FROM INTERSTATE 85-SOUTH
At exit 38 of Interstate 85 South, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
I-77 / US-21 / Statesville / Columbia
Take Ramp (LEFT) onto I-77 [US-21]
I-77 / US-21 / Columbia
At exit 9, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
I-277 / US-74 / Wilkinson Blvd / John Belk Frwy / West Blvd
At exit 9C, keep LEFT to stay on Ramp
At exit 9B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-277 [US-74]
I-277 / US-74 / John Belk Frwy
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp
College St / Caldwell St / Downtown
Take Ramp (RIGHT) onto S College St
College St / Downtown
Arrive Charlotte Convention Center, 501 S College St, Charlotte, NC 28202,
(704) 339-6000

What if it rains?

The Eucharistic Congress will be held rain or shine. The procession may be moved into the Charlotte Convention Center depending on the weather.

Where can I park?

There is ample parking around the Charlotte Convention Center. Since the Congress takes place on a weekend, traffic will be minimal but allowing extra time for parking is advised.

What is being done to provide a secure environment for the children in the Children's Track?

The Diocese of Charlotte is committed to the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" as adopted by the U.S. bishops.

All adult volunteers at the Eucharistic Congress who will have supervisory contact with children will be required to attend the diocesan training, "Protecting God's Children." Background checks will also be performed on any adult having supervisory contact with children.

Who is speaking at the Eucharistic Congress?

For the list of dynamic, inspiring speakers, see pages 10 and 16 of this week's The Catholic News & Herald, or visit the speakers' page of the Eucharistic Congress Web site at www.GoEucharist.com.

Will there be a Mass at the Eucharistic Congress?

Yes. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Is there a charge to attend the Eucharistic Congress?

There is no charge for any of the events associated with the Eucharistic Congress. Everyone who desires a closer relationship to the Eucharist is encouraged to attend and participate. The Diocese of Charlotte is accepting contributions to defray the cost of staging the congress. To donate, visit www.GoEucharist.com, or you may contribute at the Eucharistic Congress.

Will food be served?

The Charlotte Convention Center will offer a variety of food for sale throughout the day. Lunch will be provided at no charge for the children attending the Children's Track session.

Before and after the congress, attendees may want to take advantage of the many restaurants, hotels and attractions that are within easy walking distance of the Charlotte Convention Center.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries a monstrance in the eucharistic procession during the 2005 Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte.

Speakers at the 2007 Eucharistic Congress

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21

Father Benedict Groeschel of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal
"What the Presence of Christ Means in Your Life"

Father Groeschel is director of the spiritual development office for the Archdiocese of New York and a program host on the Eternal World Television Network, based in Birmingham, Ala.

Father Groeschel earned his doctorate in psychology from New York's Columbia University in 1971. He has taught at Fordham University, Iona College, and Maryknoll Seminary.

He founded, and is on the staff of, Trinity Retreat, a center in New York for prayer and study for clergy.

Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York appointed him postulator of the cause of canonization for Cardinal Terence J. Cooke in 1984. For 14 years, Father Groeschel was chaplain of the Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry, New York, a residential school for at-risk boys.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, who retired as bishop of Charlotte in 2002, will deliver the homily during the eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction on Saturday morning.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis, a Charlotte native and the fourth bishop of Charlotte, will offer welcoming remarks at the conclusion of the Saturday morning Eucharistic Holy Hour.

GENERAL TRACK, SATURDAY

Father Leo Patalinghug
"Mary as Magnifier for Jesus"

Father Patalinghug, the break-dancing and martial-arts guru, is making his third return visit to the Eucharistic Congress and will speak in both the General Track and the Teen Track.

Father Patalinghug is associate pastor at St. John Church in Westminster, Md., and spiritual director of the Cursillo movement of Baltimore.

He is host of the public television program, "Grace Before Meals," and was recently appointed to serve as director of pastoral field education at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Patrick Madrid
"A Course in Eucharistic Miracles"

Madrid, a popular Catholic apologist and author, is editor of Envoy magazine, a journal of Catholic apologetics.

Well-known in apologetics — the study concerned with the systematic defense of Catholicism — since 1987, Madrid was vice president of Catholic Answers and helped co-found that apostolate's flagship magazine, This Rock, in January 1990.

Steve Ray
"They Recognized Him in the Breaking of the Bread"

Ray, a convert to Catholicism, is an author and regular guest on Catholic Answers Live, a daily call-in radio program, and "The Journey Home" on EWTN; he also has appeared on many other radio and television programs, including Fox News.

Ray is writer, producer and host of the 10-part video/DVD series, "The Footprints of God: the Story of Salvation from Abraham to Augustine," filmed on location in the Holy Land and surrounding countries.

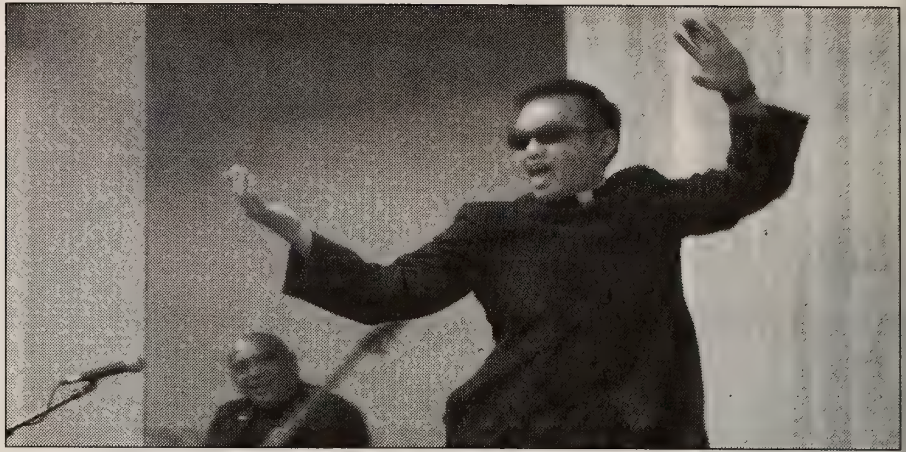


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Father Leo Patalinghug from Maryland uses martial arts to relay "spiritual combat" to teens at the 2005 Eucharistic Congress.

Helen M. Alvare
"To Know Jesus Christ — A Catholic Woman's Perspective"

Alvare is an associate professor at the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

She received her law degree from Cornell University in 1984 and a master's degree in theology from The Catholic University of America in 1989.

Since 1987 she has worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, first in the Office of General Counsel, which acts as the source of legal advice to the USCCB and its committees, and later as director of information and planning for the U.S. bishops' pro-life office.

Alvaré has testified on behalf of the U.S. bishops before federal congressional committees and lobbied members of Congress on federal legislation concerning abortion, health care and welfare reform.

HISPANIC TRACK, SATURDAY

Héctor Antonio Molina, Jr.

Molina is a dynamic Catholic preacher and evangelist who has spoken throughout the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean for more than 18 years.

For 11 years he served as pastoral associate at St. John the Baptist Church in Brooklyn. In 2003, he relocated to the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Mo., where he served as director of Hispanic ministry for four years. This past June, Molina was appointed by Archbishop Raymond Leo Burke to serve as founding director of the newly established archdiocesan Office of the New Evangelization.

Roberto Ramirez

Ramirez is an active member of a community of lay persons known as the Servants of the Living Christ, which was founded by Father Emiliano Tardif, a priest from Quebec.

He studied evangelization in Rome and speaks throughout the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean about his encounter with the Lord in 1989, which impelled him to make radical changes in his life.

Celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage this year?

If you were married during 1957 or 1982, you and your family are invited to the

Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass
at
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
in Charlotte
Sunday, October 28 — 2pm

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Please note: To receive an invitation, you must call your parish office to register.

Sponsored by the Family Life Office
of Catholic Social Services

docPod

[illegible]
Inspiration about
the Diocese of Charlotte!

Eucharistic Congress Preview and
Catholic Radio Comes to Charlotte

Subscribe today
— it's FREE!
Check it out at
www.CharlotteDiocese.org

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Vatican officials say new book illustrates Mother Teresa's strength

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials said a new book detailing Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta's long "crisis of faith" illustrates her spiritual strength in the face of doubt.

"This is a figure who had moments of uncertainty and discouragement, experiencing the classic dark night that God gives to chosen people in order to forge them on the road to holiness," said Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, a member of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, Aug. 26. "These moments of crisis felt by great saints are normal and in line with the church's tradition."

Even Christ experienced a similar spiritual trial in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross, he said.

Such moments of "weakness" are in fact "the proof of the greatness of faith of Blessed Mother Teresa and take nothing away from her holiness," he said.

Cardinal Herranz said the progress of Mother Teresa's sainthood cause would not be affected by the letters published in the book.

Vatican and other church officials were already familiar with the letters because many were first published in 2002, and in fact formed part of the documentation reviewed before she was beatified in 2003, six years after her death.

The letters are being published in the upcoming book, "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light," edited by Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, a member of the Missionaries of Charity order founded by Mother Teresa and the postulator of her sainthood cause.

In letters written over several decades, she spoke of a lack of faith, a "terrible darkness within me" and a sense of being abandoned by Jesus.

Sister Nirmala Joshi, head of the Missionaries of Charity, said the letters reveal that sainthood does not come easily, but they do not show a failure of faith.

"Mother (Teresa) did not doubt God, she continued to love him. If you doubt someone, sooner or later you stop following him. But she continued right up to her death to love him and to put into practice her devotion," said Sister Nirmala.

Italian Cardinal Angelo Scola of Venice, who wrote a reflection on Mother Teresa's letters last year in the Vatican newspaper, said they reveal some important and beautiful things.

"The first is that Mother Teresa is one of us, that she went through all the trials just as we do, no more and no less," he said.

Another important element in her letters is that Mother Teresa, when she no longer felt she could feel God's presence, asked him to reveal himself, he said.

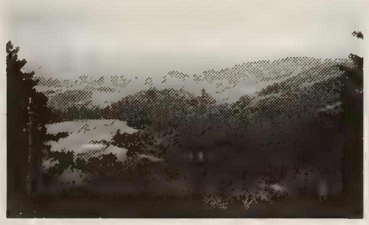
Joaquin Navarro-Valls, former Vatican spokesman, said Mother Teresa's letters showed that she experienced real spiritual suffering. That is not surprising, he said, since she was notoriously "immune" to the banal and the superficial.

"But all this is not the expression of a lack of faith, but rather of the normal — perhaps in this case heroic — sacrifice that people discover when they try to live a commitment and a choice coherently and completely," he said.

The letters illustrate that spiritual progress often must overcome obstacles that seem impassable, he said.

Restoration House

704-291-7945



"Come all who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Restoration House is a place for people to reflect, relax, and find peace in the scenic North Carolina mountains. It is a log cabin with beautiful views located off I-40 near Marion, NC — 90 minutes from Charlotte and 40 minutes east of Asheville. It is far from cell phones, email, and the hurried pace of daily living — perfect for restoring the mind, body and spirit. Restoration House is ideal for rental to small groups (small faith groups, women's groups, music groups, etc.) at $160 for an entire group per night. It is also available for rental to individuals and couples. Create your own get-a-away…or attend one of our planned retreats listed below.

Upcoming Facilitated Catholic Retreats for Adults:

September 28-30	**Moms:** "Slow Down, Recharge, and Create Space for God" with the book "Breathe" by Keri Wyatt Kent. (special $150)
October 12-14	**Women/Men:** "Growing Closer to God in the Midst of Personal Trials" with a video, inspirational speaker, and a Bible study on Job.
October 26-28	**Women/Men:** "Wisdom for Living" shares valuable insights through Bible studies on proverbs and parables.
November 9-11	**Couples or a Spouse Alone:** "Finding Christ in Your Marriage" uses a Bible study to look at what the Scriptures say about marriage.
December 7-9	**Women:** "Experiencing a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas" includes both reflective and festive activities — a great seasonal celebration.

Retreats are $190 per person ($290 per couple for Nov. weekend). Rate includes 2 nights of lodging, a facilitated program by Tom and/or Amy Barsanti, workshop materials, and meals. Retreats begin Friday evening and end mid-day Sunday. Call Tom for more details: 704-291-7941.

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 23, 2007

Sept. 23, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Amos 8:4-7
   Psalm 113:1-2, 4-8
2) 1 Timothy 2:1-8
3) Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

God calls on us to help all those in need

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When Jesuit Father Rick Thomas picked up the phone in El Paso where I had reached him to ask if I might come out and interview him for a magazine article, I asked how he was.

"Fine as wine," he replied, stretching the words in a countrified way. Dealing with Father Rick was always memorable.

What was to carry me to El Paso and Vado, N.M., to witness and write about the works of charity and evangelism of his Catholic charismatic community had all resulted from an act of obedience to God's word.

Father Rick and his prayer group went to the Juarez, Mexico, dump on Christmas Day a few years before my visit in response to one of Jesus' commands: When you give a party, be sure you invite the lowly and those who cannot repay you.

Father Rick and his group must have asked themselves when they could carry out that simple request. And so they went to the dump with ham, tortillas, beans and all the fixings they could gather to set a holiday table before the poor, who made their living scavenging recyclable materials from the leavings of Mexican society.

If you'd like to read about the miracles that followed this act of obedience, they are documented in Father Renee Laurentin's book-length treatment, "Miracles in El Paso."

In today's Scriptures, the psalm praises the Lord's majesty, goodness and kindness to the poor: "He raises up the lowly from the dust, from the dunghill he lifts up the poor to seat them with princes, with princes of his own people."

This contrasts greatly with the scorn the prophet Amos has for the unjust who "trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land."

Today the poor are still with us. Many are immigrants seeking a better life. Many are those limited by horrible family situations and generations of poverty existing inside U.S. borders.

God still calls us to their care, if we will only be obedient and seek ways to respond to that call.

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

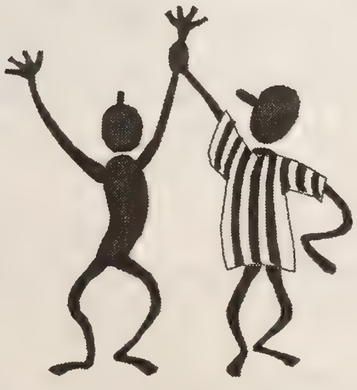
SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 16-22

Sunday (Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14,1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday (St. Robert Bellarmine),** 1 Timothy 2:1-8 Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday,** 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday (St. Januarius),** 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (St. Andrew Kim Taegon,** St. Paul Chong Hasang and Companions), 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50; **Friday (St. Matthew),** Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday,** 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 23-29

Sunday (Tewnty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday,** Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday,** Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cosmas & Damian),** Ezra 9:5-9, Tobit 13:2-4, 7-8, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (St. Wenceslaus),** Haddai 2:1-9, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday,** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51.

Create a winning event



Having your meeting or conference at the center makes you a winner every time!

We can help you turn an ordinary conference, meeting, retreat, or banquet into a special event! You plan the event, we'll provide the environment!

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC
(828) 327-7441 or toll-free at
(888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org
www.catholicconference.org

The Catholic Conference Center

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charlotte, is seeking a faith-filled, full-time Director of Music Ministry. Working collaboratively with the Pastor, responsibilities include planning music and playing for four weekend Masses, Holy Days, sacramental liturgies, funerals and weddings; directing adult and youth choirs; training cantors; expanding the present ministry. Candidates should have a degree in music or related field; vocal, keyboard and directing skills; a thorough knowledge of and experience with Catholic liturgy; good communication and organization skills. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Send resume to: Fr. Remo DiSalvatore at broremo99@bellsouth.net.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
Full-time Director of Major Gifts

Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, business administration or related field; five years experience in fund development and major gifts. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include developing strategies, events, and materials to inform, engage, cultivate and solicit current and prospective major gifts prospects.

Please submit resume to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by September 30, 2007. Questions to 704-370-3301 or email at jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

J.S. Paluch Co., established in 1913, the nation's oldest Catholic Publisher, is now interviewing for the position of Sales Representatives for parish church bulletins. Realistic earnings potential of 40K+, health insurance, paid vacation, 401K. Some travel required. Self-motivation a must. Bilingual helpful in some areas. To arrange an interview call Les Black at 800-432-3240. Seniors welcome to apply. EOE

Classifieds

FOR RENT

CONDO: OCEANFRONT on Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Great off-season rates: by the day, week or month. Consider a long weekend - close by getaway. Good swimming until October. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Come and be filled!

FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS 2007

Annual retreat with presenters
Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (English) and
Sr. Dominga Zapata (Spanish) and opening
remarks by Very Rev. Mauricio W. West,
Diocesan Vicar General and Chancellor

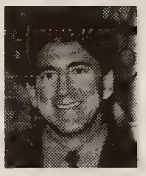
Living Faith: The Great Adventure
Viviendo la Fe: La Gran Aventura

Saturday, November 3
8 am – 3:30 pm
NOTE: NEW location:
Tuscola High School, Clyde, NC

Fire in the Mountains is a gathering of God's people committed to the rediscovery and exploration of their Judeo-Christian tradition. This annual retreat in the western North Carolina mountains seeks to connect its people to each other and to God through faith-sharing focused on issues critical to our immediate community and the modern world. A collaborative project of the people of the Asheville and Smoky Mountain Vicariates, this faith-filled day is sponsored by the Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Charlotte.

PRESENTATIONS:
From Belief to Living Faith -- "Over 90% of Americans 'believe in God.' That's to say, they believe that God exists. But belief in the existence of God is very different from the 'saving faith' spoken of in the Bible."
Dr. D'Ambrosio

Moral Choices and the Great Adventure -- "Many think that God's commands are arbitrary rules and regulations that restrict our freedom. Some never move beyond this vision of the moral life. But there comes a time when God invites each one of us to see moral choices differently, as guideposts given by a loving father to guide us into his path, a more glorious journey than we ever could have imagined." Dr. D'Ambrosio



Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.
Dr. D'Ambrosio has a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from the Catholic University of America and his teaching has covered a broad range of subjects. He brings a practical, down-to-earth perspective that makes his words easy to understand and to put into practice. He often appears on EWTN and is regularly heard on the radio show "Catholic Answers Live."

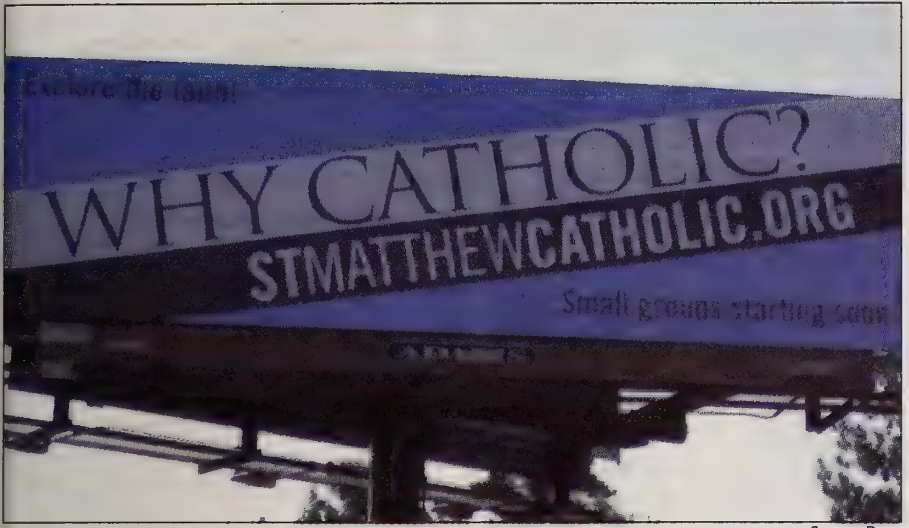
Sr. Dominga Zapata
Sr. Zapata is a native of Puerto Rico and a member of the Society of Helpers. She completed her master's degree at Mundelein College in Chicago and did further studies at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary D. Min. program as well as pastoral theology studies at the University of Salamanca, Spain. She has worked in numerous capacities over the last 35 years with various Hispanic and Native American organizations in the Chicago Archdiocese and elsewhere, and has been published in several books, magazines and newspapers.

Register early and save $5!
Early registration deadline: **October 27**
$20 per person, including lunch and refreshments
(after October 27, the fee is $25)
Scholarships available on needs basis for individuals
or groups attending for the first time.
Sacrament of Reconciliation offered at lunchtime.

For information about registration or lodging:
Mary Ann Wharton at (828)667-4227 or
maryannwharton@charter.net
Check out our Web site: www.fireitm.org

Come for the day and enjoy the beauty of the
mountains while growing in your faith!

The signs says it all



COURTESY PHOTO

A billboard advertising the "Why Catholic?" program at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte is pictured along Interstate 485 in Charlotte.

"In our advertising we have tried to appeal to various groups of parishioners. We have challenged parents to know their faith better so that they can pass it on to their children," said Pat White, parish volunteer and communications coordinator. "This time, we are especially trying to reach out to the inactive Catholics who aren't going to find out about the program through traditional means, such as the bulletin — hence, the billboard."

The billboard will be up through the first week in October, when the "Why Catholic?" groups will begin meeting.

'Why Catholic?' workshops explore God's revelation

WORKSHOPS, *from page 1*

and Tradition.

Nineteen "Why Catholic?" faith formation workshops were held at 12 locations around the diocese over four days, Aug. 27-30. Themed "Braid of Revelation," the workshops examined how Jesus is the fullness of God's revelation, how Scripture and Tradition are sources of revelation, and how all three aspects are interwoven, much like a braid.

"The heart of the meeting was to renew our faith from these concepts," said Karen Jambon, a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church in Arden and a parish facilitator of the "Why Catholic?" program.

"Through these gatherings, we continue to be enlightened by these same truths and revelations of God through the prophets, by Jesus himself and by the Apostles," said Jambon.

"Why Catholic?" is a program of RENEW International, a Roman Catholic organization that fosters spiritual renewal, evangelization and the transformation of the world through parish-based small Christian communities.

These communities, or small faith-sharing groups, are based on the teachings of Scripture and the catechism. Participants meet in these small Christian communities throughout the diocese once a week for six weeks, and then twice a year for four years in order to explore their faith.

The recent "Braid of Revelation" workshops were led by facilitators from the New Jersey-based RENEW International.

Sister of St. Joseph of Cluny Marie Cooper led workshops at Haywood Community College and St. Barnabas Church Aug. 30. Participants braided three strands of colored yarn together as examples and reminders of the interwoven aspects of revelation — white yarn represented Jesus, green represented sacred Tradition, yellow was Scripture.

Sister Cooper discussed ways to read the Bible, suggesting beginning with St. Mark's Gospel — it is the shortest and easiest to understand, she said.

In reading any of the Gospels, Sister Cooper suggested stopping and reflecting whenever there is a question about the passage.

"It's the inspired movement of God within us," she said.

Sister Cooper also spoke about the importance of sharing the faith within families, and participants shared ways in which they celebrate and share their faith with one another.

"Why Catholic?" fosters the goals of "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us," the U.S. bishops' pastoral plan for adult faith formation.

The process is comprehensive, containing a full range of elements in both English and Spanish. It includes orientation, small community leader formation, retreat experiences, an invitation video and family-oriented bulletin inserts.

Archdioceses and dioceses across the United States participate in the "Why Catholic?" program. Bishop Peter J. Jugis has recommended its implementation in all churches of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Currently, 38 parishes, four missions and Hispanic ministries in three vicariates utilize the "Why Catholic?" program.

21 years ago, Brian withdrew $300 and drove his wife to the clinic...

One house, two minivans and three kids later, there's still no one who can fill these shoes.

Abortion rates have plummeted. Those who've been there know why.

Jason throws a mean fast ball, Gracie doesn't know a stranger and Jen's the bookish one. Brian and Lisa love their kids, but they wonder about the one that came along when Lisa was sick and Brian lost his job. The counselor said there was no way they could make it work. Now, they'd give anything to try. They never spoke of the abortion again ... until the day Lisa saw her first ultrasound – and her first picture of Jen. Ironically, the day Lisa fell apart was the day she and Brian finally got it together. They found the strength to confront a grief as unbearably big as a tiny pair of shoes.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

www.UnChoice.info
An unwanted choice is no choice at all.

Abortion is the un choice.
Unwanted. Unsafe. Unfair.

Would you like to experience God's love and healing after an abortion? Consider coming to the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Rock Hill, SC on September 28-30. Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte, the weekend is totally confidential. For more information and to register, please call 704-370-3229 or 704-231-2030 (cell), or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421

Pineville 704-544-1412

Mint Hill 704-545-4864

Derita 704-596-3291

Perspectives

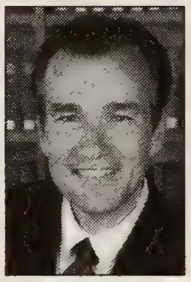
A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Back to school: Will truth prevail?

Mistaken ruling will not help Christian students in their faith

Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST



Summer is over, and with children returning to school it is an appropriate time to reflect upon the right (and yes, duty) of parents to educate their children in the faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes this right as "fundamental," and admonishes parents to choose "schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators."

Unfortunately, parents with children in public schools will get less help, thanks to a seriously mistaken ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals, the second highest court in the land, handed down in late August.

A group of students in the state of Washington calling themselves "Truth" sought to have an after-school Bible study "to encourage and help [students] become better people with good morals." For over two years, their public high school bounced their application around only to unanimously deny it in the end.

Why? Because the students described membership in terms of faith.

While anyone, indeed everyone in the school community, was permitted to attend the meetings, to be a member in good standing was contingent upon aspiring to "Christian character, Christian speech and the Christian conduct generally described in the Bible."

The point, said the students, was that members should have "a true desire to grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ."

The school decision-makers in Washington didn't like that notion and for good measure told the students they didn't like the club name either. Truth be damned, I guess.

Bible Club permission denied. Of course, these same authorities had no trouble approving an Earth Club, limited to members who would promise to show an "interest and dedication toward environmental issues."

And the school even found room for a gay-straight alliance limited to students exploring a full discussion of "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and other questioning issues" and "fighting heterosexism and other forms of oppression."

The student founders of Truth got legal help, but embarrassingly they have thus far lost in court. How they lost is a bit of a mystery given the plain text of laws aimed, like the school district's own policies, at affirming — on paper at least — "equal opportunity and treatment ... without regard to race, creed, etc."

There's even a federal law, the Equal Access Act, which mandates that public schools grant religious clubs the benefits and privileges afforded other non-curricular clubs. Congress' purpose was to guarantee "equal access or fair opportunity" and to prevent discrimination on the basis of "the content of the speech in club meetings."

Nevertheless, paying little heed to this important law intended to be "interpreted broadly," the Ninth Circuit (which hears cases from the entire Western United States) found nothing wrong with the denial.

Denying permission for a club based on religious membership criteria was not, said the judges, to discriminate in terms of content of speech.

Really?

Bafflingly, the judges claimed that the students failed to show how limiting membership to those who would share Christian values had "any expressive conduct content, let alone [how] this policy communicates a message consistent with the views of the club's organizers."

This is flawed reasoning. Thankfully, another federal appellate court has taken a directly opposite view, upholding under the law the ability of a religious club in a New York high school to limit club leadership positions to "professed Christians."

When the same law is interpreted in two different ways, it warrants Supreme Court resolution. The Roberts court should be open to the Washington students if they appeal, and in all likelihood, would reverse.

Of course generations of students will have graduated in the meantime, and it's troubling to have to drag public schools into court for reasonable religious accommodation.

This is hardly what the catechism had in mind when it enjoins upon "public authorities ... the duty of guaranteeing to parents the right to choose a school for their children which corresponds to their own faith convictions."

Enduring faith

Spending Rosh Hashanah with two Catholic heroes

Guest Column

RABBI BRAD HIRSCHFIELD
CNS COLUMNIST

It may sound odd to some that I will be celebrating Rosh Hashanah with two Catholic heroes, even more so given that both are deceased, but each has inspired me and guided my spiritual growth; that is why I will have their teachings open alongside the traditional holiday liturgy that I will recite in my synagogue.

Rosh Hashanah, usually described as the Jewish New Year, is actually the Jewish celebration of the birth of all humanity. We honor the sacredness of all humanity with our uniquely Jewish celebration of it.

This central lesson had perhaps no better teacher than the late Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, bishop of Paris from 1981 to 2005.

He was born Aaron before WWII to two Polish Jewish immigrants in Paris. He was saved from the Nazis by a Catholic family in Orleans who did what I can only hope I would do; they endangered themselves and their own family to save this innocent little boy.

Later Aaron converted to Catholicism, its truth and beauty having been demonstrated to him by that brave couple.

But because he always knew that spiritual truth was as infinitely large as the God who created it — that he could be right without assuming that those with differing views had to be wrong, Cardinal Lustiger declared until his dying day that, while he was a proud and faithful Catholic, he also remained a Jew.

He understood that his spiritual story as a Catholic did not require denying the enduring reality of its initial Jewish chapters.

At a moment when more people are killing each other in the name of religion than at any time since the Crusades, that seems like a pretty important message with which to begin the new year.

Cardinal Lustiger's commitment to all that was Catholic left room for his Jewishness in much the way I struggle to assure that my commitment to all that is Jewish honors the holiness, goodness and truth of that which is not.

The former bishop of Paris lived the lesson of Rosh Hashanah, and that is why I hope to have him with me as I celebrate the birth of humanity and prepare myself for a new year committed to its well-being.

Similarly, I hope to have the spirit of Blessed Mother Teresa with me as I sit in the synagogue on the upcoming holidays.

The recent revelation of her questioning whether God was always there, was "always God," is also part of a sacred tradition which expresses itself on Rosh Hashanah. And far from being a barrier to belief or, even worse, the expression of its opposite, such questions and doubts are fundamental to the enduring relationship known as faith.

It is in the asking of such questions and in the willingness to confront the full range of responses to them that we strengthen all of our relationships, including and perhaps especially our relationship with God.

Mother Teresa's questions stand in direct line with those asked by the biblical Abraham, whose story we read over the course of these holiest days in the Jewish calendar.

It was Abraham, known to the faithful as the first monotheist, who is the Scripture's first atheist! It is Abraham who is ready to declare in Genesis 18 that God would "not be God" if prepared to destroy the righteous residents of Sodom along with those who sinned.

It is Abraham who shows us that to challenge God, to be prepared even to deny God, is the height of a relationship which evokes the best from each of the partners.

Mother Teresa is a shining example of faith without fanaticism, of belief that admits ambiguity, of living in light of powerful spiritual answers without denying the questions that are a part of any life lived with integrity and intelligence.

This holiday I pray that Mother Teresa's spirit of sacred doubt, and her holy questions about the pain that exists in the world, will be with me.

I pray that, having stood in the clinics which bear her name across Ethiopia, I will be filled with the strength to turn my questions into the fuel I need to continue in her footsteps as well as those of Cardinal Lustiger's.

I pray to make the world a better place for all people, because it is the mandate of my tradition to do so.

Hirschfield is the president of The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

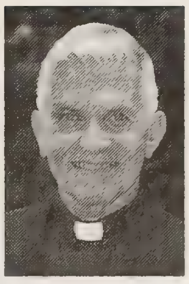
The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

‘Catechesis: Encountering the Living Christ’

National Catechetical Sunday a time to reflect on church’s mission

Guest Column



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

The theme of National Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 16) emphasizes clearly and concisely the challenging call addressed to every believer — to encounter Christ.

All who are committed to cultivating a conscious and active faith welcome the privilege of meeting the Lord time and time again within the journey of life. In order to truly encounter Jesus, each of us must be open to his presence, realizing that he has chosen us to be his friends, disciples and witnesses.

A fruitful encounter with the Lord is dependent upon an honest desire to be touched and transformed by his love.

Again and again as the years unfold, Jesus Christ invites us to encounter him in a manner that will impact our lives positively and creatively. As we travel the sacred journey of life, Jesus speaks to us in Scripture, Tradition and the sacraments, as well as in the faith-filled witness or needs of others.

In reflecting upon my personal experience, I recall gratefully that for 44 years I have been involved in the catechetical mission of the church. During these years, I have come to understand and appreciate Pope John Paul II’s observation contained within his magnificent apostolic exhortation entitled “On Catechesis in Our Time”:

“The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ.”

As one called to cultivate and enable intimacy with Jesus, I’ll never forget the day of my first assignment as a priest. When I arrived at Our Lady’s Church in Waltham, Mass., the pastor informed me that I would be responsible for the CCD (faith formation) program. There were 1,800 children on the elementary level and 500 young people in the high school.

Having had no training in the seminary to implement that role, I wondered how I would handle the responsibility. Thank the Lord, however, that with the guidance of a committed and competent layman, I was able to do so.

He reminded me that the catechist must recognize that the message should be adapted in a faithful manner to the ability of the learners to understand and appreciate its meaning and relevance.

Forty-four years have passed since my first attempt to be an effective director of a CCD program. During the intervening period, what a blessing it has been to participate in the pastoral and educational mission of the church.

Since I arrived here in 1995, I have been impressed by the devotion and dedication of the faith formation teachers — the catechists — here in the Diocese of Charlotte. Whether they minister within the setting of the Catholic school or the parish, they have been an inspiration. Whether they serve children, youth or adults, they are truly exemplary in their selflessness.

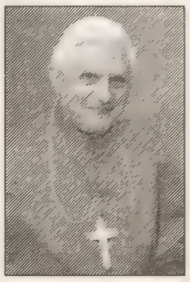
The name of National Catechetical Sunday, “Catecheses: Encountering the Living Christ,” is so timely for those of us who collaborate in sharing the person and message of Jesus. It speaks to parents and priests, to catechetical leaders and catechists.

All of us are blessed beyond measure as we are invited and enabled to participate in the catechetical mission of the church.

Father Hawker is vicar of education for the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

Pope reflects on Austrian trip, says church is called to be like Mary

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the feast of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Benedict XVI said the church is called to be like the mother of God and look to Christ.

The church is called to pay witness to the sanctity of life and work toward a future of peace, he said.

The pope used his general audience Sept. 12 to share reflections about his Sept. 7-9 visit to Austria. He returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa south of Rome to greet the estimated 12,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

He said separate meetings with the Austrian president and diplomats during his trip represented “precious occasions” for him to urge leaders to foster peace and “authentic economic and social development.”

He emphasized the importance of Europe’s Christian roots, which promote “a tradition of thought that ties faith, reason and feeling” together and safeguards the modern conscience from nihilistic or fundamentalist tendencies.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict’s remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My recent pastoral visit to Austria was above all a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Mariazell on its 850th anniversary.

The venerable statue of Our Lady pointing to her infant Son inspired the theme of the visit — “To Look to Christ.” Austria is a land of ancient Christian culture, and its capital, Vienna, is today a centre of international institutions.

In my meeting with the president and the diplomatic corps, I expressed the church’s support for global efforts to foster peace and authentic development, and I encouraged the process of Europe’s unification on the basis of values inspired by its shared Christian heritage.

At Mass in St. Stephen’s Cathedral, I stressed the importance of respecting the rich religious and cultural meaning of our tradition of Sunday rest.

While visiting Heiligenkreuz Abbey, I spoke of the value of monasticism and liturgical prayer, and the inseparable link between theology and the spiritual life.

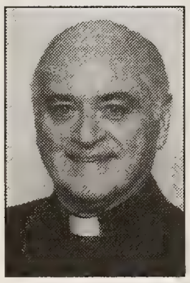
At the end of my journey, I met with representatives of Austria’s impressive network of volunteer organizations and expressed appreciation for their generosity to others.

Throughout my visit, I saw the vitality of the church, which, in today’s Europe, is called “to look to Christ.”

Understanding Scripture

Belief in Christ’s divinity guides, sustains us

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

The faith is a precious gift.

Do you ever get sick of the TV biblical experts who undermine the supernatural basis of divine revelation? They deny the divinity of Jesus; consequently, they reduce all of his miracles to mere folk tales.

To understand this approach to biblical criticism, you have to go back to Rene Descartes (1596-1650), the father of modern philosophy, and to Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), the famous German skeptic.

Descartes challenged the way we know things. He felt it necessary to reject everything he had ever learned in order to find out what he knew from natural reason alone. His first question was “How do I even know that I exist?”

Most of us take our own existence for granted, but Descartes didn’t know for sure until his “eureka moment,” when he discovered this idea: “I think, therefore I am.”

From then on he would accept as true only those things he could prove from reason alone. Therefore, all knowledge based on faith went out the window.

Kant applied Descartes’ approach to the interpretation of sacred Scripture. Up until then, the reading of Scripture was pretty much a matter of believing what the text said while accepting the guidance of the church in translating the more difficult passages.

We asked, “What did the sacred author mean when he wrote this passage? What religious truth was he trying to teach us?”

Our individual interpretations may have varied slightly, but Catholics were instructed not to go beyond the parameters of the deposit of faith in their speculations.

According to Kant, however, the reader of Scripture had to reject all knowledge based on faith. This made everyone dependent on the Scripture scholars alone in their efforts to understand the Bible. The authority of the church was, of course, dismissed out of hand. In its place a new wave of biblical gurus came on the scene.

The problem was that these so-called experts disagreed with one another all the time, which led to much confusion. Evangelical Christians decided to reject the new scholars and demanded that the entire Bible be taken literally.

There are metaphors, parables and figures of speech in the Bible which are not to be taken literally.

The Lutherans believe that “Scripture alone saves,” but if others say you can’t know exactly what the text means, how can it save you, much less guide you?

The Bible has always needed an objective authority for its correct interpretation.

In 1988, Pope Benedict XVI, when he was Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, gave a talk entitled “Biblical Interpretation in Crisis.” In it he asserted that the Kantian method of interpretation undermines the very possibility “for the Bible to be itself.”

He added that we can never “interpret sacred Scripture correctly without the church’s faith to guide us.”

Ultimately, it comes down to belief in the divinity of Christ.

The faith is a precious gift from God, passed down to us over the centuries through the ministry of the church. Because of the divinity of Jesus Christ, we have been given the Holy Spirit to guide us in a darkened world.

The divine element of the church sustains us, not the human; however, the human element makes Jesus visible.

We belong to the mystical body of Christ on earth. We love the church.

HIS EXCELLENCY, BISHOP PETER J. JUGIS, INVITES EVERYONE
TO THE THIRD

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

2007

TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST

Friday, September 21: Doors open at 6 pm
7 pm – Sacred Music Concert featuring a large diocesan choir performing multicultural musical works.
Concert will be followed by **Fr. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.** – "What the Presence of Christ Means in Your Life."
10 pm – Eucharistic Adoration at St. Peter Catholic Church, Tryon Street at 1st Street.

Saturday, September 22: Doors open at 8 am
9 am – Eucharistic Congress Procession through uptown
10:30 am – Eucharistic Holy Hour with Homily
11:30 am – Programs and speakers for adults, Hispanics, teens, children, young adults and cultural groups. Also, Eucharistic Adoration, sacrament of Reconciliation, culture hour and vendors offering books, CDs, sacred objects and many more unique items.
3:30 pm – Sacred music to prepare for Holy Mass
4:30 pm – Closing Vigil Mass concelebrated by the Religious and Diocesan Priests of the Diocese - Bishop Peter J. Jugis, principal celebrant and homilist

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER — COLLEGE ST. & STONEWALL

NO ADMISSION FEE – ALL ARE WELCOME! **SIGNING AVAILABLE**

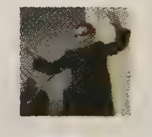
CONGRESS SPEAKERS

Bishop Peter J. Jugis
Host of the Congress - Celebrant of the Eucharistic Procession, Principal celebrant and homilist at the closing Mass

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Eucharistic Holy Hour Homilist

General Track

Steve Ray
"They Recognized Him in the Breaking of the Bread"



Fr. Leo Patalinghug
"Mary as Magnifier for Jesus"

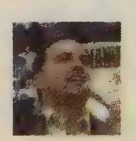
Helen Alvare
"To Know Jesus Christ – A Catholic Woman's Perspective"

Patrick Madrid
"A Course in Eucharistic Miracles"

Liz Luke
WDYT Radio Morning Personality – Master of Ceremonies

Hispanic Track

Hector Molina
"¿¡Señor, danos siempre de ese pan!?"



Roberto Ramirez
"Jesus, Pan del Cielo"

Juan Bautista Cantillo
"La Presencia de Cristo en nuestras Vidas"

Language/Culture Tracks - "To Know Jesus Christ in Culture"
African American, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, College - Young Adult

NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION for Teen Track only is still open. There will be NO registration at the Charlotte Convention Center. Register online at www.GoEucharist.com.

Teen Track - High School Students
"To Know Jesus Christ as a Teen"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Fr. Leo Patalinghug "In the Beginning, a Vocation Story."
Lunch provided.

Middle School Track (Grades 6-8)
"To Know Jesus Christ in Middle School"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Lunch provided.

Children's Tracks (Grades K-2 and 3-5)
"To Know Jesus Christ in Grade School"
Special activities.
Eucharistic Adoration.
Lunch provided.

www.GoEucharist.com
- Register for Teen Track
- Latest Eucharistic Congress news - To volunteer

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

"To Know Jesus Christ"
Eucharistic Congress, Sept. 21-22
Look for coverage of this year's Eucharistic Congress in the Sept. 28 issue.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2007 — SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE — VOLUME 16 Nº 40

Preserving all life

Vatican says food, water must be provided to vegetative patients

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — In a brief document approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican said it was generally a moral obligation to provide food and water to patients in a vegetative state.

Nutrition and hydration, even by artificial means, cannot simply be terminated because doctors have determined that a person will never recover consciousness, the Vatican said Sept. 14.

Exceptions may occur when patients are unable to assimilate food and water or in the "rare" cases when nutrition and hydration become excessively burdensome for the patient, it said.

See FOOD, page 7

Fifty years of glory and joy

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Surrounded by priests and deacons who have served at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrates the Liturgy of the Eucharist during a Mass commemorating the parish's 50th anniversary Sept. 15.

St. Gabriel Church celebrates golden anniversary with Mass

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — On Sept. 5, 1957, Father Paul Byron celebrated the first Mass of St. Gabriel Church in a small brick building "that looked liked a post office." A borrowed cafeteria table served as the altar and a shoebox was used for the collection plate.

"Five years later, that shoebox was bronzed in a madcap nostalgic moment," said Father Bryon, founding pastor of St. Gabriel Church.

Father Bryon joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, and several priests and deacons who have served at the church for a Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Gabriel

See JUBILEE, page 5

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Visitors check out the Office of Economic Opportunity's financial literacy computer lab during its dedication in Murphy Sept. 7.

Fighting financial illiteracy

Computer lab will help build financial literacy, stronger families

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — There are no rocking chairs on this porch.

Instead, five chairs roll up to computer stations.

The front porch of the Office of Economic Opportunity of Catholic Social Services has become the Msgr. Mauricio W. West ABLE Financial Literacy Computer Lab.

The lab was dedicated Sept. 7 to Msgr. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, who was instrumental in starting the OEO.

St. William Church sits next door to the OEO. The church's men's club refurbished the porch in just two weeks.

See LAB, page 9

Conference explores financial literacy, livelihood of poor

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

HAYESVILLE — In today's economic system, there will always be people who need help, said a speaker at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia.

See BEGLEY, page 9

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#* Fires of faith
Catechists get enrichment at workshop
| PAGE 4

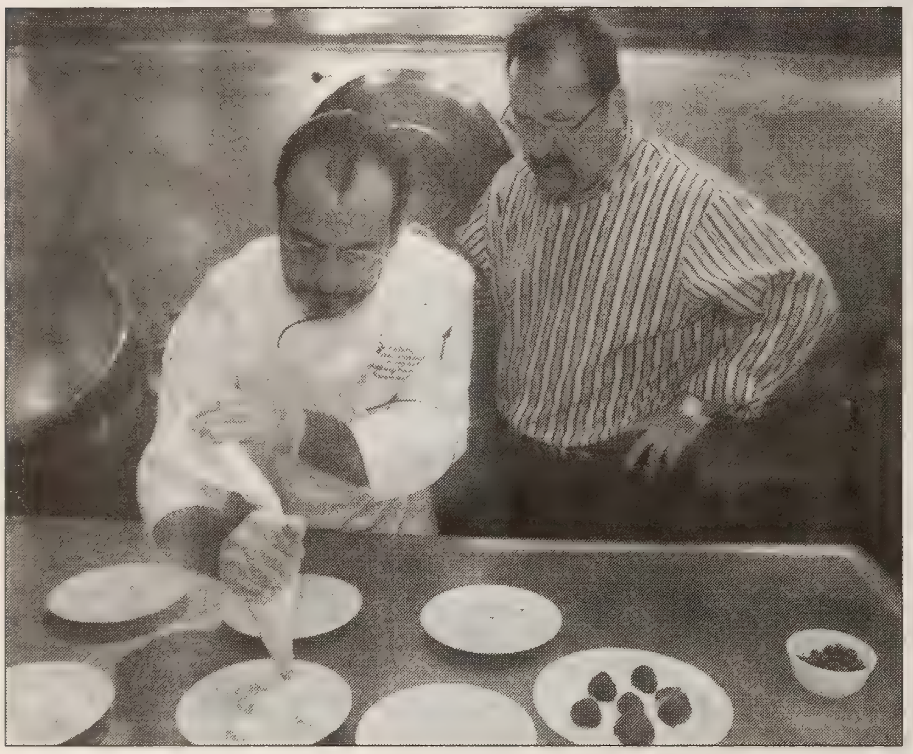
Culture Watch
Church officials examine book; Catholic bluegrass
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
Mother Teresa's dark night; praying with children
| PAGES 14-15

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

SPICING UP THE MENU



CNS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SHEMITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

Anthony Rezza, corporate chef for Catholic Health Services of Long Island, prepares a pineapple carpaccio appetizer under the watchful eye of consulting chef Jean-Marie Zimmermann in the kitchen of St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown, N.Y., Aug. 17. Zimmermann, executive chef for the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner, has helped upgrade the patient menus at St. Catherine's, Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre, N.Y., and Our Lady of Consolation Nursing and Rehabilitative Care Center in West Islip, N.Y.

Cruise-ship chef helps Catholic health system produce five-star food

WEST ISLIP, N.Y. (CNS) — When James Harden, president of Catholic Health Services of Long Island, sailed on the Queen Mary 2 ocean liner, he asked to meet Chef Jean-Marie Zimmermann, hoping to get a recipe.

Harden marveled at the ship's ability to serve more than 15,000 meals a day that were tasty and satisfying.

"'If you get it right,' he asked me, 'why don't we get it right?'" said Zimmerman, executive chef for Cunard cruise lines.

So last year, between cruises, Catholic Health Services brought Zimmermann to Long Island to tour the Catholic hospitals and nursing homes, inspect the kitchens and work with the staff.

Zimmermann's goal is to help the staff prepare meals to delight the tongue as well as nourish the body. Patients are being served seared salmon, beef bourguignon and boneless leg of lamb. "We also have a variety of soups," the chef said.

"They (the residents) deserve good meals. This is their home. Their food shouldn't taste institutional," said Gina Irwin, community relations director at Our Lady of Consolation Nursing and Rehabilitative Care Center in West Islip.

Born in Alsace-Lorraine in France, Zimmermann won numerous culinary honors during years of cooking in restaurant and cruise-ship kitchens.

For about a year, Zimmermann has been serving as a visiting consultant, coming a few times a year for several weeks. He set up menus and trained kitchen staff at Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre and St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown but also goes back to check on their progress. Now working at Our Lady of Consolation, he will work with other CHS facilities on subsequent visits.

He found his experience supervising meals on a cruise liner applies well to working for Catholic Health Services.

"The common goal is good food," he said.

But there are differences in planning meals for health care facilities.

"We have to make adjustments for individual patients, but providing healthy food is part of the work," he said.

Zimmermann sees no reason why hospitals and nursing homes cannot offer patients and residents meals they can enjoy. "It takes as much trouble and costs as much to make something bad as it does to make something good," he said.

"We have found out that since Chef Zimmermann has started, the costs have gone down," said Joseph Loiacono, an official with Catholic Health Services. "At first it costs more, but in the long run it goes down."

"When you buy packaged food, you're paying for the labor," said Anthony Rezza, corporate chef for the health system. "With fresh ingredients, you can use the leftovers to make other dishes."

Hurricane Humberto hits Texas, Louisiana; six churches damaged

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hurricane Humberto, which began as a tropical storm, made landfall in Texas and Louisiana Sept. 13. The storm's high winds knocked down trees and power lines in the area and caused minor destruction, including water damage and the loss of shingles in six churches in the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas.

The storm intensified when it hit the eastern tip of Texas with sustained winds of up to 80 mph and heavy rains before weakening and going through Louisiana. It was the first hurricane to make landfall on the Gulf Coast since Katrina and Rita two years ago.

According to the local energy company, about 100,000 customers were without power in the local vicinity. Power was not expected to be restored for a few days.

The damage at local churches was primarily from lost shingles or water damage caused by water leaking under doors or through windows.

One of the damaged churches still had the tarps it used after Hurricane Rita and they were immediately put on the church roof when the shingles were blown off by Hurricane Humberto.

The area is still recuperating from Hurricane Rita. One of the most damaged Catholic churches from that storm just reopened two months ago, although workers are still finishing the interior.

Another church, torn down because of extensive damage, still hasn't been rebuilt. Since Hurricane Rita, parishioners have been attending Mass in the parish hall.

Catholic Charities USA is collaborating with the local Catholic Charities agency to assess post-storm damages, the needs of local residents and recovery efforts. Officials were concerned because the area has been recently saturated with large amounts of rain, making it more prone to severe flooding.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — *"God Loves Us into Creation: A Retreat for Young Adults (ages 18-40)"* will be held at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. in Biss Hall (below the church). To register call Kelly Payne at (704) 661-3302 or e-mail kelleepain@aol.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Come Be Fed Physically and Spiritually* at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Oct. 8, 6-8:30 p.m. Jason Kotecki, author and cartoonist, will share his insights into how each of us can develop a more childlike faith amid the busyness of life. Reservations are required; e-mail Donna Smith at dsmith18@bellsouth.net or call (704) 948-1306.

CHARLOTTE — A *Pro-Life Prayer Vigil* that will take place Sept. 26-Nov. 4. It will be a 40 day/24 hour peaceful prayer vigil in front of an abortion center with pro-life participants of many denominations. There will be a kick-off rally at St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Road, Sept. 26, with numerous Christian speakers. Together we can all build a Culture of Life. For more information, e-mail Diane Hoefling at rhoef541@aol.com or call (704) 541-3760. Also visit www.40daysforlife.com.

HUNTERSVILLE — Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of the Fordham University Philosophy Department will present *"The Problem of Dirty Hands"* Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in the family center of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the CSS offices of Family Life and Justice and Peace. To register, call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org. More information is available at www.cssnc.org. The presentation will also be presented at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro Oct. 8.

CHARLOTTE — *An Immigration Reform Workshop* will be held in Biss Hall of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m. The issue of immigration and migration has been called the "central narrative of our faith today." An immigration panel will present and discuss the issue as is affects our lives and the lives of our neighbors. For more information please call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity will host a *Transitus Service* in remembrance of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi to eternal life at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. There will be a reception after the service with light refreshments. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

CHARLOTTE — Join thousands across the nation for the 2007 *Life Chain*. The Charlotte Life Chain is a very important event to save lives of precious unborn children. Stand for one hour in peaceful prayer as a witness to the sanctity of each human life. We will pray Oct. 7, 2-3 p.m., on the corner of Kings St. and Morehead St. Parking is available at The Map Shop at 1500 East Morehead St. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-annual Rosary Rally* will be held Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old tradition will include praying the rosary, a eucharistic procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

CHARLOTTE — Dr. M. Shawn Copeland will present *"Who is my Neighbor? The Challenge of Solidarity"* as part of the Kennedy lecture series in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Admission is free. For more

—THE—
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

SEPTEMBER 21, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 40

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vox Clara Committee hopes missal translation completed by 2009

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An international liturgical committee that advises the Vatican reported progress in its work on the new English translation of the Mass.

After meeting at the Vatican Sept. 2-6, the Vox Clara Committee said it hoped the English translation of the Roman Missal would be completed and approved by the end of 2009.

It was the first time a specific date had been anticipated for the completion of the lengthy project. The third edition of the Roman Missal was promulgated in Latin by Pope John Paul II in 2002, and work on the English translation began soon afterward.

A Vox Clara statement reviewed the most recent draft translations of the Roman Missal, as produced in English by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), which is preparing the translation in several sections.

The material included Masses for various needs and intentions, ritual Masses, and the eucharistic prayers for Masses with children.

It said the final draft translation for the missal should be published by next spring. Then ICEL will complete a second draft, taking into account the reactions of English-language bishops' conferences and the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

After that, the bishops' conferences vote on the second draft. The Vatican's worship and sacraments congregation then takes final action, considering any eventual amendments that are proposed by bishops' conferences.

Church sources said that, in the end, most experts expect the Vatican to come up with a single, consensus version of the missal to serve the entire English-speaking world.

Vatican cardinal urges respect for people's right to Tridentine Mass

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope Benedict XVI's decree on the Tridentine Mass went into effect, a Vatican cardinal called on bishops and pastors to respect the "right of the faithful" to have the liturgy offered in the 1962 rite.

"Let's give thanks that the Holy Father has recovered this treasure for the church," Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, head of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," told Vatican Radio Sept. 13.

In July, a papal document said Mass celebrated according to the 1962 Roman Missal, commonly known as the Tridentine Mass, should be made available in every parish where groups of the faithful desire it. It also said any priest could freely celebrate the rite.

The decree went into effect Sept. 14.

Cardinal Castrillon said the relaxation of restrictions was not "a step backward," but a move to give greater liturgical freedom to priests and the faithful.

"Nothing is being imposed on anyone. The pope imposes no obligation; but the pope does impose that this possibility be offered where the faithful ask for it," the cardinal said.

Some bishops had opposed the change, fearing that their authority, particularly in liturgical matters, might be diminished.

Cardinal Castrillon said the decree does not take any authority from bishops. He said the Code of Canon Law already makes it clear that it is not the bishop's role to give permission for the celebration of particular Masses, but is generally up to parish pastors.

The cardinal said it was important that local pastors "open the door" to all qualified priests who want to celebrate the Tridentine Mass.

The pope's document did not require all parishes to automatically establish a Tridentine Mass schedule, but it said that where "a group of faithful attached to the previous liturgical tradition exists stably," the pastor should "willingly accede" to their request to make the old Mass available.

The document stipulated that priests who use the 1962 Roman Missal must be qualified to do so.

information, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *The Worldwide Children's Holy Hour* will be celebrated at Maryfield Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd., Oct. 5. All schoolchildren and their families are invited to gather for one hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for their own families and all the families of the world. All participants will receive the apostolic blessing of Pope Benedict XVI. Adoration will begin in the large chapel at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call Dianne at (336) 887-7303 or Geri at (336) 644-8883. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available during the holy hour.

GREENSBORO — Mark Shea, Catholic convert, writer, speaker and apologist, will give three talks at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 6. For more about Mark Shea, visit www.mark-shea.com Registration is required, as seating is limited. Register with Jim McCullough by email at jmcculloug@olgchurch.org or call (336) 274-6520, ext. 335.

GREENSBORO — Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of the Fordham University Philosophy Department will present *The Problem of Dirty Hands"* Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Sponsored by the CSS offices of Family Life and Justice and Peace. To register, call (704)370-3228ore-mailsabeason@charlottediocese.org. More information is online at www.cssnc.org.

HICKORY VICARIATE

MORGANTON — The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting a diocesan-wide *Grand Ultreya* at Steel Creek Parka and Campgrounds Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Bishop Peter J. Jugis will celebrate Mass at 12 p.m. For more information and directions, call Kathy Hack at (704) 548-1834.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

KANNAPOLIS — St. Joseph Church, 108 St Joseph St., will celebrate *being designated as a parish* in the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 7, 3-6 p.m. with a bilingual Mass, potluck dinner, parish history slideshow, Spanish and English singing, events sponsored by the youth group and preschool and soccer games starting at 11 a.m. If you are a priest or deacon who has served at St. Joseph Church or a parishioner interested in joining us, call Christine in the office at (704) 932-4607.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

SYLVA — St. Mary, Mother of God, Church, 22 Bartlett St., will present *"The Autumn of Our Lives"* Oct. 13, beginning with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a light breakfast. Father Walter Williams will provide scriptural-based teachings that will motivate and prepare us for this time of our lives. We will end with a noon luncheon. People over 40 are invited to attend. For more information, call the office at (828) 586-9496.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

KERNERSVILLE — *The Worldwide Children's Holy Hour* will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., Oct. 5. For more information, see the entry in the Greensboro Vicariate. Adoration participants will meet in the library at 5:45 p.m. Adoration will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the First Friday Mass at 7 p.m. For questions, call Geri at (336) 644-8883. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available during the holy hour.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

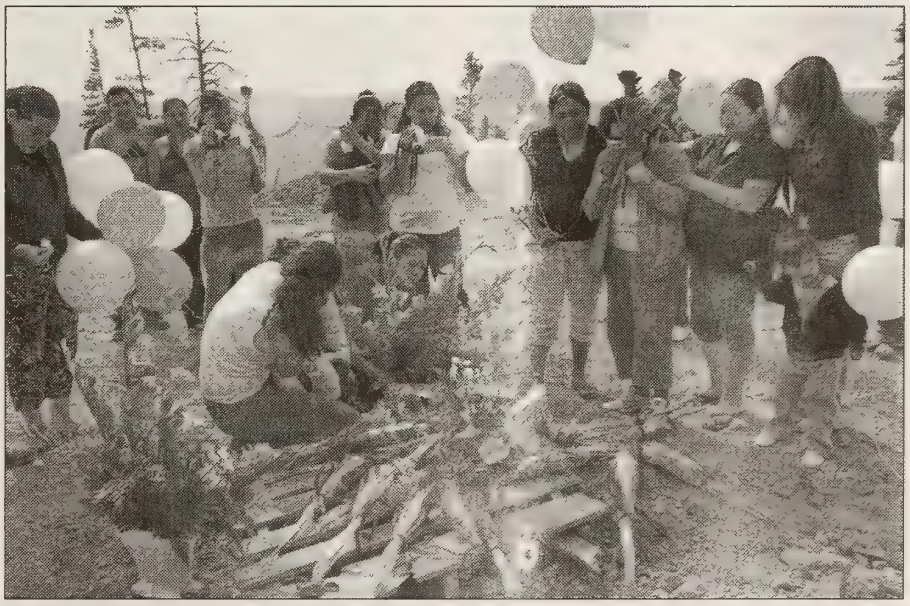
Sept. 25 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Sept. 26 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Charlotte

Sept. 29 — 12 p.m.
2007 Cursillo Grand Ultreya Mass
Steel Creek Park, Morganton

Sept. 30 — 11 a.m.
Dedication of new church
St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville

Remembering the miners



CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA STINSON LEE, INTERMOUNTAIN CATHOLIC

Family members of miners Luis Hernandez and Juan Carlos Payan, lost Aug. 6 in the collapse of the Crandall Canyon Mine in Huntington, Utah, lay roses Sept. 10 at one of seven holes bored into the mountain in an effort to locate the miners. The group released balloons representing the six miners killed in the cave-in and three miners who died trying to rescue them. Three of the miners were Catholic, and for the service 25 of their family members traveled to the top of the hill where the mine is located.

Catholic groups send goods, workers to help Indonesian quake victims

PALEMBANG, Indonesia (CNS) — International and local Catholic organizations sent aid and volunteers to areas in Indonesia affected by the mid-September earthquakes.

The Archdiocese of Palembang on Indonesia's Sumatra Island sent financial aid and volunteers to the quake-affected area of Bengkulu, said Sacred Heart of Jesus Father Antonius Yuswita.

Father Yuswita, archdiocesan vicar general, said the archdiocese planned to transfer nearly $17,000 as emergency aid to St. John the Evangelist Church's disaster committee in Bengkulu.

He said the archdiocese also was sending a volunteer team of medical and construction workers to help the victims.

"All aid from Catholics and through the local Catholic Church is humanitarian, meant for all victims, regardless of their religious backgrounds," he said.

The powerful earthquakes that hit Indonesia Sept. 12 and 13 severely damaged buildings and forced thousands of people to leave in fear of a tsunami. At least 10 people were reported killed, and hundreds were injured.

Igniting the faith of catechists

Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

About 200 people gather for the "Lighting the Fires of Faith XIII" workshop held at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Sept. 15.

Catechists gather for enrichment, education

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CLEMMONS — About 200 people gathered for enrichment and education at "Lighting the Fires of Faith XIII."

The bilingual event, an integral part of the ongoing training for catechists, youth ministers, RCIA teams and adult education leaders, took place at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Sept. 15.

Sponsored by the diocesan Office of Faith Formation's northern region office, the training was designed to help those who serve Catholic youths obtain certification and commissioning as required by the Diocese of Charlotte.

A dozen presenters offered sessions in English and Spanish. Topics included Scripture, Catholic social teachings, morality and the call to be a catechist.

"It is most commendable that so many people voluntarily gave up their Saturday to come here to this 13th edition of 'Lighting the Fires of Faith' to learn about Jesus, our Father and the church," said Loretta Bedner, a catechist at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro who spoke on morality and Catholic social teachings at the event.

According to Sister of Providence Betty Paul, northern region coordinator of faith formation, the 180 participants represented 17 of the 22 churches located within the Greensboro and Winston-Salem vicariates and making up the faith formation office's northern region.

"This indicates that there are many new catechists this year and that they are very interested in faithfully serving our children," said Sister Paul.

"It is important for all of our parishes to encourage catechists to take advantage of these workshops to develop their own faith, even as they learn how to teach our children about the faith," she said.

In her first year as northern region director, Sister Paul has visited most of the churches in the two vicariates.

"I certainly recognize the determined dedication of these volunteers in both time and effort in their quest to help our young people grow in their faith," she said.

Deacon Fred Scarletto, a permanent deacon at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, presented sessions, "The Call to be a Catechist," and "Using the Lectionary in the Liturgical Year."

He has taught at the workshops for the last four years.

"The fact is, there is so much about the faith, about the church, that needs to be addressed that I keep on doing it," he said.

After Deacon Scarletto's session on being a catechist, Sue Myrick, a parishioner at Holy Infant Church in Reidsville, said, "We learned more about what it means to be a catechist, including my own personal call to worship, to serve and to preach from the heart."

Richard Phillips, a parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, enjoyed the session on "The Person and Mission of Jesus."

"It gave me a more versatile way of expressing who Jesus is and what his church is here to do," said Phillips.

"The rewards that the kids get are more than just their learning about the faith. It makes the whole thing worthwhile as they think more about Jesus and why we love him," he said.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Bilingual Mass a success

Courtesy Photo

Father James Hawker, pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill and vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte, stands with children who attended the parish's first Spanish-English Mass Sept. 9.

Nearly 70 people attended the Mass, a much higher number than Edra Alonso, the parish's Hispanic ministry coordinator, was expecting.

"Most parishes have about five people at Mass when they first start offering it in Spanish," she said in the Sept. 7 issue of The Catholic News & Herald. "So, if there are 15 people there, I'll be thrilled."

In the near future, Alonso plans to offer faith formation classes, spiritual and social ministries targeted for Hispanics at St. Luke Church. She also wants to offer English as a second language classes.

The bilingual Mass will be celebrated each Sunday at 1 p.m. at St. Luke Church.

Forward in faith

Courtesy Photo by Vicki Dorsey

Father Matthew Kauth, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin, is pictured with parishioners who celebrated the sacraments of their first Communion and confirmation Aug. 26. Baptism, the Eucharist and confirmation are considered the three sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING
Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services
For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.
(336) 282-8870
ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park
The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

St. Gabriel Church celebrates golden jubilee

Photo by Karen A. Evans

A young girl prays during the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Sept. 15.

JUBILEE, *from page 1*

Church Sept. 15.

Rather than giving a homily following the Liturgy of the Word, Father Bryon recollected the earliest days of the parish. He spoke of clearing the hay in the church's front yard by hand, playing a pump organ "as loud as it would go, which wasn't very loud," and how he and 175 families became a community as they laughed at their predicament.

"We started out happy, and for my 10 years at St. Gabriel, we always were," Father Bryon said.

The Mass culminated a celebration that began in April with a Mass recognizing the charter and early members, past school principals, past directors of religious education and the Sisters of Mercy. In the following months a carnival, fiesta and banner Sunday and gala marked the anniversary.

"We wanted this year to promote the sense of community we have at St. Gabriel," said Pauline Jackson, volunteer co-chairperson of the 50th-anniversary activities.

"We wanted this year to promote the sense of community we have at St. Gabriel."

— Pauline Jackson

Under Father Byron's direction, a kindergarten was begun in 1958, followed in 1960 by a grade school staffed by Sisters of Mercy from Belmont. The school opened with 150 students; within a few years, the enrollment had climbed to 350, and a two-story gymnasium and cafeteria were built.

Father Byron recalled passing by the convent one evening and seeing Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast playing the piano as Mercy Sister Therese Galligan came dancing into the room.

"I once heard it said, 'the sisters are a blessing to the church in that they teach us how to live by doing it,'" he said.

From dozens to thousands

By the mid-1960s, parish membership included more than 500 families. Msgr. Michael J. O'Keefe, pastor at that time, directed a parish renovation and expansion project to accommodate more parishioners at the crowded weekend Masses.

When groundbreaking ceremonies took place in 1973 — a year after the founding of the Diocese of Charlotte — St. Gabriel Church was North Carolina's largest parish with 690 families.

During the mid- to late-1970s, parish membership continued to grow quickly and steadily, reflecting the city's population growth. By 1977, membership included more than 1,000 families.

Today, St. Gabriel Church is the second-largest parish in the Diocese of Charlotte, with a parish registration of 3,600 families under the pastoral leadership of Father Frank O'Rourke; Father Luis Osorio, parochial vicar; and permanent deacons Ben Wenning, Curtiss Todd, Dr. Richard Hanners, Mark Diener and Robert Gettelfinger.

Father Byron described his 10 years at St. Gabriel, building the church and the parish, as "a glory."

"To the best of my recollection, the reason was that we laughed a lot … and we didn't take ourselves too seriously," he said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

WANT MORE PHOTOS?

More photographs of the 50th anniversary Mass are available online at www.charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Mercy Sisters Therese Galligan and Jeanne Marie Kienast pray the Our Father during the Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Sept. 15.

CRUISE ONLY (without airfare*)
FOR $2,460!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31 - February 11, 2008

Join Fr. Mo West and cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

*Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, porterage and all port charges! Optional: Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

Dominican Sister Ann Thomas Griffin dies at 93

ADRIAN, Mich. — Dominican Sister Ann Thomas Griffin, who served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Mich., Aug. 15. She was 93 and in her 75th year of religious profession to the Adrian Dominican congregation.

Born Anna Rita Griffin in Chicago, Sister Griffin spent 10 years at St. Elizabeth Church in Boone, serving as a campus minister at Appalachian State University from 1974 until 1984.

With a bachelor's degree in mathematics, master's degrees in mathematics and religious education, and a doctorate in education, Sister Griffin spent approximately 70 years ministering in education at schools in Michigan, North Carolina and Florida before becoming a resident of the Dominican Life Center in 1991.

Dominican Sister Ann Thomas Griffin

She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Burial was in her congregation's cemetery in Adrian. Memorials may be made to Adrian Dominican Sisters, 1257 East Siena Heights Drive, Adrian, Michigan, 49221.

Franciscan Sister Sprouse dies at 93

ALLEGANY, N.Y. — Franciscan Sister Cosmas Sprouse, who grew up and served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died at the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany's St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany, N.Y., Aug. 3. She was 93.

Born Wyolene Mary Sprouse in Spartanburg, S.C., and raised in Lenoir, N.C., Sister Sprouse ministered at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, as well as at parishes in Florida.

With a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in education, she served as a nurse and officer in the U.S. Army in the European Theater during World War II. She also served in the nursing field at hospitals in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island. She is survived by a brother and sister.

Burial was at St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Allegany.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Join Other Catholics on an...

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

Join other Catholics and depart (your choice) May 11 or June 22, 2008 on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL's ms Statendam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only $1848 (per person, double occupancy) (add $150 for the June 22 departure). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Enjoy springtime on the May 11 departure or longer daylight hours departing June 22. Add $600 for round-trip airfare from Charlotte.

$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure, Call 7 Days a Week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!
HURRY! Limited Engagement!
Only 12 Performances!
"UPROARIOUS INTERACTIVE THEATRE"
"A HOWLING COMEDY!"
CATHOLIC STANDARD AND TIMES
Late Nite Catechism
The hit comedy by VICKI QUADE & MARIPAT DONOVAN
"HILARIOUS!"
"GLORIOUSLY FUNNY!"
OCTOBER 16 - 28 • BOOTH PLAYHOUSE
704.372.1000 • BlumenthalCenter.org
Group Sales: 704.379.1300
Off-Broadway LIGHTS SERIES
ASC

Vatican: food, water must be provided to patients

FOOD, *from page 1*

The text was prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the form of a response to questions raised by the U.S. bishops' conference. It was signed by U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, and approved by the pope before publication.

The congregation's document strongly reaffirmed points made by Pope John Paul II in a landmark speech in 2004, when he said nutrition and hydration, even by "artificial" means such as feeding tubes, should generally be considered ordinary care and not extraordinary medical treatment.

That was a key point, because the church teaches that "extraordinary" means of treatment for unresponsive patients can sometimes be discontinued.

Clarifying the issues

The late pope's speech prompted questions in the theological and medical communities, and the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine submitted questions to the congregation in 2005 to clarify the issues.

After a lengthy study, the congregation released its responses to two basic questions.

First, it said, administering food and water to a patient in a vegetative state is morally obligatory "to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient."

> "It is not, nor is it mean to be, a treatment that cures the patient, but is rather ordinary care aimed at the preservation of life."
>
> — Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

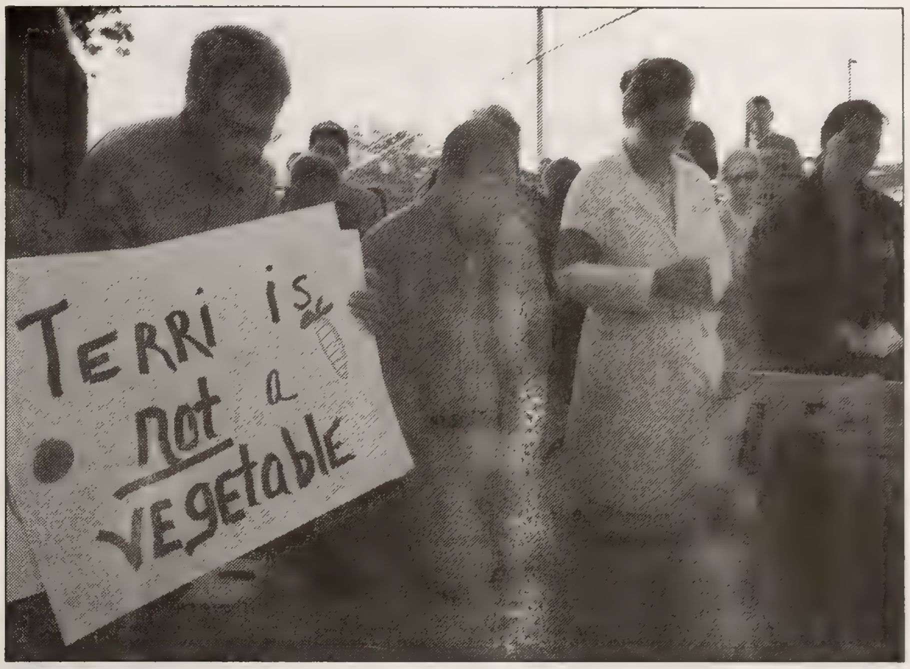
"In this way suffering and death by starvation and dehydration are prevented," it said.

Second, the congregation said it was not morally acceptable to discontinue such care even when physicians judge that the patient will never regain consciousness.

"A patient in a 'permanent vegetative state' is a person with fundamental human dignity and must, therefore, receive ordinary and proportionate care which includes, in principle, the administration of water and food even by artificial means," it said.

The congregation's accompanying commentary explored the reasons behind the church's teaching and explained a few scenarios where exceptions might apply.

It noted that the very expression "vegetative state," which the church reluctantly uses because it is a common medical term, is unfortunate and misleading. Patients in this state maintain full human dignity, right up to natural death, it said. Moreover, such patients are not necessarily terminally ill and generally carry on basic metabolic functions. They are simply unable to feed themselves, it said.


TERRI is not a VEGETABLE

CNS photo by Jim Stem, Reuters

People pray in support of keeping Terri Schiavo alive during a protest outside the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Fla., in this March 18, 2005, photo. The case of Schiavo, a brain-damaged woman, fueled debate and legal wrangling about whether a person in a persistent vegetative state must receive food and water. Schiavo died 13 days after her feeding tube was removed March 18, 2005, at the order of a Florida judge.

"If they are not provided artificially with food and liquids, they will die, and the cause of their death will be neither an illness nor the 'vegetative state' itself, but solely starvation and dehydration," it said.

The commentary said the artificial administration of food and water usually does not impose a heavy burden on the patient or the relatives, although it acknowledged that the burden could become notable when such treatment continues for months or years.

Nutrition and hydration does not require excessive expense and does not of itself require hospitalization, it said.

"It is not, nor is it meant to be, a treatment that cures the patient, but is rather ordinary care aimed at the preservation of life," it said.

In that sense, it said, the general ethical principle is that "the provision of water and food, even by artificial means, always represents a natural means for preserving life and is not a therapeutic treatment. Its use should therefore be considered ordinary and proportionate, even when the 'vegetative state' is prolonged."

That was also the conclusion of Pope John Paul's 2004 speech and reflects the development of church statements over the last 50 years, the Vatican said.

Possible exceptions

In a discussion of exceptions to this basic moral principle, the congregation outlined three possible situations:

— In very remote or impoverished places, artificial provision of food and water may be physically impossible.

— Because of complications, a patient may be unable to assimilate foods and liquids, so their provision becomes useless.

— In some rare cases, artificial nourishment and hydration may be excessively burdensome for the patient or may cause significant physical discomfort.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a question-and-answer commentary on the Vatican document, also looked at the potential exceptions.

It said there are medical situations in which it is moral to withhold nutrition and hydration — for example, a patient in the last stages of stomach cancer might refuse nutrition and hydration because it causes pain and produces little benefit.

But the vegetative state is not itself a case of imminent dying and, therefore, it is generally not a burden to nourish such patients, it said.

The USCCB commentary said providing such nutrition and hydration could impose significant financial burdens on Catholic health care facilities, which are sometimes obliged to bear the cost of health care for families that are poor or have no health insurance.

"In the loving care that they provide to such persons, with the assistance of the entire Catholic community, they can provide concrete examples of the church's commitment to human life," it said.

No change in teaching

In an interview with Vatican Radio, U.S. Dominican Father J. Augustine Di Noia, undersecretary of the doctrinal congregation, said the insistence on nutrition and hydration as an ordinary means of treatment does not represent a change in church teaching.

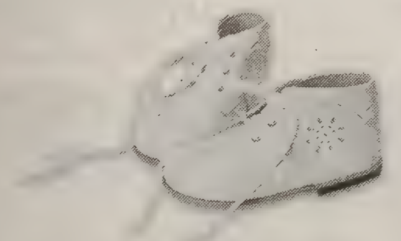
It should be remembered, he said, that the person in a persistent vegetative state generally does not face imminent death and so is "not actually dying, in that sense, any more than any of us."

"The church is not here enjoining a kind of excessive prolongation of life, but simply saying that to withdraw nutrition and hydration is to end a life that would otherwise continue naturally," Father Di Noia said.

What the congregation is also saying is that the "quality of life" frequently mentioned as a determining factor in medical care is not a judgment that is "in our hands to make," he said.

He said the church teaches that life is a gift from God and that human dignity endures through a person's entire physical development — from the mother's womb to the moment of natural death.

21 years ago, Brian withdrew $300 and drove his wife to the clinic…



One house, two minivans and three kids later, there's still no one who can fill these shoes.

Abortion rates have plummeted. Those who've been there know why.

Jason throws a mean fast ball. Gracie doesn't know a stranger and Jen's the bookish one. Brian and Lisa love their kids, but they wonder about the one that came along when Lisa was sick and Brian lost his job. The counselor said there was no way they could make it work. Now, they'd give anything to try. They never spoke of the abortion again ... until the day Lisa saw her first ultrasound – and her first picture of Jen. Ironically, the day Lisa fell apart was the day she and Brian finally got it together. They found the strength to confront a grief as unbearably big as a tiny pair of shoes.

www.UnChoice.info
An unwanted choice is no choice at all.

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Abortion is the un choice.
Unwanted. Unsafe. Unfair.

Would you like to experience God's love and healing after an abortion? Consider coming to the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat in Rock Hill, SC on September 28-30. Sponsored by Catholic Social Services Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Charlotte, the weekend is totally confidential. For more information and to register, please call 704-370-3229 or 704-231-2030 (cell), or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

Working for change

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Mary Herr (left) chats with Barney Offerman and Jan Valder, who nominated her for the 2007 Bishop Sullivan Peace and Justice Award. Herr received the award at the Catholic Committee of Appalachia's conference at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley Sept. 15.

Mary Herr receives peace and justice award

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — Mary Herr has received the Bishop Sullivan Peace and Justice Award for 2007.

Herr, who retired last year as the Smoky Mountain Vicariate's faith formation coordinator and Native American multicultural worker, received the award Sept. 15 during the Catholic Committee of Appalachia's (CCA) conference.

This year themed "Weaving a Diverse Landscape: Food as a Common Thread," the CCA conference was held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley Sept. 14-16.

"I was astonished that I was nominated, and then I was overwhelmed that I was receiving it," Herr said. "I think there are so many more people who are deserving."

The award is named for its first recipient, Bishop Walter F. Sullivan, then-bishop of the Diocese of Richmond, Va., who was honored in 2000. The CCA selects the award recipients.

Nomination criteria include being a CCA member and having performed significant peace and justice work in Appalachia.

Herr serves on the CCA board of directors. Benedictine Sister Jan Barthel, CCA board chair, lauded Herr's "organization, enthusiasm and commitment."

"She's a real joy to have on the board. She knows her issues and she's committed to them," said Sister Barthel.

Barney Offerman and his wife, Jan Valder, parishioners at St. Peter Church in Charlotte, felt Herr fit the criteria. Their nomination essay described her as a "compassionate, courageous, caring, sharing, loving woman who also has a sense of humor."

They noted her volunteer work with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) in Virginia and West Virginia. Herr trained as a paralegal and in turn trained others, then "worked for the legal services program as a community educator and paralegal supervisor on the Qualla Boundary, the Cherokee Indian reservation (in Western North Carolina). … She was the Qualla Boundary's first guardian ad litem, a children's advocate."

Herr has also served on the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Campaign for Human Development committee. She continues to be involved in efforts to stop mountaintop removal and to encourage efforts such as the theme of this year's CCA conference — encouraging people to buy locally-grown food.

"Mary has been nourished personally by her life in Appalachia and, in turn, she has nourished Appalachia," Offerman and Valder said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Nomination criteria for the Bishop Sullivan Peace and Justice Award:

— any person who has at least 10 years' experience in peace and justice-type work in Appalachia, such as housing minorities, community organizing, prisons, environment, workers' rights, women's empowerment, health issues, education, living wage, dismantling racism, death penalty moratorium, and so forth;

— a person who is supportive of the Appalachian pastoral messages "This Land is Home to Me" and "At Home in the Web of Life";

— a compassionate person;

— a CCA member.

Weaving Appalachia's landscape, shaping its future

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Catholic Committee of Appalachia's annual meeting, this year themed "Weaving a Diverse Landscape: Food as a Common Thread," was held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley Sept. 14-16.

The meeting focused on food- and health-related issues. Kate Slattery of the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project spoke on the "Connection between Healthy Soil, Healthy Food and Healthy People."

Dr. Ann Bullock, medical director of the Health and Medical Division for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, talked about "The Connection of Stress and Trauma to Diabetes."

A food fair featured organic and sustainable farm produce and offered ideas, suggestions and materials for attendees to take to their homes and parishes.

A film also showed the devastation of mountaintop removal aimed at mining coal and other minerals.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Emily Iafrate of Tyler County, W.Va., plays with Ella Reindel-Swan, 21 months, daughter of Patrick Reindel and Kelly Swan of Charleston, W.Va., during a break in the Catholic Committee of Appalachia's annual meeting at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley Sept. 14-16.

Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

Invites You On A Pilgrimage To The

49th International
Eucharistic Congress
Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Quebec

Ste Anne de Beaupré, Québec

St. Joseph Oratory

Chateau Frontenac

Your 10 Day Pilgrimage Tour Includes:

June 14 – 23, 2008

- Round trip scheduled air from Charlotte to Montreal
- Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations at the 4 star Chateau Laurier Hotel, Quebec City (or similar)
- Sightseeing tour of Quebec including: the Citadelle, Plains of Abraham, Chateau Frontenac, and Notre-Dame des Victoires Church
- Half day trip to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré
- Evening tour to the Ile d'Orleans with dinner in a traditional "Sugar Shack"
- Deluxe coach for round trip airport transfer from Montreal to Quebec City
- Hotel porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person and local taxes
- Registration fee to attend the Eucharistic Congress:
  - A week long experience of faith centered on the Eucharist
  - Closing Eucharistic celebration on the Plains of Abraham
  - Visit the Quebec Eucharistic Congress website, www.cei2008.ca for more details

Deposit by October 31 for special rate of only:
$2,899*

Call Corporate Travel at 800-727-1999; ext. 121 to book today – Limited Availability!

Lab will help build financial literacy, stronger families

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Catholic Social Service's Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy recently turned its porch into an enclosed financial literacy computer lab, which was dedicated Sept. 7.

LAB, *from page 1*

"St. William is such a blessing to us," said Claudie Burchfield, OEO director. "We could not function as well if we were not on the grounds of St. William Catholic Church."

The lab has four computer stations with laptop computers to teach financial literacy. The fifth station will be used by a part-time computer lab coordinator who will be hired soon.

"We want people to understand financial literacy at the most basic level," Burchfield said.

People will learn such skills as budgeting, pulling up their credit reports, online banking services, online financial literacy programs and computer training in how to access these services so that they become financially self-sufficient.

The ABLE Financial Literacy Program also offers individuals and families the opportunity to attend financial literacy workshops and seminars. They can meet with a trained counselor once a month for "one-on-one" sessions to develop plans of action for debt repair, repayment or budget planning.

The ABLE program has sponsored classes on budgeting, renters' rights (attended by both renters and landlords) and affordable housing. Free tax preparation for low-income people are offered in collaboration with community partners.

Carolyn McCarter Woods, of OnTrack Financial Education & Counseling in Asheville, spends a day each month at the OEO.

"I never say to people, 'If you just budget, everything will be OK,'" Smith said; there's much more involved.

It means such steps as clearing up debt by making better decisions and becoming financially literate, and achieving financial stability.

The OEO understands that "families are strengthened when there's increased knowledge about financial matters," said Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

"Community strength is increased or decreased by the financial knowledge of families," he said.

Some people visiting the OEO for the first time are so intimidated that they don't even look directly at the people who work there, but, "Everyone who comes through the door is welcome here," Burchfield said, and they begin to relax.

People can come to the OEO "just as they are," Burchfield said.

Netta McFadden, coordinator for the OEO's Far West Families First program, summed it up very well at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia the next day, Sept. 8.

"It's about self-esteem, being able to hold your head up, being able to look someone straight in the eye," she said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

Conference explores financial literacy, livelihood

BEGLEY, *from page 1*

"Those who need help — their job is to summon us to be a caring community," including helping them to become more financially literate, Glenmary Father John Rausch said.

Father Rausch, director of the Catholic Committee on Appalachia and coordinator of the Commission for Justice and Peace for the Diocese of Lexington, Ky., was one of two keynote speakers at the Bishop Begley Conference on Appalachia III.

Focusing on financial literacy, the conference, held at the Hinton Rural Life Center Sept. 8, was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace and its Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy. Speakers talked about those who "just get by" or go under, and those who thrive: Father Rausch spoke about the fringe economy and the working poor.

From fringe to friendships

The working poor have jobs, often at minimum wage. Many are single-parent families. According to Father Rausch, people in these circumstances can be financially illiterate, trapped in a "fringe economy" in which they pay more for services than do the financially sophisticated, simply because they don't know that alternatives exist.

If someone has a bank account, for example, he or she can go to a bank to cash his or her paycheck or social security check for free. However, those in the fringe economy include the 12 million households in this country who are "unbanked."

To cash their paychecks, they may use check-cashing establishments that charge fees — fees that could pay for necessities.

A financially illiterate person might pay several hundred dollars to a tax preparer, not realizing that there are organizations that prepare income tax forms for free.

To help those who are less financially educated, Father Rausch suggested that churches and individuals find ways to get to know them as friends.

"An authentic relationship is a two-way street," Father Rausch said. "We are all teachers, and people will teach us. We in the church have got to continue asking people, 'tell me about your life,' (just as) Jesus listened to people's stories."

Partner with someone, using your expertise to help him or her, suggested Father Rausch.

For example, if someone wants to buy something from a rent-to-own store, go with that person "so that you can ask the questions (about such things as financing) that the unsophisticated person might not know to ask," Father Rausch said.

Lively choices

Carolyn Richardson Smith, the second keynote presenter, spoke of how a caring community means "livelihood" in the Midwestern farm areas, in which she primarily works.

Smith, former director of community resources for the Ligutti Rural Community Support Program with the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in Iowa, is a community and organizational development and small-business planning consultant.

Most rural families with whom she is acquainted practice livelihood, which is not the same as a job. Livelihood is a whole way of life, she said.

Those with a livelihood have resiliency, she said. They understand the situation as completely as possible, find resources available and figure out ways to combine them to make it through tough situations. "People have to have solid foundations to make good choices," she said.

They look realistically at their situation and devise "deliberate constructs to create more positive understanding or meaning for the situation," Smith said,

They consider what worked and what didn't in the past, she said.

"Resiliency then constructs bridges from the present to a better future," Smith said. "The ability to think in the future and a concern for future generations are common bridges used by resilient thinkers."

They also use what they already have in new ways, set goals and find others who think in new ways and can work with them, she said.

Sense of mission

The Bishop Begley Conferences grew out of two documents issued by the Catholic bishops of Appalachia.

"This Land is Home to Me: A Pastoral Letter on Powerlessness in Appalachia" (1975), was signed by 25 U.S. bishops, including Bishop Michael J. Begley, first bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"At Home in the Web of Life: A Pastoral Message on Sustainable Communities in Appalachia," 1995, celebrated the 20th anniversary of "This Land is Home to Me."

The Catholic Committee of Appalachia has just issued a combined edition of the two letters.

Father Rausch, in his introduction to that combined edition, writes, "We in the Catholic Committee of Appalachia reissue these pastorals to help reinvigorate the sense of mission and ministry to the mountains.

"We continue to identify with the words of the bishops' pastorals: 'The dream of the mountains' struggle, and the dream of simplicity and justice, like so many other repressed visions are, we believe, the voice of the Lord among us.'"

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Eucharistic Congress and Catholic Radio Comes to Charlotte

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Church officials examine book by theologian Father Peter Phan

Possible ambiguities on role of church may exist in book

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Church officials are examining a book written by a Vietnamese-American theologian, Father Peter Phan, for possible ambiguities on the unique role of the Catholic Church in the framework of religious pluralism.

"There has been correspondence and dialogue" between Father Phan and the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine, according to Father Thomas Weinandy, a Capuchin Franciscan who is executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices.

Father Phan is a member of the theology department at Jesuit-run Georgetown University in Washington.

Father Weinandy told Catholic News Service Sept. 13 he could not comment on the private dialogue in order to "respect the privacy of Father Phan and the work of the committee."

A Sept. 12 story by the National Catholic Reporter said the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has voiced concerns about Father Phan's book, "Being Religious Interreligiously: Asian Perspectives on Interfaith Dialogue," published in 2004.

NCR said the congregation's primary concern over the book is that it is "notably confused on a number of points of Catholic doctrine and also contains serious ambiguities."

An official at the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said the congregation had no comment on the report. Father Phan could not be reached for comment by CNS.

The central issues of concern, according to the article, included the book's unclear descriptions on Christ's role as universal savior, the function of the Catholic Church in salvation and the value of non-Christian religions.

Although Father Phan was reportedly asked to write an article clarifying these issues and to request his publisher not to reprint the book, the theologian had not yet complied with these requests, according to the NCR report.

Father Phan, a former Salesian, is a priest of the Dallas Diocese who came to the United States as a refugee from Vietnam in 1975. He holds the Ellacuria chair of Catholic social thought in the theology department at Georgetown.

The priest, who has three doctorates, is a former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. Along with his teaching position at Georgetown University, he is also on the faculty of the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila, Philippines, and Liverpool Hope University in England.

He has published numerous theological writings particularly on Asian Christianity and global issues affecting the Catholic Church.

In a statement released Sept. 13 by Georgetown University, a spokeswoman said university officials were aware of the correspondence between Father Phan and church officials but they respected the "privacy of that exchange."

"Georgetown University embraces academic freedom and supports the free exchange of ideas in order to foster dialogue on critical issues of the day, especially those related to faith, ethics and international affairs," the statement said.

One idea in Father Phan's book that is in dispute is that of religious relativism, or that many faiths offer valid spiritual paths.

The inquiry into Father Phan's writing is reminiscent of the Vatican investigation into the writings of Jesuit Father Jacques Dupuis, an expert on religious pluralism, who died three years ago.

The Belgian-born priest's book, "Toward a Christian Theology of Religious Pluralism," was closely examined by the doctrinal congregation from 1998 to 2001. After the three-year study, the congregation concluded the book contained no doctrinal errors, but said there were "ambiguities and difficulties on important points which could lead a reader to erroneous or harmful opinions."

Terrence Tilley, president-elect of the Catholic Theological Society of America and chairman of the theology department at Jesuit-run Fordham University, told CNS Sept. 14 that he could not comment in depth over the inquiry into Father Phan's book without having seen the documents about it firsthand.

But he noted that the book grapples with "rather technical" theological issues and also stems from a unique Asian perspective.

Tilley said the book examines "how we can live out our tradition in the midst of other traditions" — an issue that he said "needs to be explored more fully."

He said he is confident this concept can be further developed, noting that these types of discussions take time, such as the "400 years to come to an understanding with Lutherans about faith and works" and the past 40 years of coming to "understand how God's grace comes to non-Christians."

"It seems perhaps premature to end the exploration," he said, "or to say only one path forward is open — without more theological disputation."

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: SEPT. 30, 2007

Sept. 30, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Amos 6:1a, 4-7
   Psalms 146:7, 8-9, 9-10
2) 1 Timothy 6:11-16
3) Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Faith should be approached with enthusiasm, fervor

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

At this time of year, our household, along with hundreds of others in America, is consumed with children's activities as programs begin anew.

For my eighth-grader, these consist of a new school term, soccer season and, this year, confirmation preparation. Each has its own set of registration forms, permission slips, participation fees and schedules of meetings and practices.

Given the way these things work and the busy-ness of our family's life, it's pretty easy to take the path of least resistance and treat preparation for the sacrament as simply one more extracurricular activity. Unfortunately, having observed other families in my situation, it seems that the enthusiasm for competitive sports at any level often far outweighs that for sacramental catechesis.

Without picking on overextended parents, criticizing particular parish programs or denigrating youth sports and their benefits, I must admit that the idea of "competing" for the faith and "laying hold of eternal life," featured in the reading from 1 Timothy, makes me pause.

What would it be like if Christians really and truly "laid hold of" the gift of faith and its sacramental confession made "in the presence of many witnesses," with the same fervor that we bring to our many entertainments and creature comforts?

What if the complacency of consumerist America, like that of the Zion of Amos or the Palestine of Jesus, were supplanted with zeal for the justice and mercy of the Lord?

What if I personally allowed that kind of enthusiasm to break through the barricade of my own narrow concerns?

The word "enthusiasm," according to its Greek roots, means "in possession by a god." I've also heard it explained this way: "en" + "theos" (in God) ending with I.A.S.M. (I am sold myself).

May we be so thoroughly "sold" on God's reign and so possessed by God's spirit that the daily disposition of all our time and resources — from children's soccer practices to caring for the poor in our midst — truly becomes the stuff of eternal life to which we lay claim.

Questions:

In what ways have you become too complacent/absorbed in your own narrow concerns to appreciate the gift of faith you've been given? What is God calling you to become more enthusiastic about?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses" (1 Timothy 6:12).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 23-29
Sunday (Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 16:1-13; **Monday,** Ezra 1:1-6, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday,** Ezra 6:7-8, 12, 14-20, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cosmas & Damian),** Ezra 9:5-9, Tobit 13:2-4, 7-8, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday (St. Vincent de Paul),** Haggai 1:1-8, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (St. Wenceslaus),** Haddai 2:1-9, Luke 9:18-22; **Saturday,** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 30-OCT. 6
Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Amos 6:1, 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday (St. Thérèse of Lisieux),** Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday (The Guardian Angels),** Zachariah 8:20-23, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Wednesday,** Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday (St. Francis of Assisi),** Nehemiah 8:1-12, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday,** Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher),** Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24.

Attention: Homeowners... Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Coming Soon... Going Fast!

The exciting Pennybyrn at Maryfield is almost fully reserved – that means only a few more can take advantage of pre-opening pricing. Will you be one of them?

This architecturally stunning new retirement community is scheduled to open soon. An active, modern lifestyle that offers you gorgeous private residences, superior amenities and a professional staff to provide unparalleled services…it's the retirement lifestyle that you've been waiting for!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Current pricing ends soon! Call (336) 821-4050 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 today... prices will never be this low again!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

Missouri, Virginia musicians combine Catholicism, bluegrass

BY MITCH FINLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SPOKANE, Wash. — Bluegrass music, with its high lonesome sound, has roots in both hillbilly music and early blues music..

In 1947, Bill Monroe, known as the "father of bluegrass music," put together what many regard as the first true bluegrass band, when banjo innovator Earl Scruggs joined Monroe's Blue Grass Boys.

Monroe always included sacred or gospel songs in his repertoire, but the primary influence was a generic evangelical Protestant Christianity. There are no gospel bluegrass "standards" about the Mass, the sacraments — except vague references to baptism — or any of the saints, in particular Mary.

Catholic bluegrass music simply has never existed — until recently, that is.

Father Edward James Richard — pronounced "Ree-shard," revealing the priest's Louisiana Cajun roots — is a LaSalette Missionary priest who teaches at his order's Kenrick-Glennon Seminary near St. Louis.

On the side Father Richard, 50, is a bluegrass musician who has played guitar since he was a boy and five-string banjo since his college years.

"I learned by listening and watching others," he said. He has the Scruggs book, "Earl Scruggs and the Five String Banjo."

He said his "main influence" is banjoist and singer Ralph Stanley, and he has "learned a lot listening to" the recordings of veteran five-string banjo player Butch Robbins.

With a bluegrass band he put together, Father Richard has recorded three CDs, the sales of which help support the missionary efforts of his order's 200 members in North and South America.

"I like bluegrass music," Father Richard said, "and I have liked it since I first heard it (growing up in Louisiana). ... Music is spiritual and healing. It's a special gift that God gave us.

"Bluegrass music falls into the category of music that really belongs to the people," he continued. "It grew up out of tunes that were passed down from generations, and it has a lot of stories about common experiences. Gospel music is integral to bluegrass."

Sometimes, Father Richard changes "a word or two" in a classic gospel bluegrass song, "because," he said, "theologically or biblically, they were just wrong."

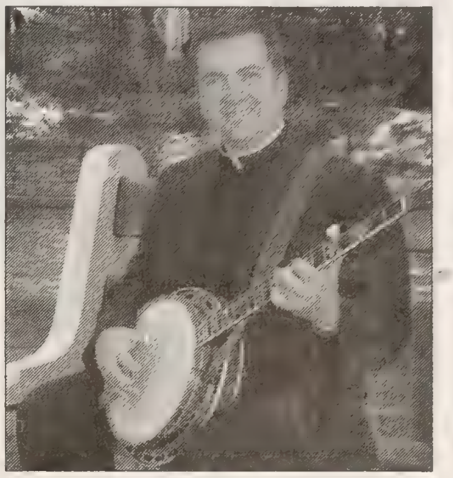
On his CDs, the priest includes songs he wrote based on themes that those outside Catholic tradition overlook.

"I write about the Eucharist," the priest said, "the Blessed Virgin Mary and other Catholic themes."

He often plays for non-Catholic groups and receives a warm welcome.

"I have played in a lot of churches of various denominations," he said, "(and) even in a synagogue. I have incorporated my music into my ministry. ... It is also an outreach to those who don't know about Our Lady of LaSalette.

"It seems to work well, also, when I can combine speaking of moral issues and performing," he said.



CNS PHOTO BY MARK KEMPF

Father Edward James Richard, with his banjo, is pictured outside Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.

Another influential Catholic presence in the American bluegrass music community is five-string banjo player and publisher John Lawless.

His company promotes and supports playing the traditional bluegrass instruments, primarily banjo, guitar, mandolin and fiddle, and produces both video and print learning resources.

Lawless grew up Norfolk, Va., in Sacred Heart Church. Today he lives in Roanoke, Va., and attends Mass at St. Andrew Church.

"My interest in banjo music goes back to a very young age," he said, "although I didn't start playing seriously until I graduated from high school."

He said that as a boy he was "a devoted fan of the 'Captain Kangaroo' program on television, and a regular character, Mr. Green Jeans, played a ... banjo on the show."

"It appealed to me right away," he said. "It was reinforced by the '60s folk music my parents played at home — Kingston Trio, etc. — but it wasn't until I started hearing bluegrass banjo as a teen that the notion that I could learn to play really took hold."

Lawless said he has "pondered a good bit" the question of why relatively few Catholics actively play and enjoy bluegrass music.

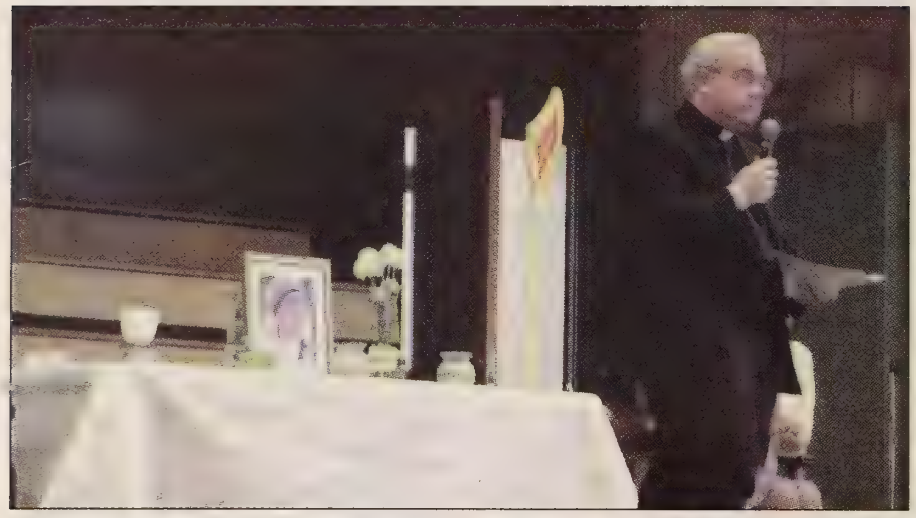
"Part of it, I think," he said, "is simply the immigration patterns when European Catholics came to the United States. They tended to congregate around northern, urban areas while bluegrass music, and earlier hillbilly styles, were a southeastern, rural phenomenon."

Rarely these days, Lawless said, does he encounter negative attitudes toward Catholics in the bluegrass music community.

But his favorite experience of ignorance concerning Catholicism came from a banjo student who asked, "What is it that you Catholics don't believe? It's something weird — you don't believe that Jesus died on the cross?"

"I explained to him how the earliest Catholics preserved and compiled what he now accepts as the inerrant word of God, but I'm not sure he bought it," he said.

Remembering Mother Teresa



COURTESY PHOTO BY CAROLINE COPPOLA

Father Brian Cook, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, talks to students in the gymnasium of St. Leo the Great School Sept. 5 about Blessed Mother Teresa and his encounter with her during her visit to Washington, D.C. The date marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the world-renowned nun, who lived in this eastern Indian city of Calcutta.

That same day at Mother Teresa's tomb in Calcutta, Sister Nirmala Joshi, Mother Teresa's successor, spoke to more than 150 men, women and children from slum areas where Mother Teresa had begun her mission among the poorest of the poor.

Sister Joshi said she was "overwhelmed with joy" and had "a great feeling of gratitude for what God has given to each one of us, especially in Calcutta," through Mother Teresa.

She wanted all to "pray to mother to instill in us love for God and all his children, especially the neglected, poor and those who have nowhere to go."

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Charlotte, is seeking a faith-filled, full-time Director of Music Ministry. Working collaboratively with the Pastor, responsibilities include planning music and playing for four weekend Masses, Holy Days, sacramental liturgies, funerals and weddings; directing adult and youth choirs; training cantors; expanding the present ministry. Candidates should have a degree in music or related field; vocal, keyboard and directing skills; a thorough knowledge of and experience with Catholic liturgy; good communication and organization skills. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Send resume to: Fr. Remo DiSalvatore at broremo99@bellsouth.net.

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Full-time Director of Major Gifts

Candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, business administration or related field; five years experience in fund development and major gifts. Applicants should have strong interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to interact well with diverse groups. Responsibilities include developing strategies, events, and materials to inform, engage, cultivate and solicit current and prospective major gifts prospects.

Please submit resume to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203 by September 30, 2007. Questions to 704-370-3301 or email at jkkelley@charlottediocese.org

A council of students

COURTESY PHOT

Father Brian Cook, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, blesses th newly installed student council officers and class representatives of St. Leo the Grea School during Mass in the church Sept. 14.

The student council advises the school administration concerning the needs an desires of the students; participates in carrying out religious, social, academic an administrative programs concerning the student body; and, with the advice an consent of the principal, plans and conducts social functions and fundraising activitie for the school and community.

A gathering of grandparents

COURTESY PHOT

Students of St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem and their grandparents enjoy refreshments i the gymnasium during "Grandparents' Day" Sept. 7. Many of the grandparents joined the students fo Mass, then toured their grandchildren's classrooms.

Classifieds

FOR RENT

CONDO: OCEANFRONT on Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Great off-season rates: by the day, week or month. Consider a long weekend - close by getaway. Good swimming until October. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org,
faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Remembering 9/11

BACK TO SCHOOL
NIGHT SEPT 11

COURTESY PHOTO

Students raise an American flag outside of St. Ann School in Charlotte during the school's Sept. 11 ceremony, commemorating the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks. The Flag of Honor, which includes the names of the 3,000 people who perished in New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pa., in the 2001 attacks, was provided by Kathleen Britton.

Britton, an alumni of St. Ann School, worked and lived near the World Trade Center in New York at the time of the terrorist attacks. She spoke to the students about that day and about her experiences as a student at St. Ann School.

"When I saw the massive dust cloud, which enveloped lower Manhattan, coming toward me, I thought that I would die," said Britton. "I asked myself, 'When had I last gone to confession?'"

"I then asked God to please forgive whatever I had done wrong. I learned to do that at St. Ann," she said.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

FOUR DATES & LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM!

Tuesday, Oct. 9 – St. Barnabas, Arden – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 1
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Fr. Kiernan Neilson

Thursday, Oct. 11 – St. James, Hamlet – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 1
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Joseph Koterski, SJ

Wednesday, Nov. 7 – St. Mark, Huntersville – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 29
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Frank O'Rourke

Thursday, Nov. 15 – Catholic Conference Center – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Friday, Nov. 2
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West

Cost: $12 - includes coffee and snacks, and full lunch
Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203-4003

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

MACS foundation gives grants to Charlotte-area Catholic schools

CHARLOTTE — The smiling faces of Catholic school students greeted guests attending the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Education Foundation's "Circle of Celebration."

The annual celebration, held this year at the home of Robert and Cathie McBride Jr. in Charlotte Sept. 17, showcases Catholic education in the MACS system and thanks donors to the foundation's annual giving campaign.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis opened the event with a prayerful reminder of the value of parental involvement in the academic and spiritual growth of children. The Charlotte Catholic High School jazz band entertained as parents, principals and teachers saluted the foundation's contributions and work on behalf of Catholic education.

During the event, the foundation presented grants totaling $318,081 to further the education and music curricula of MACS.

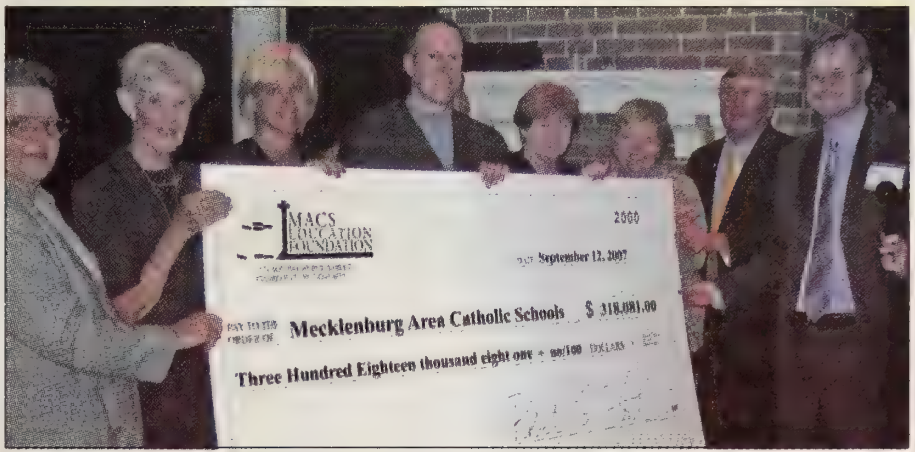
Principals of the eight schools in the MACS system received $290,000 for school projects and services, including academic and cultural enrichment, professional development for teachers and classroom instruction enhancement — such as new computer equipment and technology.

Stan Michalski, MACS music program director, accepted a $4,000 grant for the music program.

Twenty-three teachers received grants totaling $24,081 for innovative educational learning programs and tools for students.

WANT MORE INFO?

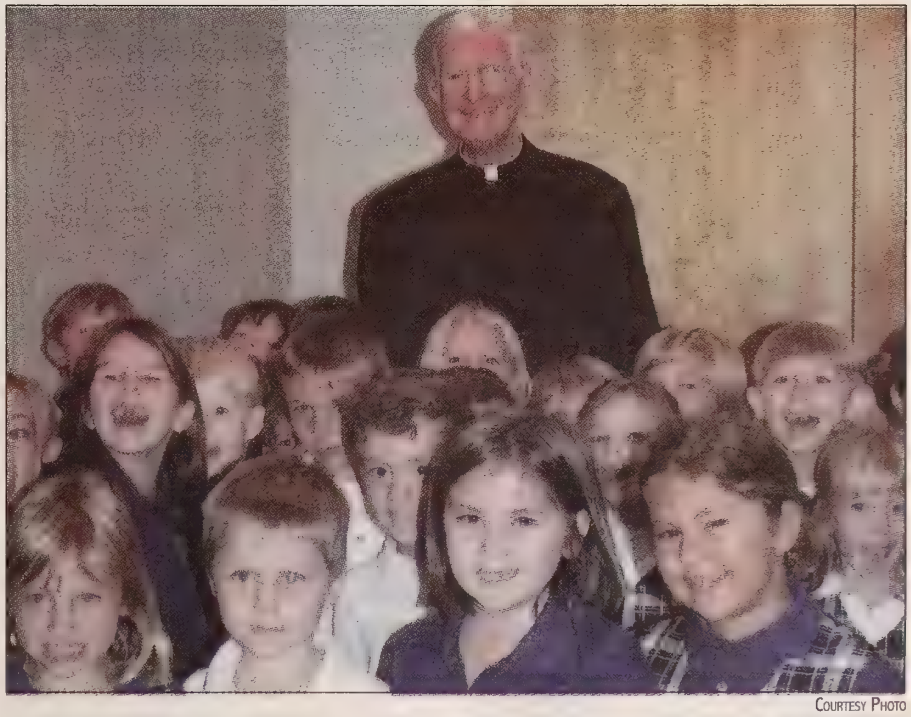
For more information about the MACS Education Foundation, go online to www.charlottediocese.org/MACSfoundation.


MACS EDUCATION FOUNDATION
2000
September 12, 2007
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools
$ 318,081.00
Three Hundred Eighteen thousand eight one + 00/100 DOLLARS

COURTESY PHOTO

Bob Fontana (right), MACS Education Foundation chairman, and principals of MACS schools hold a check from the foundation during the "Circle of Celebration" event in Charlotte Sept. 17. Pictured (from left): Mary Leva, Our Lady of the Assumption School, Charlotte; St. Joseph Sister Helen Nagle, St. Ann School, Charlotte; Deborah Butler, St. Mark School, Huntersville; Kevin O'Herron, St. Matthew School, Charlotte; Sharon Broxterman, St. Gabriel School, Charlotte; Carole Breerwood, Holy Trinity Middle School, Charlotte; Jerry Healy, Charlotte Catholic High School; and Fontana. (Not pictured: Debbie Mixer, St. Patrick School, Charlotte.)

Celebrating a bishop's birthday



COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin is pictured with first-grade students of St. Pius X School in Greensboro Sept. 13. Bishop Curlin was the guest speaker at the Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors, held that morning at St. Pius X Church and sponsored by Catholic Social Services' Elder Ministry. Because it was Bishop Curlin's 80th birthday Aug. 30, and he is in his 50th year as a priest, the first-graders prayed the Hail Mary in Italian as a surprise gift. The students also presented cards to the retired bishop.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Mother Teresa: The dark night or depression

People may experience both spiritual pain and severe depression

Our Turn

THERESE J. BORCHARD
CNS COLUMNIST

"If I ever become a saint — I will surely be one of 'darkness,'" Mother Teresa wrote in September of 1959. "I will continually be absent from heaven — to light the light of those in darkness on earth."

Two years earlier she wrote this to Calcutta's Jesuit Archbishop Ferdinand Perier:

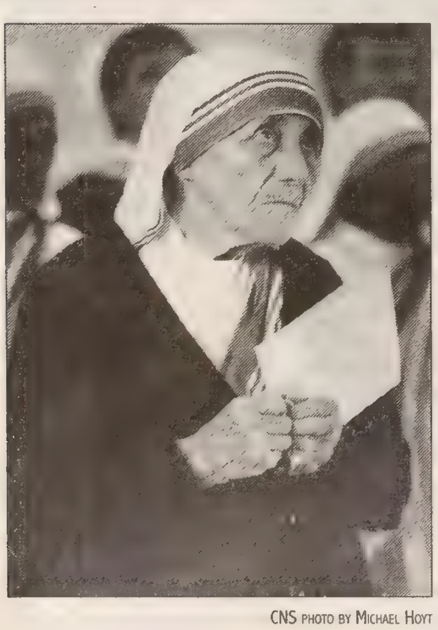
"There is so much contradiction in my soul. Such deep longing for God — so deep that it is painful, a suffering continual, and yet not wanted by God, repulsed, empty, no faith, no love, no zeal. Souls hold no attraction. Heaven means nothing; to me it looks like an empty place; the thought of it means nothing to me and yet this torturing longing for God.

"Pray for me please that I keep smiling at him in spite of everything. For I am only his, so he has every right over me. I am perfectly happy to be nobody even to God."

Some people have interpreted the doubt and despair in the personal writings of Mother Teresa — compiled and edited by Brian Kolodiejchuk of the Missionaries of Charity Fathers in a book entitled "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light" — to be a "dark night of the soul," as expressed by the Spanish Carmelite mystic St. John of the Cross.

Others understand the agony of this modern-day saint as a clear example of clinical depression.

The distinction between a dark night of the soul, a spiritual dryness or emptiness, and depression, a physiological mood disorder, has long intrigued me. I run into that gray area between the dark night and depression every day because my Beliefnet blog "Beyond Blue" chronicles a spiritual journey to mental health.



CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOYT

I suffered from severe depression at St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind., where, as a religious studies major, I had the great fortune of studying Carmelite spirituality under Keith J. Egan, one of the country's most distinguished Carmelite scholars.

Four years ago, Egan compiled a book of essays from other prominent Carmelite thinkers, "Carmelite Prayer: A Tradition for the 21st Century."

In Chapter 8, Discalced Carmelite Kevin Culligan explains what he sees as the difference between the dark night and clinical depression, the question he is asked most frequently in workshops and seminars on spiritual guidance.

"In the dark night of spirit, there is a painful awareness of one's own incompleteness and imperfection in relation to God," he writes. "However, one seldom utters morbid statements of abnormal guilt, self-loathing, worthlessness and suicidal ideation that accompany serious depressive episodes.

"Thoughts of death do indeed occur in the dark night of spirit, such as 'death alone will free me from the pain of what I now see in myself' or 'I long to die and be finished with life in this world so that I can be with God,' but there is not the obsession with suicide or the intention to destroy oneself that is typical of depression.

"As a rule, the dark nights of sense and spirit do not, in themselves, involve eating and sleeping disturbances, weight fluctuations and other physical symptoms (such as headaches, digestive disorders, and chronic pain)."

Father Culligan also explains that the dark night and depression can happen together. He gives some examples of people who might be experiencing both interior spiritual pain as well as severe depression.

For that reason, he encourages spiritual directors to follow a collaborative approach in assisting others with their spiritual journey, that they consult with or make referrals to medical professionals when appropriate while trying to reach the deeper place with prayer.

So that no one dies alone

Ministry helps see 'suffering Christ' in the dying

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

My friend Ed and I are sipping lattes and talking about death.

It's not anyone's favorite topic. But as we huddle, oblivious to the bustle of early morning caffeine addicts enjoying free Internet and designer drinks, Ed tells me about his foray into the land of the dying.

Ed himself is very much alive. A handsome man of Japanese descent, Ed is going to leave the coffee shop after our visit to attend one of eight parties planned around his 60th birthday. Ed is the kind of guy you just naturally want to celebrate.

My friend is a volunteer with NODA — No One Dies Alone. It's a national program with an affiliate at Providence Alaska Medical Center.

The organization's name spells out its mission: If you're dying at one of the Providence facilities in Anchorage, Alaska, you will not die without someone present in your final moments.

Like many great ideas, it grew from personal sorrow. The Oregon nurse who founded the program in 2002 saw someone die alone on her shift; she didn't want to see that again.

The woman who brought NODA to Anchorage wasn't able to get to Texas in time when her own mother died.

NODA volunteers are available for "activations," taking their shifts at the bedside of a person who may be within 72 hours of death.

For Ed, each activation is an encounter with God.

"The thought that hits me is, 'I will be with you in your greatest time of need,'" said Ed. "This is a holy place. Christ is there because of a person's suffering."

Ed, retired from a career in Washington, D.C., is willing to take the middle-of-the-night shifts, and since the program began last summer, has been present at the death of two patients.

Touch played a role in comforting each dying person. One man was struggling to breathe and flailing his hands. Ed lightly touched his shoulder.

"He calmed down and looked my way. His breathing was not as labored, not as much of a struggle. Within five minutes he was gone."

At another bedside, Ed softly prayed the rosary. The dying man kept raising his hands.

"So I thought, 'Why don't I just hold his hand?'" Ed said. Soon, the man quietly died.

Ed first felt called to the dying when the AIDS epidemic became widely known in the 1980s. Like many, he feared the disease about which so little was known.

Characteristically, Ed faced his fear and volunteered for the Red Cross. He became educated as a speaker, making 99 presentations to schools, churches, any organization wanting to know the facts about HIV/AIDS.

"People were still asking, 'Can I touch them (AIDS sufferers)?'" Ed told me.

His work led him to Damien Ministries, which offers retreats for those with AIDS. Ed gave presentations to the staff at the retreat center — the cooks, the cleaners — and he began to attend Friday Mass with those on retreat.

"Too many died while I was there, including the founder (of Damien Ministries)," Ed explained. "It got me in touch with death and dying."

After retiring to Alaska with his wife, a nurse, Ed began taking the Eucharist to the sick from his parish. And when NODA began, Ed volunteered.

At the end of our meeting, Ed glances at the clock and realizes he's late for his own birthday party. After he hurries off, his words linger as I finish my coffee:

"When I visit a person who is seriously ill, I see a suffering Christ. What would it have been like to be brave enough to be at the foot of the cross?"

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letters or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Learning the faith: It's not just for children

Catholics should study up on church's social teaching

Making a Difference

TONY MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

The start of the school year for youngsters and teens provides a natural reminder to adults that learning is really a lifelong adventure.

The habit of learning is an essential ingredient to living a wise and joyful life. And that especially applies to continually learning about the faith.

Yet, sadly, countless adult Catholics put very little effort into deepening their knowledge of the faith. It appears that many have come to the conclusion that having attended parochial elementary school, Catholic high school or even a Catholic college, they therefore largely know the faith.

Not so! Actually, they have only scratched the surface.

But when one considers the infinite wisdom of God, the bottomless wealth of sacred Scripture and 2,000 years of holy tradition, it becomes clear that all of us still have much to learn.

Nowhere else is a weakness in the knowledge of church doctrine more evident than in the area of Catholic social teaching.

Unfortunately known as our best-kept secret, Catholic social teaching is a compilation of over 100 years of outstanding social justice and peace documents authored by popes, the Second Vatican Council, international conferences of bishops and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Sadly, they attract more dust than readers.

Catholic social teaching's highly developed set of principles and reflections are designed to help faithful Catholics apply the liberating message of the Gospel to catastrophic social, economic, ecological and political problems facing humanity, such as abortion, hunger, poverty, global warming and war.

The central themes of Catholic social teaching are:

The protection of all human life and the promotion of human dignity.

The call to participate in family and community life.

The promotion of human rights and responsibilities.

The preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.

The safeguarding of workers' dignity and rights.

The building of global solidarity and the common good.

The care for God's creation.

The universal destination of goods.

The call to become peacemakers.

Judging from letters to editors of diocesan papers throughout the United States, I find that most readers objecting to the social justice and peace positions I take do so from a purely nationalistic and/or militaristic mentality.

While everyone is entitled to his or her opinions, we are instructed by popes and bishops to base our political, economic, ecological and social judgments first and foremost on Catholic teaching, and not primarily on our feelings, political party affiliation or the opinions of government leaders.

With more than 100 years of Catholic social teaching to learn from, where should one begin? I suggest starting with three very challenging documents:

The Second Vatican Council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World and Pope John Paul II's encyclicals "On Social Concerns" and "The Gospel of Life."

For a summary of the aforementioned documents get a copy of the fourth edition of "Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret" from Maryknoll's Orbis Books and the Center of Concern.

Also consider consulting Catholic organizations that work hard to put the principles of Catholic social teaching into practice. Among the best are Pax Christi USA, Catholic Relief Services, Network (Catholic social justice lobby), Priests for Life and Catholic Charities USA.

Catholic social teaching could become a tremendously effective tool for building a just and peaceful world if we would regularly read it, pray with it, teach it, preach it — and live it!

Praying with children

Helping kids to pray helps all to grow in faith

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

I've had some interesting conversations lately with parents who want to discuss praying with their children.

Talking to children about God begins n infancy and develops through stages marked notably by mealtime and bedtime prayers. There is a sense of wonder associated with a child's idea of God.

Memorization of prayers is helpful for children. Very early on, children tend o hold hands and recite or sing prayerful words together. This is a point where a parent or teacher can encourage children o imagine themselves as so many links n a hand-holding ring that reaches around the world.

An unseen God can be imagined to be somehow, somewhere at the center of the circle — looking out, listening, smiling.

The hand being held on either side can be imagined as a small hand, big hand, young hand, old hand, black, white or yellow hand, the hand of a soldier or sailor, he hand of a farmer or factory worker, the hand of an athlete or movie star.

Anyone at all who can be presumed o be open to God can be imagined by the child to be present in the circle.

An atlas of the world in the lap of an adult can be used as a prayer book for page-turning children. Their minds can be stretched along lines of global consciousness and their hearts are opened in gratitude to the Creator of the world.

They can be encouraged to pray for children less fortunate than they are, and a sense of solidarity with those in distant lands can begin to root itself in their consciousness.

A family photograph album can become a prayer book, as can a school yearbook, an address book, a scrapbook, a family tree. Anything that can evoke memories of days past and loved ones who have left this world can stimulate prayerful reflection about their lives, their values, loves, dreams, disappointments, achievements and, most of all, their faith.

Words alone are not enough in talking about God or sharing faith-related ideas with young children. Drawing materials have to be at hand. Spoken words or lines on paper can provide surprise responses to the question: "What is God like?"

However God-talk is initiated with children, elders have to be ready to say who and what God is in their own lives as they listen to children speak of God in theirs.

"What does God look like?" opens up a specifically Christian avenue of reflection that draws out (literally or figuratively) the implications of the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation. Ever so gently, children can be helped to see God suffering in human beings who suffer.

Talking about beautiful things is a great way to point to God as reflected in all things beautiful as well as to suggest that God is at work behind every sunrise and sunset, behind every blooming flower or flying bird.

But birds fall and flowers fade; the earth quakes and skies grow dark.

So expect questions about evil, illness, war and natural disasters that are theologically challenging to anyone engaged in an honest exploration of the question of what God is like. Dialogues with children about spiritual things will produce growth on both sides of the conversation.

Pray with your children and you will begin to notice growth in them and also in yourself.

Children must be guided early on with God's law, says pope

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young children must be guided from a very early age with moral law so that they will have direction as they weather life's storms and resist its temptations, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"God's law must be impressed on the soul from the beginning 'like on a piece of wax,'" the pope said, citing the teachings of St. John Chrysostom at his Sept. 19 weekly general audience.

Early infancy "is in fact the age that is the most important" because it marks the time when "the great directives that point to the right course to (take in) life" really take hold in a person, he said.

Pope Benedict returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa south of Rome for the weekly audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope dedicated his talk to the life and writings of St. John Chrysostom, the fourth-century doctor of the church and archbishop of Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey. The 1,600th anniversary of his death is being celebrated this year.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our catechesis today focuses on a great orator of the early church, St. John Chrysostom: the "golden-mouthed."

After his schooling in Antioch, St. John went into the desert to meditate on the "law of Christ." Illness forced him to return to the city, where he heard the Lord calling him to full-time pastoral service.

Years of prayer had prepared him to preach the Word of God with tremendous power and persuasion. Chrysostom constantly strove to connect Christian doctrine to daily living, emphasizing life-long human development in a person's physical, intellectual and religious dimensions.

Fundamental to this is the first phase when parents must firmly impress God's law upon their children's souls.

Young people will thus be strengthened to confront the "storms" of adolescence when they must learn to temper concupiscence and eventually to assume the duties of marriage.

Indeed, St. John taught that the family is a "little church" within the wider ecclesial community. Consequently, each of us has a responsibility for the salvation of those around us.

Through the intercession of this saintly bishop, may we generously embrace this and all our responsibilities in the church and in society.

Cambodian children, including teens, enjoy Jesuit storytelling

CNS photo by Sovanna Ly, UCAN

Kol Seab of Jesuit Service Cambodia reads a story to students in a classroom in Kompong Speu, Cambodia, Aug. 10. Jesuit Service Cambodia runs a storytelling program for children in 21 villages in several Cambodian provinces.

Sessions encourage reading, intellectual development

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

KOMPONG SPEU, Cambodia — It was 9 p.m. on a Friday and rain was about to fall, but 100 happy Cambodian children, ages 6-16, waited outside a school.

"Let's go into the classroom. The teacher is coming!" called out a loud voice from among the children running in front of the school building in Kompong Speu.

The children were excited about a storytelling session sponsored by Jesuit Service Cambodia.

In the classroom, some children sat on the floor while others sat on chairs. Those who could read held books in their hands, while the others just listened to the "teacher," storyteller Neang Thida, 24.

She asked the children what they learned from each story and how this could help them in their lives.

After the hourlong session, she told the Asian church news agency UCA News that all the children came from the nearby village of Phom Ra.

Many of the children told UCA News they appreciate the storytelling sessions.

"I love this program very much, because I can hear many good stories," said Sok Ann, 13.

At her public school, she said, the teachers do not pay much attention to the students.

One child identified only as Sambath, 15, said, "I like listening to the stories in this program and have never missed them."

Jesuit Service Cambodia runs the storytelling program for 21 villages in Kandal, Kompong Chnang and Kompong Speu provinces.

The program, which started in 2005, grew out of the Jesuits' village-library project, in which libraries for schoolchildren have been set up in villages and Jesuit staffers write storybooks for the libraries.

Jesuit staffers said the order initiated the storytelling program because staffers found children who could not read but were placed in the same school grade as others their age.

The storytelling sessions take place in homes and under trees, as well as inside school classrooms.

Some of the library staff are also the storytellers. One of them, Sorn Korn, told UCA News the job is not difficult.

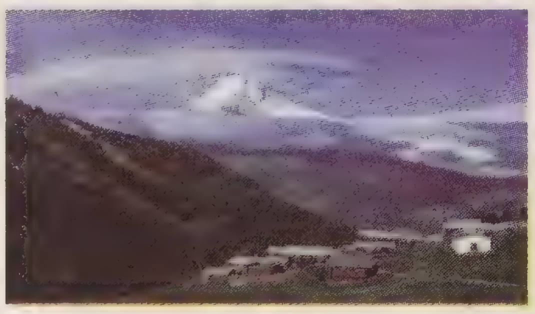
"I am very happy when I see a lot of children interested in our program and their parents encouraging them to come," Korn said.

Another staff member, Kol Seab, has written many children's stories — including one about the futility of illegal drug use — for the project.

"We want the rural children to be literate in their Khmer language. After we tell the stories, we ask questions. We want them to develop their intellect," she said.

Spend springtime in the Alps!

Discover spectacular
Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria
with the Diocese of Charlotte and Fr. Mo West
April 30 — May 9, 2008



Bring family and friends to experience the area's breathtaking scenery, the rich culture of the old-world cities, and the charm of the Alpine villages and their people!

Your 10-day, fully-escorted experience features daily excursions based out of 2 centrally-located "hub cities" – Bern, Switzerland and Innsbruck, Austria. That means less packing and more time to explore Lucerne, Montreux, Interlaken, Gindelwald, Salzburg and Oberammergau as well!

Highlights of this itinerary include:

- GoldenPass Panoramic Train ride past wood chalets and magnificent views on the way to Gstaad, world-famous Alpine resort
- sightseeing tour of Bern's historical Old Town, its famous sights of today, and the medieval Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area – plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
- plus leisure time to shop and explore these exciting sites on your own!

All-inclusive price: Only $2,699 from Charlotte INCLUDES airfare; all air taxes/surcharges and fees; hotel transfers; most meals; fulltime tour manager/escort; first class hotels; all guides and admission fees. Travel insurance is extra.

Space is very limited! A $250 deposit is due before November 30 so CALL NOW for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese: (704) 370-3332

6th Annual
Vineyard of Hope
Wines Around The World

Bring your friends and make a contribution to assist our neighbors in need.

Friday, October 26 - 7 p.m.
Charlotte Hilton Center City

All proceeds benefit
Catholic Social Services

The evening includes: *Wine Tasting, Heavy hors d'oeuvres Live entertainment from 'Common Ground,' a fabulous jazz band, and a silent auction of choice wines.*

Special Guest Speaker
Dr. William K. Thierfelder
President of Belmont Abbey College

Individual tickets are $50

Be a Hope Host and reserve a table of 8 for $350

Sponsorships Available

Call 704-370-3232 or
visit www.cssnc.org

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 41

Eucharistic Congress
Included in this issue are articles and photos from the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 21-22.
More coverage is online at www.charlottediocese.org.

'To Know Jesus Christ'

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

A man bows in reverence as Bishop Peter J. Jugis carries the Blessed Sacrament in the eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte during the 2007 Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22.

Diocese holds 3rd Eucharistic Congress

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Prayer and song, interjected with reverent silence, greeted a humid September morning as thousands of Catholics processed through the streets of uptown Charlotte.

People from across the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis as he carried a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament from St. Peter Church to the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22.

The eucharistic procession was part of the third annual diocesan Eucharistic Congress held Sept. 21-22. An estimated 9,000 people attended the congress, themed "To Know Jesus Christ."

Knights of Columbus color guard and first communicants

See CONGRESS, page 5

COURTESY PHOTO BY VICKI DORSEY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis is silhouetted by incense smoke as he kneels before the Eucharist during the Holy Hour at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22. Also pictured are Deacon Tri Vinh Truong and Father Roger Arnsparger.

Getting to know Jesus

Participants reflect on Eucharistic Congress theme

BY DEACON GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE—Catholics from around the Diocese of Charlotte recently converged to become better acquainted with Jesus Christ.

"To Know Jesus Christ" was the theme of the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

The congress featured a eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte, nationally-known speakers, spiritual music and Mass. It was, according to Bishop Peter J. Jugis, a "time of celebration, adoration and teaching centered on the mystery of the Eucharist."

"The talks and other events of the congress have been directed toward coming to know the Lord better, and deepening our friendship with

See THEME, page 7

'A blessed opportunity'

Catholic doctor helps hospice facility grow

BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER
CORRESPONDENT

HENDERSONVILLE — In Dr. Colin Thomas' view, the journey always continues.

"God calls us where he wants us to go," said Thomas, a parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville. "The call comes from him through others. I pray about it and spend a lot of time reacting to his calls."

Six years ago, a friend called Thomas — a retired urologist who helped found the Free Clinics of Henderson County — and asked him to put his fundraising and organizational skills to work in hospice care. He accepted and found a place where his faith would be central to the mission.

See HOSPICE, page 12

Cruel and unusual?

Supreme Court to consider constitutionality of lethal injection

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Sept. 25 to hear oral arguments on whether lethal injection violates the constitutional ban

See INJECTION, page 13

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420036#
S-6 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Culture Watch
Jesuit script doctor; deacon's novel turned into movie
| PAGES 10-11

Perspectives
Breaking down cultural differences; intelligent design
| PAGES 14-15

Around the Diocese
Presbyteral council; Knights of Columbus
| PAGE 4

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

HAPPY IN THEIR NEW HOME

CNS PHOTO BY KRISTIN LUKOWSKI, MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Iraqi refugees Madlene Zitto and her sister, Shameran Zitto, share a laugh with Shameran's husband, Astefan Zrow Yousef, at their home in Sterling Heights, Mich., Sept. 17. Yousef and his wife, who have six children, fled their home in Baghdad, Iraq, for the safety of Turkey in 2004 and now have resettled in the Detroit Archdiocese.

Iraqi refugees feel they have good futures in Detroit Archdiocese

STERLING HEIGHTS, Mich. (CNS) — Astefan Zrow Yousef was scared for his family. He was scared of the persecution they endured because of their Chaldean Catholic faith. He was scared they would be forced to abandon their faith. And he was scared they would be killed for trying to escape from their life in Iraq.

For much the same reason, Issa Toma, his wife, Nano, and their families had already fled from Iraq to the safety of Turkey.

Both men had a common goal — to live with their families in peace — and now they and their families have been resettled in the Detroit Archdiocese with the help of the archdiocese and other agencies.

In June 2004, Yousef and his family left their home near Baghdad, Iraq, for Turkey.

"It was a very bad time," he said at his new home in Sterling Heights. "We left everything behind. We had nothing. We had to flee to save our lives."

For three years, the family lived in a basement in Turkey. Yousef, his wife and their six children arrived in metro Detroit in August.

They now have a place to live — a house across the street from Yousef's sister-in-law — and are working on paperwork to get themselves settled. They also have started attending St. George Chaldean Church in Shelby Township.

"We have to go step by step," Yousef said. "I think we have a good future here, for everyone — especially the kids."

Yousef's family is one of many displaced Iraqi families leaving their country to escape the persecution and violence. The Detroit Archdiocese has helped to settle more than 200 people since the recent wave of refugees arrived in July.

The family said they were thrilled when they found out they would be coming to the United States. They now live in a comfortable yet sparsely furnished home. There's not a lot of extra space — his four daughters share one of the three bedrooms.

Yousef said he's determined to stay on the correct path in the United States, applying for their Michigan identification cards, learning English, finding jobs and becoming a part of the community.

"We are going to try to do things the right way, follow the rules," he said. "We are happy and excited to be here."

A few blocks away, in another modest house, the extended Toma family is also getting settled into a much safer life. The Tomas, their younger children and their son's family fled Iraq to spend four years living in Turkey before they were approved to come to the United States.

In Iraq, the children were prevented from going to school, the parents couldn't work and the family couldn't go to church. They fled with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

In Turkey, they applied to get refugee status in the United States and eventually received permission, arriving in late August. They have distant family that lives nearby. The family attends Mass at St. Joseph Chaldean Church in Troy.

"The plan is to go to school, to learn English, to learn the language and to find a job," Nano Toma said. "That is most important — to go to school."

The Toma family still has other members in Turkey, and Nano Toma said she prays every day for friends and family there.

"We ask God to save everyone, and to let everyone leave that country," she said. "Our faith is in God and in Jesus Christ."

Polish bishop says 17th-century battle sparked Sept. 11 attacks

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The head of Poland's military diocese has accused Islamic militants of seeking revenge for a Polish-led victory over the Ottoman Empire in the 17th century and urged Christians to prevent Europe being turned into "Euro-Arabia."

"The military defense against Islamic terrorism is being led today by the United States, which is playing a very similar role ... to that (role) played centuries ago by Poland, when it was the rampart of Christianity," said Bishop Tadeusz Ploski, head of Poland's military diocese.

"Today, alongside the American soldiers and those of several dozen states in the anti-terrorist coalition, there are also soldiers of the Polish army," he said.

Poland is among the 21 nations contributing to the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq. Polish military forces also are deployed in Afghanistan.

During a homily in Warsaw Sept. 11 for a Mass marking Poland's Land Forces Day the following day, Bishop Ploski said the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States had been planned with "criminal precision" by Osama bin Laden to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Vienna, Austria, in September 1683.

It was during that battle when an Ottoman Empire invasion force was defeated by Christian armies under King John Sobieski of Poland.

He said Islamic extremists had used the same anniversary in 2006 as a pretext for a "brutal attack" on Pope Benedict XVI after his controversial remarks about Islam in Regensburg, Germany.

"They again proclaimed a jihad, a holy war with the West — as they have declared for centuries, the final aim of history is the whole world's submission to Allah," said the bishop.

Al-Qaida, the terrorist group led by bin Laden, claimed responsibility for the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on Sept. 11, 2001.

Diocesan planner

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity will host a *Transitus Service* in remembrance of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi to eternal life at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. There will be a reception after the service with light refreshments. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HUNTERSVILLE — *Come Be Fed Physically and Spiritually* at St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd., Oct. 8, 6-8:30 p.m. Escape your daily stresses with Jason Kotecki, author and cartoonist, as he shares his insights into how each of us can develop a more childlike faith, amid the busyness of life. Reservations are required; e-mail Donna Smith at dsmith18@bellsouth.net or call (704) 948-1306.

HUNTERSVILLE — Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of the Fordham University Philosophy Department will present *"The Problem of Dirty Hands"* Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in the family center of St. Mark Church, 14740 Stumptown Rd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Within a framework of Catholic moral teaching, Father Koterski will address a variety of issues. Sponsored by the diocesan offices of Family Life and Justice and Peace. To register, please call (704) 370-3382 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org. Visit www.cssnc.org.

CHARLOTTE — *An Immigration Reform Workshop* will be held in Biss Hall of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m. The issue of immigration and migration has been called the "central narrative of our faith today." An immigration panel will present and discuss the issue as is affects our lives and the lives of our neighbors. For more information, please call the office at (704) 332-2901.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

HIGH POINT — *The Worldwide Children's Holy Hour* will be celebrated at Maryfield Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 1315 Greensboro Rd., Oct. 5. Adoration will begin in the large chapel at 6:30 p.m. call Dianne at (336) 887-7303 for further information. For questions, call Geri at (336) 644-8883. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available during the Holy Hour.

GREENSBORO — Mark Shea, Catholic convert, writer, speaker and apologist, will give three talks at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 6. For more about Mark Shea, visit www.mark-shea.com Registration is required, as seating is limited. Register with Jim McCullough by email at jmccullough@olgchurch.org or call (336) 274-6520, ext. 335.

GREENSBORO — Jesuit Father Joseph Koterski of the Fordham University Philosophy Department will present *"The Problem of Dirty Hands"* Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Within a framework of Catholic moral teaching, Father Koterski will address a variety of issues. To register, call (704) 370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org. Visit www.cssnc.org.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. "Genesis 1-11: The Primordial History," will be studied Oct. 2-Dec. 18. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

KANNAPOLIS — St. Joseph Church, 108 St.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

SEPTEMER 28, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 41

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Vatican: Pope's refusal to meet Rice should not be seen as snub

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI declined to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice during his August vacation, but Vatican officials said it should not be interpreted as a diplomatic snub.

"The only reason she wasn't received was that she came during a period when the pope doesn't receive anyone. It was a purely technical question of protocol," an informed Vatican source told Catholic News Service Sept. 20.

The source said it was "absolutely not" the Vatican's intention to rebuff Rice or signal disagreement with U.S. policy on the Middle East.

Rice was about to travel to the Middle East for diplomatic talks in early August when the request for a papal meeting was made. The pope was vacationing at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome.

Even as it declined the request, the source said, the Vatican made it clear that top officials of the Vatican's Secretariat of State would be happy to meet with Rice at any time.

"So clearly there was no intent to send a negative signal," the source said.

Rice instead ended up speaking by telephone with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, while he was visiting the United States in August.

Cardinal Bertone later praised Rice's mediating attempts, saying, "I recognize the untiring efforts of the secretary of state in reconciliation among the governments of the Middle East."

In an effort to cut down on the number of papal audiences, early in his pontificate Pope Benedict made it a practice not to meet with government ministers below the level of prime minister.

There have been exceptions, however, and Vatican sources said an exception would no doubt be made for Rice if another request were made when the pope was at the Vatican.

Joseph St., will celebrate *being designated as a parish* in the Diocese of Charlotte Oct. 7, 3-6 p.m. with a bilingual Mass, potluck dinner, parish history slideshow, Spanish and English singing, events sponsored by the youth group and preschool and soccer games starting at 11 a.m. If you are a priest or deacon who has served at St. Joseph Church or a parishioner interested in joining us, call Christine in the office at (704) 932-4607.

MOCKSVILLE — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd., will hold a parish mission, *"Living Our Faith With Joy,"* Oct. 13-17 at 7 p.m. Themes include "Loving God and One Another," "Am I Forgiven? Can I forgive?" and "Wholeness of Body and Soul." Franciscan Father Roderic Petrie will preach at Masses Oct. 13-14. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered Oct. 16. For more information, call Gayle O'Grady at (336) 751-2117.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — The office of faith formation of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., will present a four-part film, *"Feast of Faith: The Transforming Power of the Eucharist,"* Oct. 2 and 16 at 7 p.m. in the Commons. For more information, call Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000 or e-mail stwilliamfaithformation@msn.com.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Renew International's *"Why Catholic?"* program will be presented at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr., Oct. 8-Nov. 26. Morning, afternoon and evening groups are available. For more information, call Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968.

SYLVA — St. Mary Mother of God Church, 22 Bartlett St., will present *"The Autumn of Our Lives"* led by Father Walter Williams Oct. 13, beginning with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a light breakfast. We will end with a noon luncheon. People over 40 are invited to attend. For more information, call the office at (828) 586-9496.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — A *Transitus Service* in remembrance of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi to eternal life will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1730 Link Rd., Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. A reception will follow hosted by the Fraternity of St. Clare. For more information, call Betti Longinotti at (336) 725-3751 or e-mail bssf_sfo@yahoo.com.

KERNERSVILLE — *The Worldwide Children's Holy Hour* will be celebrated at Holy Cross Church, 616 South Cherry St., Oct. 5. Adoration participants will meet in the library at 5:45 p.m. Adoration will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the First Friday Mass at 7 p.m. For questions, call Geri at (336) 644-8883. The sacrament of reconciliation will be available during the Holy Hour.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel will present *"Franciscan Theological Tradition"* Oct. 7, 3-5 p.m. as part of a series of free talks offering an exploration into some of the major contributions of Franciscan men and women of faith. The talk will take place at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. For more information and registration, e-mail spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series,* 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations on a variety of topics. Sister Joanne Jacovec will present "Following in the Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi" Oct. 3. David Harold will present "Decalogue for Peace" Oct. 10. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all-submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Sept. 29 — 12 p.m.
2007 Cursillo Grand Ultreya Mass
Steel Creek Park, Morganton

Sept. 30 — 11 a.m.
Dedication of new church
St. John the Evangelist Church, Waynesville

Chinese bishops' ordinations with papal OK raises hopes, says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said the recent ordination of two Chinese bishops in communion with Rome was a positive sign for the church and raised hopes of further appointments.

The comment came in an article in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, which reported on the Sept. 21 ordination of Bishop Joseph Li Shan as head of the Diocese of Beijing, the Chinese capital.

The ordination liturgy, attended by hundreds of local Catholics and a number of government officials, followed the ordination of Coadjutor Bishop Paul Xiao Zejiang of Guizhou, China, earlier in September.

The Vatican newspaper indicated that both ordinations had been carried out with the approval of Pope Benedict XVI. The local Catholic communities, who elected the bishops, had indicated to the Vatican that they were worthy candidates, the newspaper said.

At the Vatican, Archbishop Fernando Filoni, an assistant secretary of state, told reporters Sept. 21 that Bishop Li's nomination was a significant step forward in Vatican-Chinese relations.

"We hope it is the first page of a long chapter, of a new reality" in church-state relations in China, he said.

L'Osservatore Romano noted that the principal consecrating bishops at both ordinations were in communion with Rome but said some of the co-consecrators were not — a "cause of regret," it said.

The article noted that Pope Benedict, in his recent letter to Chinese Catholics, had called for a "respectful dialogue" between church and state authorities, and added: "Catholics in China and in the rest of the world are praying so that this may become a reality."

In his letter to Chinese Catholics, issued in July, Pope Benedict said the Vatican "would like to be completely free to appoint bishops."

He proposed a dialogue with Chinese authorities to resolve the problematic situation in which some bishops were selected and ordained without papal approval.

Planting the future

CNS PHOTO BY UCAN

Newly installed Archbishop Leo Cornelio of Bhopal plants one of 10,000 tree saplings he received as gifts in Madhya Pradesh in central India Sept. 18. The archbishop said that he wanted to highlight the church's concern for the environment amid rising pollution levels and increased news of environmental destruction around the globe.

Vatican official says climate change demands new cooperative strategy

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Addressing the United Nations, a Vatican official said climate change demands a new cooperative international strategy in order to avoid a "bleak future."

"Climate change is a serious concern and an inescapable responsibility for scientists and other experts, political and governmental leaders ... as well as every sector of human society and each human person," Msgr. Pietro Parolin, Vatican undersecretary of state, told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 24.

The Vatican, he said, believes protecting the environment is a "moral imperative" that requires collective action among nations.

All states have a "responsibility to protect our planet and ensure that present and future generations be able to live in a healthy and safe environment," he said.

Solutions, he said, will necessitate not only technical adaptations but also a change in "selfish attitudes" toward consumption of resources.

Msgr. Parolin spoke during a one-day U.N. summit on climate change attended by representatives of more than 150 countries.

Columbiettes elect officers

Courtesy Photo

The new officers for the North Carolina Western Chapter Columbiettes are pictured at their installation ceremony at Good Shepherd Mission in King Aug. 11. The Columbiettes is the women's auxiliary group of the Knights of Columbus. The Western Chapter includes Columbiette councils from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, Holy Family Church in Clemmons, Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, Good Shepherd Mission in King and Holy Angels Church in Mount Airy.

Pictured (from left): Adreann Bell, stand-in for Mary Joyce, sentinel; Paula Johnson, vice president; Debra Orden, president; Christina Pasquerelli, secretary; Kris Miller, secretary; and Marie McCann, stand-in for Megan Hauser, immediate past president.

Tournament of champions

Courtesy Photo

Members of High Point's Knights of Columbus Bishop Hafey Council 4507 golf team display the tournament trophy Sept. 16 after winning the 37th annual Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament, held in Jacksonville, N.C., Sept. 15-16.

Pictured are (from left): Jim Ragno, Joe Kushner, Joe Hughes, Jim Neely, Rick Boedicker, Joe Dominick, Joe Skee, Joe Deering, Ron Money and Oblate Father John Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. Ragno also won the individual crown as the lowest scoring golfer of the tournament.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Newly elected

Courtesy Photo

Bishop Peter J. Jugis (seated, left) is pictured with the newly elected officers for his presbyteral council, which met at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Sept. 11. The council is comprised of priests of the Diocese of Charlotte whom the bishop consults concerning policies and major decisions in the governance of the local church.

Clockwise from top left: Father John Putnam, chairman and pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury; Father Wilbur Thomas, vice chairman and pastor of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville; Father Roger Arnsparger, secretary and pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia; Father John Schneider, treasurer and pastor of St. Eugene Church in Asheville; and Bishop Jugis, who serves as council president.

Spend springtime in the Alps!

Discover spectacular
Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria
with the Diocese of Charlotte and Fr. Mo' West
April 30 — May 9, 2008

Bring family and friends to experience the area's breathtaking scenery, the rich culture of the old-world cities, and the charm of the Alpine villages and their people!

Your 10-day, fully-escorted experience features daily excursions based out of 2 centrally-located "hub cities" – Bern, Switzerland and Innsbruck, Austria. That means less packing and more time to explore Lucerne, Montreux, Interlaken, Gindelwald, Salzburg and Oberammergau as well!

Highlights of this itinerary include:
- GoldenPass Panoramic Train ride past wood chalets and magnificent views on the way to Gstaad, world-famous Alpine resort
- sightseeing tour of Bern's historical Old Town, its famous sights of today, and the medieval Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area – plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
- plus leisure time to shop and explore these exciting sites on your own!

All-inclusive price: Only $2,699 from Charlotte INCLUDES airfare; all air taxes/surcharges and fees; hotel transfers; most meals; fulltime tour manager/escort; first class hotels; all guides and admission fees. Travel insurance is extra.

Space is very limited! A $250 deposit is due before November 30 so CALL NOW for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese: (704) 370-3332

Diocese holds third Eucharistic Congress

CONGRESS, *from page 1*

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Father Timothy Reid, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, leads the recessional at the close of the vigil Mass at the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 22.

from around the diocese led the procession, followed by deacons and priests of the diocese and guest clergy, including Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue, second bishop of Charlotte.

Following Bishop Jugis in the procession were representatives of many of the 92 parishes and missions in the diocese, as well as members of religious ministries, lay ministries and cultural groups. Hundreds of people watching the procession along the city streets knelt reverently as the Eucharist passed by, and many of them joined the procession behind their parish banners.

The procession made its way into the convention center, where a Holy Hour followed with eucharistic adoration, prayer and song. Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin delivered the homily during the Holy Hour.

Songs and the Savior

A concert of sacred choral music opened the congress Friday evening, Sept. 21. The choir, comprised of nearly 120 singers from churches around the Diocese of Charlotte, performed a collection of songs from traditional classical through contemporary classical pieces.

Following the concert, Father Benedict Groeschel spoke on the topic, "What the Presence of Christ Means in Your Life."

Founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Father Groeschel is familiar to many for his program, "Sunday Night with Father Groeschel," on the Eternal World Television Network.

After Father Groeschel's talk, eucharistic adoration took place throughout the night at St. Peter Church, with a number of groups — including clergy, religious, young adults and families — each spending an hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

Sharing the message

Highlighting Saturday's events were a variety of speakers, some familiar to participants of previous eucharistic congresses.

Patrick Madrid, a popular Catholic apologist and author, presented "A Course in Eucharistic Miracles." Steve Ray, an author and regular guest on the Catholic Answers Live radio program and "The Journey Home" on EWTN, presented "They Recognized Him in the Breaking of the Bread."

Helen Alvare, associate professor of law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., gave a presentation entitled "To Know Jesus Christ — A Catholic Woman's Perspective." Father Leo Patalinghug, the ever-popular break-dancing martial-arts guru, told high school students the story of his vocation to the priesthood. He also spoke to adults about "Mary as Magnifier for Jesus."

Speakers at the Hispanic track included Héctor Antonio Molina Jr., a dynamic Catholic preacher and evangelist; and Roberto Ramirez, an active member of the Servants of the Living Christ, a community of lay people.

In addition to a large vendor area and a cultural hour — where members of the Korean, Filipino and Vietnamese Catholic communities shared their cultures and traditions — there was a series of talks for middle- and high-school students and children.

Congress participants spent time in eucharistic adoration and hundreds received the sacrament of reconciliation in both English and Spanish.

During the Mass closing the congress, Bishop Jugis presented Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin with an engraved chalice in honor of his 50 years in the priesthood.

Bishop Jugis then announced the plans for a fourth Eucharistic Congress for Oct. 3-4, 2008. That gathering will be themed "It Is Christ We Proclaim."

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

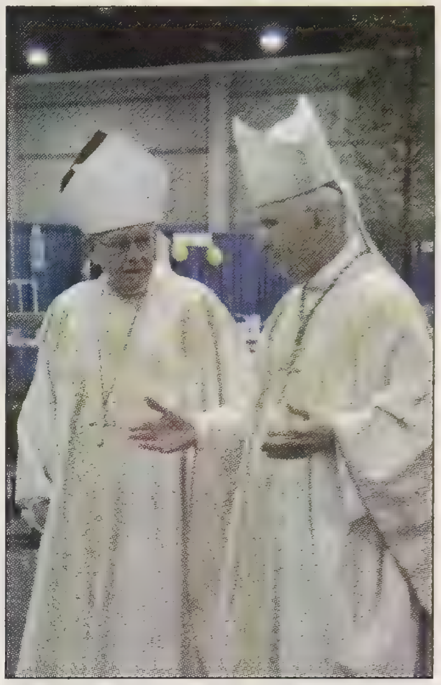


Photo by Karen A. Evans

Archbishop Emeritus John F. Donoghue, second bishop of Charlotte, confers with his successor, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin, prior to the vigil Mass Sept. 22.

Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

Invites You On A Pilgrimage To The

49th International
Eucharistic Congress
Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Quebec

Ste Anne de Beaupré, Québec

St. Joseph Oratory

Chateau Frontenac

Your 10 Day Pilgrimage Tour Includes:

June 14 – 23, 2008

- Round trip scheduled air from Charlotte to Montreal
- Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations at the 4 star Chateau Laurier Hotel, Quebec City (or similar)
- Sightseeing tour of Quebec including: the Citadelle, Plains of Abraham, Chateau Frontenac, and Notre-Dame des Victoires Church
- Half day trip to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré
- Evening tour to the Ile d'Orleans with dinner in a traditional "Sugar Shack"
- Deluxe coach for round trip airport transfer from Montreal to Quebec City
- Hotel porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person and local taxes
- Registration fee to attend the Eucharistic Congress:
  - A week long experience of faith centered on the Eucharist
  - Closing Eucharistic celebration on the Plains of Abraham
  - Visit the Quebec Eucharistic Congress website, www.cei2008.ca for more details

Deposit by October 31 for special rate of only:
$2,899*

Call Corporate Travel at 800-727-1999; ext. 121 to book today – Limited Availability!

FUN FAIR
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Saturday, October 13
9 am – 2 pm

RIDES GAMES $1,000 RAFFLE
AUCTION ROAD RACE BINGO FOOD

www.SMSGastonia.com

Located off Hwy 321 in Historic Gastonia

Uplifting music permeates Eucharistic Congress

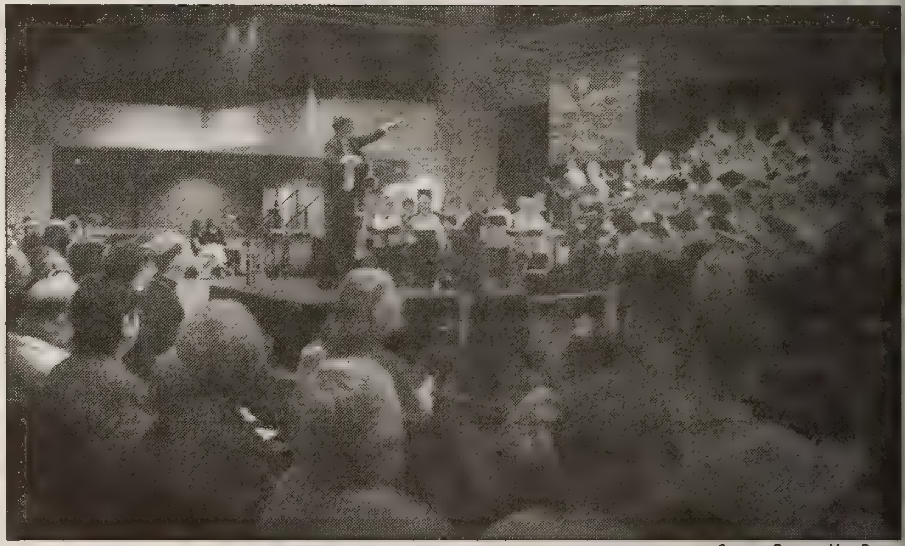
CHARLOTTE — A variety of spiritual and uplifting musical selections punctuated the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

A concert of sacred choral music kicked off the congress Friday night. Nearly 120 parishioners from churches around the diocese comprised the choir under the direction of Tiffany Gallozi, music director at St. Barnabas Church in Arden, and Larry Stratemeyer, music director at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

The hour-long concert featured a cross section of choral music — from English, French and American composers — and included Gregorian chant.

Musicians young and old also entertained with lively songs between speakers during the Hispanic and youth tracks on Saturday.

The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, as well as a children's Latin choir, entertained the crowd before the vigil Mass Saturday afternoon.



Courtesy Photo by Vicki Dorsey

Bishop Peter J. Jugis and others enjoy a concert of sacred choral music, which kicked off the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte performs Sept. 22.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Above: A band entertains during the Hispanic track Sept. 22. Below left: Young musicians perform during the middle school track. Below right: Children sing in the Latin choir.

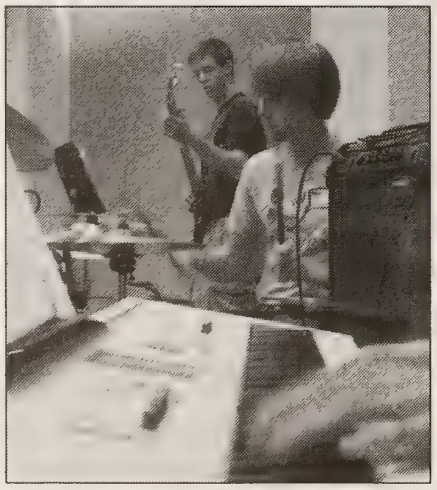


Photo by Karen A. Evans

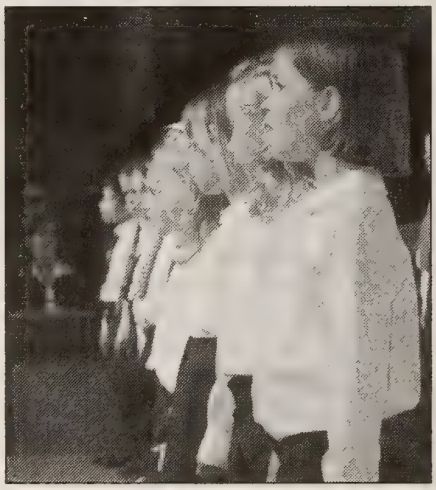


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

K OF C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of October

Rev. Aloysius D'Silva	2005
Rev. Msgr. William Wellein	1997

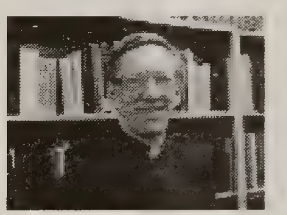
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

"The Problem of Dirty Hands"

presented

by Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J.

Sponsored by the Offices of Family Life and Justice and Peace of Catholic Social Services



Fr. Joseph Koterski, S.J., is a priest of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, and Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal International Philosophical Quarterly. He received his Ph.D. from St. Louis University and his M.Div. and S.T.L. from the Weston School of Theology in Boston. He has authored and presented hundreds of publications and papers and twice has received Teacher of the Year Award from Fordham University.

Within a framework of Catholic moral teaching, Fr. Koterski will address such questions as: What do we do when our job requires us to do something we find to be morally questionable? How close is too close to be involved in an activity that is morally wrong? What roles do a properly informed conscience, free will, intentions, and the particular circumstances of a situation play in determining whether involvement in an immoral activity crosses a line that should not have been crossed?

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Two dates and locations to choose from:

Monday, October 8 at 7 pm — (refreshments 6:30 p.m.)
Fellowship Hall, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Greensboro

Tuesday, October 9 at 7 pm — (refreshments 6:30 p.m.)
Family Center, St. Mark Church, Huntersville

Please register at 704-370-3228 or e-mail sabeason@charlottediocese.org.
(For further information: www.cssnc.org)

Thousands explore friendship, mystery of Christ

THEME, *from page 1*

him," said Bishop Jugis during his homily at the vigil Mass Sept. 22.

St. Paul can teach us about what it means to know Jesus, said the bishop.

"Before his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul did not know Jesus. His heart was closed to Jesus, and he persecuted Jesus' followers," said Bishop Jugis.

But after St. Paul's conversion, his heart was opened and he began to know Jesus, said the bishop.

"Love made all the difference in opening him up to the Lord. The more St. Paul knew the Lord and became his friend, the more he loved him, and eventually Jesus became the overriding passion of his life," said Bishop Jugis.

"Without Jesus, there is no reference point (for how to live your life)," said speaker Steve Ray, author and creator of "The Footprints of God" DVD series.

"Knowing Christ gives life meaning and purpose," he said.

"To know Jesus is to make your life complete," said Ed Hartle, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

"There is often something missing in our lives, and that something is a relationship with Jesus," he said.

"To know Christ answers the questions that we all have — Who am I? Why am I here?" said congress speaker Patrick Madrid, a Catholic apologist.

"To know Jesus is to be with him, to share in his divinity," said Capuchin Father Stanley Kobel, a parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

"When we accept him in the Eucharist, he shares with us his grace," said Father Kobel.

"To know Jesus Christ is to love him and serve him by loving and serving others, which are the signs of holiness," said Father Leo Patalinghug, pastoral field education director at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

"For young people, this can mean obeying one's parents, being faithful to one's prayer life, befriending the lonely and avoiding sin," he said.

"If we can teach young people now to love and serve others, then they will develop healthy faith habits as adults," said Father Patalinghug.

Knowing Jesus is to realize he's with you at all times, according to Edra Alonso, a parishioner at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill.

"When I have fallen, he has always picked me up again," she said.

To be like Christ

While all Catholics know Jesus in some ways, Bishop Jugis said the congress was an opportunity "to have even a closer friendship with him."

"The speakers create enthusiasm. You learn a lot," said Alonso. "At the congress, you see everyone so devout and spiritual — it's inspiring."

"Through the talks and lectures, we are being affirmed on how important the Eucharist is and reminded that without it, we have absolutely nothing," said Donna McCormack, a parishioner of St. Mark Church in Huntersville.

"Gatherings such as the Eucharistic Congress are important," said congress speaker Helen Alvare, associate professor of law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

"We need many opportunities to explore our faith, and the congress provides ways for us to know Christ," she said. "It really gives you a boost. It provides both short- and long-term means to persevere in the Christian life."

"I really can't get over the excitement it (the congress) generates for all who participate in it," said Michael Kitson, a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

"When we see thousands of Catholics walking through the streets in procession with our Lord, it gives us the ability to share our faith. It gives us courage to share our faith," said Ray.

"When people see us in the streets, following our Lord, it will help them to understand who he is and how we receive his grace from being with him," said Tina Witt, a parishioner of St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte.

"The congress is a big, exciting and fun event for everyone, because it has such a high and good purpose — to draw all souls to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," said Richard Worthington, a seminarian for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Christ is with us in the Blessed Sacrament. We can't help but benefit by being in his presence as a faith community," said Madrid. "The more we learn and know, the more we will grow in his grace."

"As a result of knowing Jesus, we become more like him," said Bishop Jugis. "The goal is to be more like Jesus — poor in spirit, humble and merciful like Jesus."

"May our faith in the eucharistic Lord remain strong. By our love for Jesus … may our friendship with him continue to grow strong," said Bishop Jugis.

Contributing to this article was Editor Kevin E. Murray and Staff Writer Karen A. Evans.

'Blanket Banquet' brings Christ's love to Charlotte homeless

CHARLOTTE — A homeless man sang a rendition of "Amazing Grace" that brought tears to the eyes of the volunteers around him.

The singer, a man in his 50s, didn't have a penny to his name, so he gave the only thing he had — his voice and his song of joy — to express his gratitude to those who helped clothe and feed him.

He was one of 150 of Charlotte's homeless who came to the third annual "Blanket Banquet" held outside St. Peter Church in Charlotte Sept. 22.

At the close of the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress, Catholics from churches in the Charlotte area distributed hundreds of blankets, clothing and food to the homeless at the event, which was inspired by the words of Jesus in Luke 14: "When you hold a banquet, invite the poor and lame."

"We've seen our numbers double from just two years ago," said Linda Flynn, a parishioner of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill and this year's banquet coordinator. "While our guest list grew, so did our clothing and blanket contributions. The outpouring of generosity from various local parishes was incredible."

The idea for the Blanket Banquet began three years ago as a social action component of the Eucharistic Congress.

Courtesy Photo

The homeless who attend also receive spiritual encouragement and practical advice on where to find help to get off the streets.

"This is a sign of hope and the love of Christ in the world," said volunteer Timothy Brennan, a parishioner from St. Joseph Church in Kannapolis.

Many volunteers felt they, too, benefited from the experience.

Kathleen Smith, a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Charlotte, volunteered with her husband Michael and their three children.

"This event changed my children's prayers that night from their usual self-centered perspective to real concern and love for the homeless people we met," she said.

By Special Arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company

Charlotte Catholic High School

7702 Pineville-Matthews Road

Presents

Family Ties

& LITTLE WHITE LIES

A Comedy by Gary Ray Stapp

On October 5 & 6 — 7 pm at CCHS

• Undercover FBI Agents • Dysfunctional Family • "Terrorist" Triplets • Mobsters
• Nosy Neighbors • & much more!

Tickets: $5

Because the Charlotte Catholic Drama department has the sole performance rights to this play, these will be the first and only performances of this play by any amateur or professional group in the Carolinas for the next two years.

Everything you need for a great meeting!

The Catholic Conference Center
www.catholicconference.org

1551 Trinity Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
(828) 327-7441 or Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org

Eucharistic Congress 2

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Above: A girl dressed in her first Communion outfit waits with other children to help lead the eucharistic procession through uptown Charlotte Sept. 22.

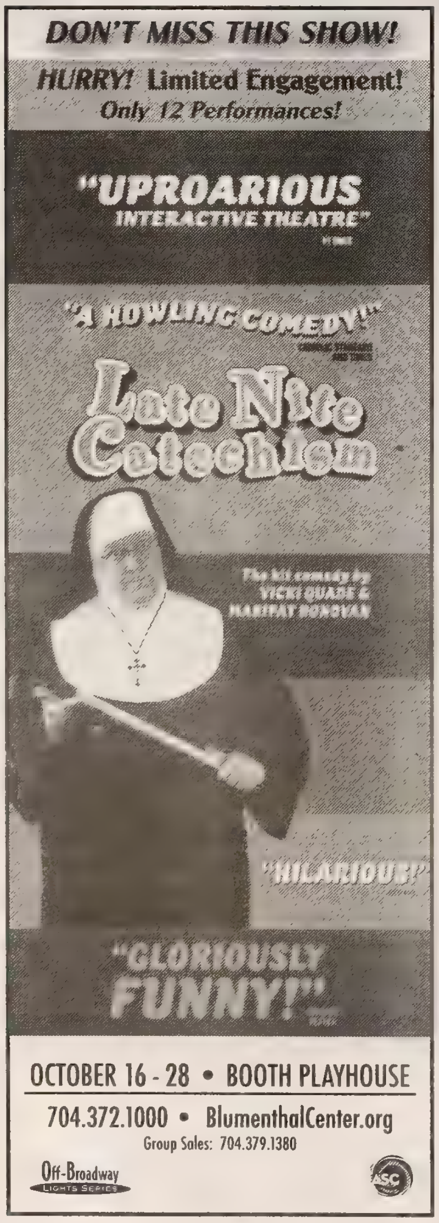
Below: A Korean woman discusses the history of Korea during a cultural hour at the Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte Sept. 22.

Above: Thousands of people from around the Diocese of Charlotte take part in the eucharistic process the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 21-22.

Below: Priests and deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte gather on the altar during the vigil Mass conclu

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Photo by Karen A. Evans



DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!
HURRY! Limited Engagement!
Only 12 Performances!
"UPROARIOUS INTERACTIVE THEATRE"
"A HOWLING COMEDY!"
Late Nite Catechism
The hit comedy by VICKI QUADE & MARIPAT DONOVAN
"HILARIOUS!"
"GLORIOUSLY FUNNY!"
OCTOBER 16 - 28 • BOOTH PLAYHOUSE
704.372.1000 • BlumenthalCenter.org
Group Sales: 704.379.1380
Off-Broadway Lights Series

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!
docPod
Bishop Curlin and Eucharistic Congress Highlights
Subscribe today — it's FREE!
Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926
McEWEN FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.
Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

: ‘To Know Jesus Christ’

CARITAS CHRISTI

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

own Charlotte Sept. 22. The procession was part of

stic Congress Sept. 22.

Courtesy Photo by Vicki Dorsey

Above: Bishop Peter J. Jugis raises the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament during the Holy Hour at the Eucharistic Congress, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22.

WANT MORE PHOTOS?
More photos of the 2007 Eucharistic Congress are available online at www.charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Knights of Columbus color guard are pictured as the eucharistic procession passes the front of the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22.

Courtesy photo by Vicki Dorsey

Bishop Peter J. Jugis presents Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin with an engraved chalice to celebrate his 50 years in the priesthood during the Mass concluding the Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Hector Molina speaks during the Hispanic track at the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress in the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Geri King, director of the Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services, gives a chocolate to young man at the congress Sept. 22. Each chocolate came with a challenge, such as “Before you eat this, pray for a baby who has no family.”

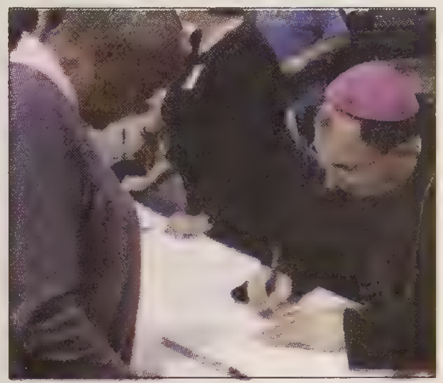


Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Bishop Peter J. Jugis signs a copy of “Voices and Places of the People of God,” the Diocese of Charlotte’s coffee table book, during the congress Sept. 22.

ANNUAL SISTERS OF MERCY BAZAAR & YARD SALE

You’ve seen the rest,
now shop the best!

Oct. 6, 2007 at Mercy Administration Center & McCarthy Spirituality Center, on campus of former Sacred Heart College, Belmont. Just follow the signs!
Bazaar — 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. (held at Mercy Administration Building): Sterling silver & beaded jewelry by Sister Soledad Aguilo, hand-made knit & crochet items, notecards, children’s gifts, Christmas ornaments, variety of crafts, homemade cakes, pies & cookies, Lebanese pastries, canned goods, nuts and our famous Foot Long Hot Dogs will be available! Raffle tickets available with drawings for $250, $500 and $1,000!
Yard Sale — 8 a.m. – noon (at former YMCA): Bargains galore on clothing, kitchen items, small appliances, office furniture (computer items, desks, files, etc.) decorative items, chairs, children’s games, medical equipment & accessories, bikes, strollers, toys & more! Proceeds benefit Sisters of Mercy Ministries. For directions, see www.mercync.org

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Jesuit recalls his time as script doctor for N.Y. play on Judas

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Jesuit Father James Martin would never be accused of slumming around the Stage Door Canteen, much less a backstage entrance to New York City's dozens of theaters.

Still, he found himself in a theater role — as script doctor for a play about Judas Iscariot that had a healthy off-Broadway run more than two years ago.

Father Martin has recounted the experience in the book, "A Jesuit Off-Broadway: Center Stage with Jesus, Judas, and Life's Big Questions."

In the process, Father Martin said he had one revelation: Actors are people, too.

"Sam Rockwell, an actor who I'd already known, was the first person to contact me and (said) that (actor) Philip Seymour Hoffman was going to be the director. So I was excited to be part of that," said Father Martin, an associate editor for America, a weekly magazine published by the Jesuits.

As he spent more time with the actors, the priest said, he went "from being tongue-tied to being relaxed and comfortable ... to being friends with them."

"As a writer, I frequently meet writers who are notable Catholics. You regard them with a sense of awe, but over time you see they're approachable," he said.

During rehearsals, Father Martin said Hoffman had to excuse himself several times because he had "a shoot" in Toronto for a movie.

"He never bragged about being a movie actor, or talked about the film he was doing," he said of Hoffman.

The movie turned out to be "Capote," which earned Hoffman an Oscar for best actor.

To the cast and crew in New York, the play was the thing: "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" examined the motives behind Judas' betrayal of Jesus and the anguish that led Judas to suicide.

"I was very surprised at how quickly, at the table readings, the conversations turned into incredibly deep subject matter. The questions — Can we really believe the Bible? Did Jesus really resurrect from the dead? Can we really believe in God's forgiveness? — were the stories we were reflecting ... the same kinds of things people meditate on in their personal prayer, no matter what walk of life they're in," Father Martin said.

There were struggles in staging the show night after night. Father Martin recounts in "A Jesuit Off-Broadway" how cast members told him that, unlike the typical play, they found "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot" harder to do with each passing performance.

"It was the subject material that was so tense. You're talking about Jesus and Judas and peace and forgiveness and prayer and grace," Father Martin said. "It's bound to take a tremendous toll."

"As one of the actors said in the book, 'It's like when you preach and you have a really intense experience of the Spirit in your preaching.' It takes a lot out of you," Father Martin said. "Also, they moved deeper and deeper into the story each night. ... It was seriously draining for a lot of actors."

Father Martin said that, to help launch the book, principals connected with the off-Broadway version of the show — including Hoffman — were going to read their own quotes from the book in a series of dramatic readings.

New edition of Catholic blessings, prayers book published

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The original "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers" book, introduced in 1989, was a big seller for the U.S. bishops' publishing office. In 18 years, it sold 150,000 copies. The book also spun off several shorter paperback versions on specific topics found in the original.

Now, a revised edition has been published. This edition, like the original, was compiled by the staff of the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy.

The new "Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers" has 10 sections, including basic and daily prayers, family prayers, prayers for Catholic living and excerpts from the New American Bible for times of need. The original edition was used by many parishes as a gift to newly married couples or to new parents as they prepared for a child's baptism.

CFCC
Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 7, 2007

Oct. 7, Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2) 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
3) Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Imitating Christ anonymously will bring rewards

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Waiting tables is hard work, especially if you do it right. Balancing the demands of finicky diners, passionate chefs and intense managers on a busy Saturday night can be like juggling chain saws.

So when I see a server snubbed by prima donna customers who act as if their food is being served by a robot, it annoys me more than a little.

That's why I find Jesus' story about table service in Sunday's Gospel somewhat challenging. It ends with this rhetorical question: "Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?"

The implied answer is, "Of course not."

Does that mean we shouldn't say "thanks" to a hardworking waiter or acknowledge a co-worker's job well done or express appreciation to friends for loving support? Not at all. Gratitude is an essential virtue for those who follow Jesus.

What it does mean, I think, is that we ought not be in the habit of fulfilling our responsibilities with the expectation of rewards above and beyond the reward of the work itself.

Baptism, and the membership in the body of Christ which it confers, commits us to following Jesus, to living in a way that makes evident the presence and mercy and love of God.

Every time we celebrate Eucharist, every time we profess our faith through the creed, every time we pray "Our Father," we reaffirm that central commitment to be not only hearers, but doers of the word.

If we focus on our responsibilities as Christians — welcoming the stranger, challenging injustice, doing good to those who injure us and loving with the abandon and openhandedness of Christ himself — then we won't obsess over whether or not we are "properly" thanked.

We will know instead that we have expressed our gratitude for the faith we've received by living it out with generosity and compassion.

Questions:

What is one way in the coming week that I can imitate the love of Jesus anonymously? Who is one person in my life to whom I might express my gratitude more freely?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"With the strength which comes from God, bear your share of the hardship which the Gospel entails" (2 Timothy 1:8).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF SEPT. 30-OCT. 6

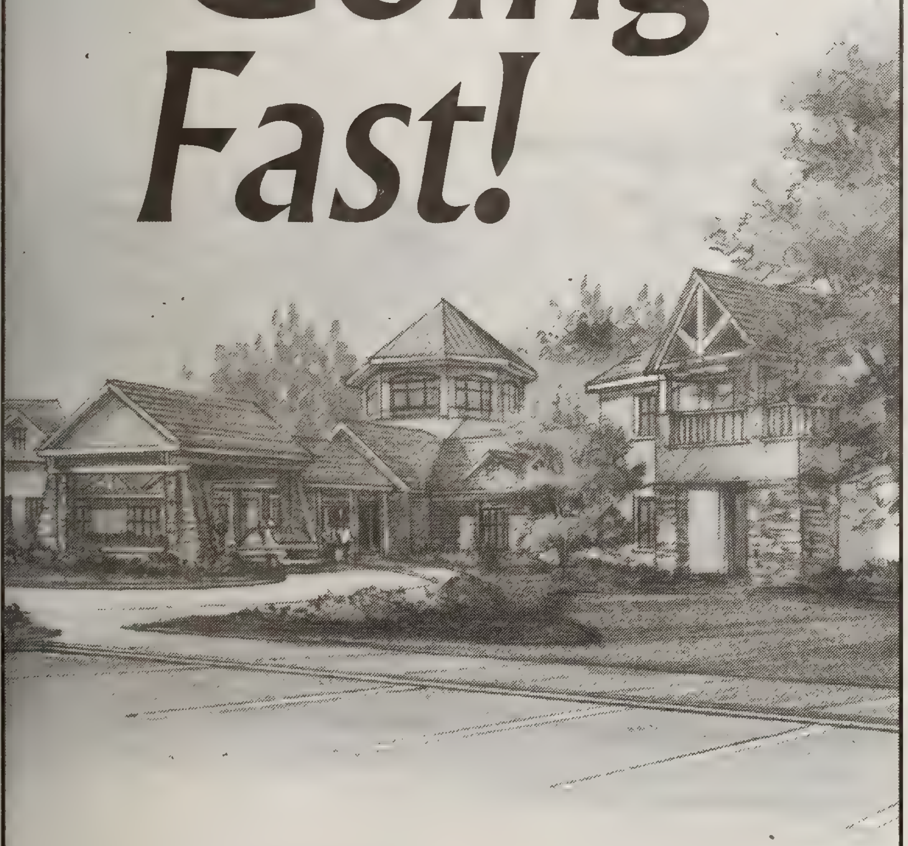
Sunday (Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Amos 6:1, 4-7, 1 Timothy 6:11-16, Luke 16:19-31; **Monday (St. Thérèse of Lisieux)**, Zechariah 8:1-8, Luke 9:46-50; **Tuesday (The Guardian Angels)**, Zachariah 8:20-23, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Wednesday**, Nehemiah 2:1-8, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday (St. Francis of Assisi)**, Nehemiah 8:1-12, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday**, Baruch 1:15-22, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (St. Bruno, Bl. Marie-Rose Durocher)**, Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29, Luke 10:17-24.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 7-13

Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10; **Monday**, Jonah 1:1--2:2, 11, Jonah 2:3-5, 8, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday (St. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday**, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday**, Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday**, Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday**, Joel 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"
You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.
Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Coming Soon... Going Fast!



The exciting Pennybyrn at Maryfield is almost fully reserved – that means only a few more can take advantage of pre-opening pricing. Will you be one of them?

This architecturally stunning new retirement community is scheduled to open soon. An active, modern lifestyle that offers you gorgeous private residences, superior amenities and a professional staff to provide unparalleled services…it's the retirement lifestyle that you've been waiting for!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Current pricing ends soon! Call (336) 821-4050 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 today... prices will never be this low again!

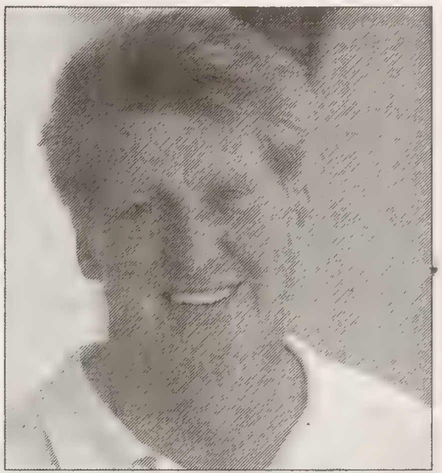
PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Deacon's novel is turned into major motion picture with Pitt

BY RICK DELVECCHIO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF RON HANSEN

Deacon Ron Hansen, of the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., had his 1983 novel turned into a motion picture starring Brad Pitt.

SAN FRANCISCO — Deacon Ron Hansen, who serves in ministry for the Diocese of San Jose, is also a novelist and English professor, and recently received a professional compliment about his writing from actor Brad Pitt.

"He said, 'Hey, man, great book,'" Deacon Hansen said.

"He was a really nice guy, very generous and gracious," the novelist said, adding: "I was prone to like him."

Deacon Hansen met Pitt on the set of "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," a movie starring Pitt as the paranoid post-Civil War outlaw and based on Deacon Hansen's 1983 novel of the same name.

What Deacon Hansen appreciates even more than Pitt's compliment is the movie's faithfulness to his story.

The director, Andrew Dominik, who spotted the book at a Melbourne, Australia, bookstore and thought it would make a great movie, adapted the novel in a remarkably light-handed way for a Hollywood treatment of literature.

"What Andrew did with my novel was go through it with highlighter and take all the parts he wanted right out of the novel," Deacon Hansen said. "Even the action descriptions were taken right out of the novel."

"There wasn't a single thing in the script that didn't appear in the novel, which is strange and wonderful for an adaptation from an author's point of view," he said.

Jules Daly, a member of the film's production company, wrote in an e-mail:

"For me, Ron delved so deep within the characters, the culture and the landscape — so deep that one wonders when reading how he conceived of this time, place and story, almost as though he had known it himself."

Pitt, who also produced the film, became involved with the project because he had wanted to work with Dominik and agreed to play James for less than his normal fee, making the movie feasible on a $30 million budget.

The novel's hero is Bob Ford, the 19-year-old kid brother of one of James' gang members. Ford killed James in 1882 by shooting him in the back of the head while James was tidying a picture with a feather duster.

Ford, played by Casey Affleck, had reason to believe James intended to kill him and that the crime boss might have been planning the deed to take place in conjunction with a robbery the gang had scheduled the next day.

In real life, Ford became a celebrity who toured the country. The public, reveling in the blood and guts of James' career, initially elevated the assassin to the status of hero for eliminating a public menace but later turned on him for shooting a man in the back.

A popular 19th-century tune branded Ford as a "dirty little coward."

The Ford story, like all Deacon Hansen's novels, has a Christian theme. His characters cope with the forces of good and evil and his settings dramatize the moral struggle.

"A lot of people would be surprised you could find a Christian idea in a story about Jesse James, but I think it's implicit in the text," he said.

"A lot of times it's about recklessness, ambition, ego and how those can really ruin your life, and I think a lot of times there is this sense of peace and redemption operative in most of my books," he said.

Deacon Hansen cited the influence of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola on his storytelling.

"One of the exercises is you are who you follow — Christ or the evil one?" he said.

While working on his 1991 novel, "Mariette in Ecstasy," about the phenomenon of stigmata, Deacon Hansen returned to school for a mid-career refresher in the faith. In 1995 he graduated from the University of Santa Clara, also a Jesuit school, with a master's degree of arts in pastoral ministry with an emphasis on spirituality.

Come and Join the "Holy Kids"....... and bring your family too!

The Semi-Annual Rosary Rally is coming very soon!

Sunday October 15, 2006 3:00pm
SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL
1621 DILWORTH ROAD EAST CHARLOTTE, N.C.
Will include Rosary, Eucharistic Procession and Benediction
Do something special and come honor your Spiritual Mom!!!

Catholic doctor helps hospice facility grow

HOSPICE, *from page 1*

This October, Thomas will end his tenure as board chairman of Four Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care in Flat Rock. The hospice is an independent, nonprofit, volunteer-supported organization led by a community board of directors.

In Henderson County, 55 percent of deaths are hospice patients. The national average is 23 percent.

When Thomas began working with the hospice, 35 percent of its patients were served by a 45-person staff. Today the staff includes 190 people at a seven-building campus in Flat Rock.

Thomas also served on the capital campaign fundraising committee for expanding the hospice's Elizabeth House in-patient facility.

"I have watched this grow from its 'teenage years' to full maturity," said Thomas. "There are so many more services now and we maintain a family atmosphere where every person is part of that family."

While hospice care is for terminally ill patients, about 230 non-terminal patients are currently enrolled in the hospice's palliative care program, which offers patients consultations and resources on managing their symptoms.

While many hospices are dealing with euthanasia issues, Thomas said faith plays a central role in determining what is considered to be extraordinary life support measures.

"We are very pro-life. While some hospice programs have promoted withholding nutrition and hydration, we see those as meeting ordinary needs," he said.

Thomas, an extraordinary minister of holy Communion at his parish, said there is a spiritual component to hospice care, and it has been a major factor in his involvement.

"When I first came here, you couldn't ask if a patient were Catholic. We now ask if they would like someone from their church to visit them," he said. "The staff then calls the churches and invites the pastors," he said.

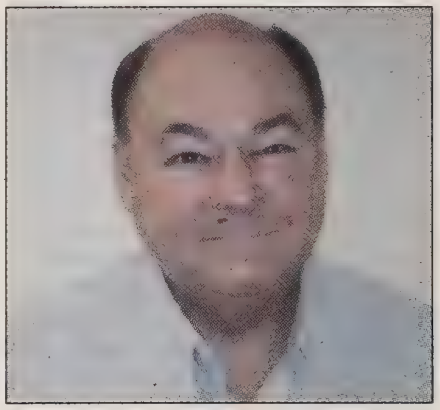


PHOTO BY KATHLEEN HEALY SCHMIEDER

Dr. Colin Thomas has served on the board of Four Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care in Flat Rock for six years. He steps down as board chairman in October.

The inclusion of spirituality is a vital factor for both patients and families when facing death, said Thomas.

For some people, he said, hospice care can seem threatening — it means death is coming. But in the Catholic faith, he said "death is our birthday" to eternal life.

"Saints' feast days are the days they died," noted Thomas. "Death should be a celebration, not a mourning."

Through hospice care, terminally ill patients can face death with dignity, he said.

"Most of us don't know when we can expect to die, but hospice patients have the window and we help them walk through it," said Thomas. "We can help allay the suffering of the last few months and make the occasion a blessed opportunity."

After stepping down as board chairman, Thomas will continue to serve in faith through his work at the Free Clinics and his involvement with the ministry of the sick at Immaculate Conception Church.

St. James Catholic Church, Concord
53rd Annual BBQ
Wednesday, October 3rd
139 Manor Ave., Concord
(off route 601/Warren G. Coleman Blvd.)
10 am – 7 pm
Dinner or 3 BBQ sandwiches - $7
Delivery service: 10 mile radius for 10 order minimum
Large take-out orders, please call ahead and we'll have it ready.
704-720-0600 or by fax: 704-720-0610
www.saintjamescatholic.com

To stand for unborn life

Life Chains to be held around Diocese of Charlotte

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHAROTTE — Catholics will once again be standing up for life across the Diocese of Charlotte and the United States.

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, with Respect Life Sunday falling on Oct. 7.

To help kick off the month and show their support for life, hundreds of parishes in dioceses around the country will be participating in Life Chains.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishioners will be standing along property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns. People will hold pro-life placards with messages such as "Abortion Kills Children" and "Jesus Forgives and Heals."

Pro-life individuals are welcome to participate in any of the gatherings.

The U.S. bishops inaugurated the Respect Life program with a resolution they adopted in the spring of 1972. The first of what the resolution called a "week of prayer and study dedicated to the sanctity of human life and the many threats to human life in our world" was held that October.

LIFE CHAINS in the DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

Participants should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled start time. Life Chains include:

BELMONT

Queen of Apostles Church, at N. Main St./N. Central Ave., 12:45-2 p.m.

CHARLOTTE

Our Lady of the Assumption Church, at Shamrock/Crestmont Dr., 1-2 p.m.

Our Lady of Consolation Church, at Statesville Rd./Dearborn Ave., 12 p.m.

St. Ann Church, at Park Rd./Hillside Ave., 2-3 p.m.

St. Gabriel Church, at Providence/Sharon Rds., 2-3 p.m.

St. John Neumann Church, at Idlewild/Valley Grove Rd., 1:30-2:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Church, at Ballantyne Commons Pkwy./Rea Rd., 2-3 p.m.

St. Patrick Cathedral, at Kings Dr./Morehead St., 2-3 p.m.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, at UNC-C on University City Blvd., 1-2 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Church, at Old Reid/Park Rds., 12:45 -1:45 p.m.

HUNTERSVILLE

St. Mark Church, at Stumptown/Ranson Rds., 2-3 p.m.

FRANKLIN

Meet in Big Bear Park, 2-3 p.m. Contact Julie Tastinger (828-421-2473).

GASTONIA

St. Michael Church, at Garrison Blvd./York, Chester Sts., 2-3 p.m.

GREENSBORO

Battleground Ave., 2:30-3:30 p.m. Contact David Foppe (336-510-4218).

KERNERSVILLE

Holy Cross Church, at S. Cherry St., 10-11 a.m.

MINT HILL

St. Luke Church, at 13700 Lawyers Rd., 12-1:30 p.m.

SALISBURY

Sacred Heart Church, at Innes/Main, 1-2 p.m.

SYLVA

Old Sylva Courthouse, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

WAXHAW

Designated areas along Rts. 16 and 75, 2-3 p.m. Contact Peggy Dvorak (704-843-3495)

WINSTON-SALEM

Hanes Mall Blvd. west of Stratford Rd., 2:30-3:30 p.m. Contact Donna Dyer (336-940-2558)

Classifieds

FOR SALE

HOME: Coastal NC. 2BR/2BA brick home on quiet cul-de-sac in popular coastal golf community near Calabash/Carolina Shores. Considering ALL offers! View at www.JanetteSchroeder.com or call (910)575-7788 for more information.

FOR RENT

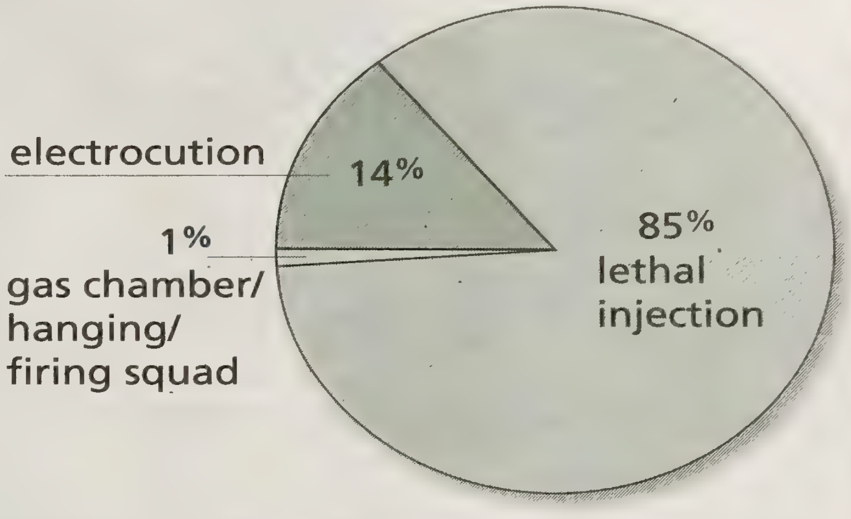
CONDO: OCEANFRONT on Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Great off-season rates: by the day, week or month. Consider a long weekend - close by getaway. Good swimming until October. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Supreme Court to consider constitutionality of lethal injection

Execution Methods

There have been 1,098 U.S. executions since 1976, the majority by lethal injection.



Source: Death Penalty Information Center

©2007 CNS

INJECTION, *from page 1*

> "Descriptions of the way we put people to death ... may convince a majority of the justices that the process is indeed cruel and unusual."
>
> — Frank McNeirney, Catholics Against Capital Punishment

on cruel and unusual punishment.

The case before the court directly involves only Kentucky death-row inmates Ralph Baze and Thomas Clyde Bowling Jr., but it could have far-reaching implications throughout the United States.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center, 928 of the nearly 1,100 U.S. executions since 1976 have been by lethal injection.

Father Pat Delahanty, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., who chairs the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, applauded the high court's decision in a statement and said it was ironic that the announcement was made on the same day that Baze was to have been executed.

The Kentucky Supreme Court had stayed the execution Sept. 12.

"The law certainly, but unfortunately, grants (Kentucky) Gov. (Ernie) Fletcher the power to kill Ralph Baze," Father Delahanty said in the Sept. 25 statement.

"We certainly hope this decision by the court would cause the governor to forgo the use of that power as long as any court proceedings are pending in a capital case," he said.

At issue is whether the three-drug cocktail used for lethal injections in Kentucky and other states violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

Opponents of the method say the combination of an anesthetic, a muscle paralyzer and a drug to stop the heart can cause unbearable pain that the inmates are not able to signal because of their paralysis.

Frank McNeirney, national coordinator of the Maryland-based Catholics Against Capital Punishment, said the Supreme Court action was good news since "it may mean a temporary halt in executions nationwide."

He said he hoped that "descriptions of the way we put people to death via lethal injection may convince a majority of the justices that the process is indeed cruel and unusual."

If the court were to disallow execution by lethal injection, "state lawmakers would then face the dilemma of coming up with an alternative procedure that would pass constitutional muster," McNeirney said.

"Many might throw up their hands and choose to replace the death penalty with sentences of life without parole," he added.

Coalition for change

The coalition Father Delahanty heads includes the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, the public policy arm of the state's bishops; Women and Men Religious Against the Death Penalty; social justice offices in the Kentucky dioceses of Covington and Owensboro and the Archdiocese of Louisville; the National Mercy Justice Center of the Sisters of Mercy; and a number of Catholic religious communities.

Through the Not in My Name Campaign, the coalition has gathered more than 3,700 signatures from Kentuckians asking the governor to commute Baze's sentence from death to life imprisonment.

"We recognize and abhor his crime, but we and most citizens of Kentucky are turning away from executions as an appropriate punishment," the petition says.

"We believe that execution is not only immoral, but it serves no deterrent or social purpose, is increasingly expensive and is irreversible. Mistakes cannot be corrected," it says.

Baze was sentenced to death for the 1992 shooting deaths of Powell County Sheriff Steve Bennett and Deputy Arthur Briscoe. Bowling was convicted of killing Edward and Tina Earley and wounding their 2-year-old son in 1990 outside their dry-cleaning business in Lexington, Ky.

"The right thing for the governor to do now is heed the voices of Kentuckians and go ahead and sentence Baze to prison, rather than kill him," Father Delahanty said. "This would allow all involved to move on with their lives."

Restoration House
704-291-7945

"Come all who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Restoration House is a place for people to reflect, relax, and find peace in the scenic North Carolina mountains. It is a log cabin with beautiful views located off I-40 near Marion, NC — 90 minutes from Charlotte and 40 minutes east of Asheville. It is far from cell phones, email, and the hurried pace of daily living — perfect for restoring the mind, body and spirit. Restoration House is ideal for rental to small groups (small faith groups, women's groups, music groups, etc.) at $160 for an entire group per night. It is also available for rental to individuals and couples. Create your own get-a-away...or attend one of our planned retreats listed below.

Upcoming Facilitated Catholic Retreats for Adults:

October 12-14	**Women/Men:** "Growing Closer to God in the Midst of Personal Trials" with a video, inspirational speaker, and a Bible study on Job. — $150
October 26-28	**Women/Men:** "Wisdom for Living" shares valuable insights through Bible studies on proverbs and parables. — $150
November 9-11	**Couples or a Spouse Alone:** "Finding Christ in Your Marriage" uses a Bible study to look at what the Scriptures say about marriage. — $150 or $225 couple
December 7-9	**Women:** "Experiencing a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas" includes both reflective and festive activities — a great seasonal celebration. — $150

Rate includes 2 nights of lodging, a facilitated program by Tom and/or Amy Barsanti, (members of St. Luke Church, Mint Hill), workshop materials, and meals. Retreats begin Friday evening and end mid-day Sunday. Call Tom for more details: 704-291-7945.

Join Other Catholics on an...

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

Join other Catholics and depart (your choice) May 11 or June 22, 2008 on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL's ms Statendam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only $1848 (per person, double occupancy) (add $150 for the June 22 departure). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, lots of motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Enjoy springtime on the May 11 departure or longer daylight hours departing June 22. Add $600 for round-trip airfare from Charlotte.

$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure, Call 7 Days a Week:

***'YOUR MAN'* TOURS 1-800-968-7626**

Perspectives

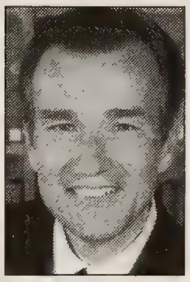
A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Exploring the faith and doubts of Mother Teresa

Nun's experiences similar to those of many believers

Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST



Mother Teresa's now widely reported crisis of faith seems decidedly unfair. If someone as pious and prayerful as the late "saint of the gutters" is unable to tangibly feel the presence of Christ, what hope is there for the rest of us?

As thoughtfully outlined in an article by David VanBiema in Time magazine, Mother Teresa in letters to her confessors over a period of six decades or more reported that she could not feel the love of Christ and that there was only "silence and the emptiness."

This was so even as, in publicly accepting the Nobel Prize and other awards, she often reminded our troubled world that the "radiating joy [of Christ] is real... because we have Christ with us — Christ in our hearts, Christ in the poor that we meet, Christ in the smile that we give and in the smile that we receive."

Given her simultaneous interior anxiety, her public statements now seem hypocritical in the extreme. Not that we aren't familiar with this routine.

It is, if we are honest, often our own practice.

Of course, it's one thing to associate moral duplicity with sinners; it's another to have proof of it from a woman whose essence seemed the saintly denial of self.

The theological explanations being given for the two sides of Mother Teresa now pose their own test of faith. Much of what is being said has the distinct air of post-hoc rationalization.

We're told the darkness of soul that Mother Teresa encountered was a manifestation of Christ's extraordinary love for her. The God-made-man was sharing what he could only share with his closest of confidants: namely, his own darkest moment when he thought his Father had forsaken him on the cross.

Mother Teresa's discomfort, and at its lowest point even her questioning of God's existence itself, gives an opening to atheists who are only too happy to portray the divine's interaction with man as a version of "heads, Christ wins; tails, we lose."

Christopher Hitchens, for example, whose best-selling book "God Is Not Great" can be heard saying, "See, I told you so — religion is just so much hooey."

Closely behind the disbelievers are the worshipers of the Enlightenment who attribute all of Mother Teresa's angst to a conflicted subconscious. Mother Teresa sought humility and the denial of worldly goods, they say, only to receive fame and big bucks, so she needed some way to mentally balance one against the other.

Putting aside those either predisposed to deny faith or worship at the altar of science without ever grasping how science has become for them its own god, Mother Teresa's experience does sit uneasily with the Catholic understanding of the continuing strength and presence of the Holy Spirit and the scriptural assurance that taking up the yoke of Christ is not heavy.

If we are candid, Mother Teresa's suffering and nagging doubts demand answer because if we actually try to emulate her great love, we don't want to be taken for suckers.

Of course, that's it, isn't it? Love is all about vulnerability, not certainty. Love is dependence, not autonomy. Love is giving without expectation of recompense.

The church may have overridden Mother Teresa's desire to keep these letters confidential to remind us that God never promised to explain himself by man's reasoning. Quite the contrary, Christ said he came to overturn the old order.

Mother Teresa was his instrument, and the fact that her joy in serving as such was less than what she expected or dearly wanted is but a reminder that in this place of exile we are still well short of heaven, or as Thomas More yearned of "seeing God in the face."

Neither the heroic charity of Mother Teresa nor our far less notable actions can make it otherwise. Only by Christ's grace are we saved.

A point, it seems, that Christ teaches in his own way to the most noble and the least deserving alike.

Will the true athletes come forward?

Inordinate lust for power, glory is behind sports scandals

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK
CNS COLUMNIST

"It is not who wins the game, but how the game is played." This used to be a revered motto in the world of sports.

Recent scandals have sports fans wondering what makes a true athlete and whether they know how to play the game. Take, for example, this year's Tour de France that was labeled the Tour de Mort, the Death of the Tour, because of several cyclists who failed drug testing.

And then there are loyal baseball fans who refuse to accept Barry Bonds' record-breaking homer because of accusations of steroid use. More disturbing than this are millionaire athletes in trouble with the law because of irresponsible, bizarre behavior.

Even though elegant stadiums are being erected, records are being smashed and awesome feats are being performed, a new breed of cynicism is plaguing the world of sports. Many fans are wondering aloud why its standards have plummeted.

In my lifetime, I have competed in a number of sports, all of which thrived on power. Power is essential to athletics. When it is possessed to a high degree, it makes a conqueror of you, allowing you to bask in the light of admiring fans.

On the other hand, power creates an insatiable appetite for more power.

A million-dollar business that has been built on this appetite is the marketing of energy drinks and bars guaranteed to generate greater strength and stamina.

The well-known theologian and world observer Romano Guardini once wrote that the biggest problem facing the postmodern world is not a lack of power but how to control it.

We live in an era that has more power than ever at its disposal. This has heightened an even greater appetite for it.

When we can hit a golf ball 290 yards, why not desire a technologically advanced driver that hits it 300 yards?

It is no exaggeration to say that the appetite for power will not stop growing. The downside to this is that there are people willing to do anything to win.

This inordinate lust for power and glory, whether it is for physical or financial power, is ultimately behind the scandals that threaten the demise of the sports world.

Fortunately, there are many great athletes who are esteemed because they not only have talent, they can control their appetite for power as well. They are the good crop of athletes in the world of sports who have to live side-by-side with the weeds — athletes acting like irresponsible children.

The sports world now faces a harvest time which, as Christ taught, is a time to separate the weeds from the good grain.

Letter to the Editor

Gratitude for addressing social issues

To commemorate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 4, I would like to thank The Catholic News & Herald for its recent attention to environmental justice issues.

Catholic social teaching includes the specific theme of "the care for God's creation." We are called to be good stewards of this earth and good neighbors to our fellow human beings.

Please continue to make us more aware of our personal responsibility in carrying out this calling and to inform us what the pope and bishops are teaching us and asking us to do in the area of social justice.

— Linda Yutzy
Dysartsville, N.C.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or fewer, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

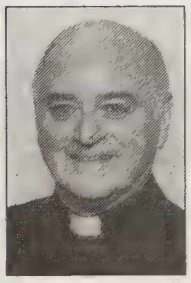
The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letters or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Intelligent design

Deliberate inadvertence is sin by which angels fell

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST

The universe cries out to us all the time, telling us about the supreme intelligence behind it.

Did you know that the umbrella bamboo flowers on the same day once every 100 years? This happens all over the world, be it in a field in China or in a greenhouse in Chicago.

Doesn't that amaze you? A hidden intelligence does exist and is responsible for the entire universe.

Why do some people deny the idea of a divine Creator?. Albert Einstein, arguably the greatest scientist that ever lived, readily conceded the necessity of an intelligent design behind the visible universe.

He said that when he looked up at the sky at night he felt like a little boy in a huge library. He knew instinctively that the wonders of the sky above didn't simply appear out of nowhere.

If you said that the Library of Congress had no cause, it just appeared one day after a huge windstorm, could anyone take you to be serious? The problem with non-believers is that they are in denial about a matter that is vitally important to their own futures.

Everything we see in nature screams out to us that there is a divine being behind it. Teilhard de Chardin put it more poetically:

"By means of all created things, without exception, the divine assails us, penetrates us, molds us. We imagine the divine as distant, inaccessible, whereas in fact we live steeped in its burning layers."

The poet Catherine de Vinck wrote about all the umbrella bamboo trees that bud on the same day once every 100 years.

"How do they count the years? Do the buried roots know the code; do they telegraph the exact date through what layers of earth, what conduits of stone? Something soft, flexible, a gauzy net flung over the world, or is it a strict mathematician mapping diagrams, the line drawn straight toward infinity. ...

"Something else is at work, something beyond definitions, beyond visibility, something outside of cold calculations. ... No way to cross over, says the clock, but on the other side of probability the bamboo pushes through centuries of sleep the cathedral of its flowers."

People of faith know that something doesn't come from nothing. Whereas, those who have no faith feebly protest:

"Why do we need a first cause? If the universe always was, and there is support for the theory that the universe had no beginning, then why do we need to believe there is intelligent design behind everything?"

How facile, how dumb! Their "deliberate inadvertence" blinds them. They are predisposed to say, "I will not believe," no matter what! So be it!

Deliberate inadvertence is the sin by which the angels fell. They knew that God created them and still they remained hell-bent on saying, "I will not serve."

Life is short; eternity is forever. Don't imitate the fallen angels.

Breaking down those artificial lines

Celebrating cultural differences and commonalities is essential

Coming of Age

KAREN OSBORNE
CNS COLUMNIST

When I started high school, I was excited to see that the curriculum in Spanish class had us learning about the culture of Spain and Latin America.

After all, I'd just spent the summer in Colombia, eating, talking, and living the way Colombians did. I had a lot to share.

During my first week of travel, I felt like an outsider. What could I possibly have in common with people from a country halfway across the world — a country with an adversarial relationship to my own?

One day, my hosts took me to a basketball game at a Medellin high school, where one girl offered me a slice of mango and asked me about high school life in the United States: Did we have school dances? Exams? Hall monitors? Did everyone in the U.S. really have two cars? Did I have a boyfriend?

She helped me to see that although we came from two very different cultures, we still shared a lot in common. All we had to do was break down the artificial lines between us.

That afternoon, we weren't "American" and "Colombian" but two girls sharing snacks and giggling about boys.

It saddens me that such things don't happen more often.

Despite the advances of the past 50 years regarding equality and civil liberties, many American schools are still segregated either by class or by choice. The law used to separate lunchrooms; now black, white, Latino and Asian students often choose separate tables of their own volition.

If we want to move towards being a truly tolerant and diverse society, what's going on?

Is diversity simply recognizing that there are other cultures and ways of life outside the ones in which one lives, or is there more to it?

Drawing artificial lines between groups of human beings is nothing new. Throughout history humanity seems to have had a tendency to divide between "us" and "them." Romans versus barbarians. Catholics versus Protestants. Blacks versus whites.

In one of his letters, the apostle Paul tells the early Christians that there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free, woman and man — that all, in fact, are equal "in the sight of God." That was a revolutionary idea in a world that was as divided as we are today.

These days, the writings of Paul and other peacemakers such as Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Pope John Paul II are merciless in their criticism of those artificial dichotomies, and many teens are still raised on their lessons.

Why then did I walk into my college cafeteria to see students of different races seated at different tables? Why did I feel so much trepidation when I walked into that gymnasium in Medellin?

I think we need to not only strive for simple tolerance for different backgrounds and opinions, but to actively try to see others as worth something because of their innate humanity, not how much money they have, where they grew up or the color of their skin.

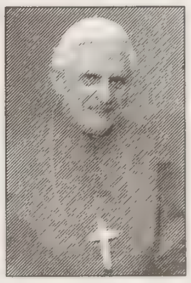
We need to celebrate our cultural differences, but never lose sight of the commonalities that make us all human. This begins at an individual level, with people willing to look beyond a different religion or political philosophy to see someone who loves and strives just like ourselves.

I believe that committing to active tolerance on a personal level is the first step in creating a truly equal society.

Why not try offering a mango — or a seat at your lunch table — to someone different? Perhaps we can work to make Paul's revolutionary vision a reality.

Poverty must be tackled by overhauling social structures, pope says

The Pope Speaks



POPE BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Handouts to the poor are not enough; poverty must be tackled by overhauling social structures that deny people basic human rights, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

"It is not enough to give alms and help the poor on a case-by-case basis," he said, citing the teachings of St. John Chrysostom.

The saint saw that a new structure, based on the Christian vision of the human family, is needed, the pope said.

Pope Benedict returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa south of Rome for his Sept. 26 audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope continued a catechesis he began Sept. 19 that focused on the life and writings of St. John Chrysostom, the fourth-century doctor of the church and archbishop of Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we continue our reflections on St. John Chrysostom. In 397, when he became bishop of Constantinople, he set an example to the people of the city by his simplicity of life and his constant concern for the poor.

He did not hesitate to speak out against corrupt or pagan practices, even in the Imperial Court, and for this he was sent into exile.

In his teaching, he showed how our wonder at the beauty of creation should lead us to give glory to the Creator.

Yet God is also a tender father, a healer of souls and an affectionate friend. The Creator of the universe loved us so much that he did not spare his only Son.

The Holy Spirit also features prominently in St. John's writings — the life-force that transforms the world and gives wings to those Christians who are docile to the Spirit's promptings.

This authoritative teaching earned St. John Chrysostom the title of a second St. Paul, Teacher of the Universe.

The exiled bishop continued until his death to proclaim the infinite love of God, who wants all to be saved. With his last breath he spoke of the ultimate end of human life — the glory of God.

Let us learn from St. John's example to love Christ in the poor and to bear faithful witness to the truth of the Gospel.

A final look at the third diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charlotte

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Father Leo Patalinghug performs one of his signature break-dancing moves during the program for high school students at the Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22.

Space is limited! Call NOW for your winter cruise to the sun !

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31 - February 11, 2008

Join Fr. Mo West and cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, porterage and all port charges! Optional: Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

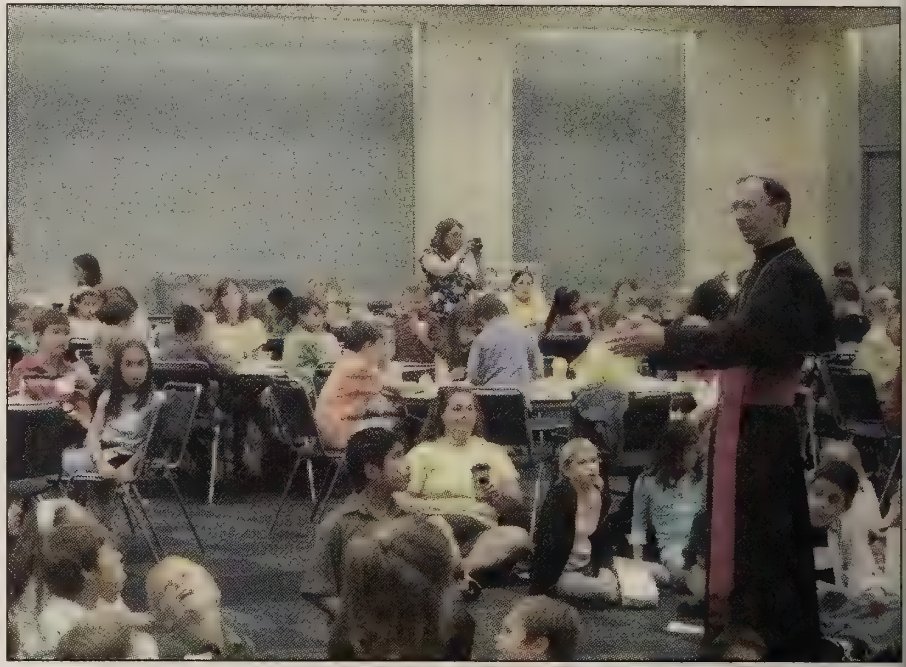


PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis asks faith-related questions of children attending the Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Sister Mary Lucy and Sister John Thomas, members of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, prepare to judge a trivia competition during the program for middle schoolers at the Eucharistic Congress Sept. 22.

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Bishop Jugis lends a volunteer a hand by helping move a table during the Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center Sept. 22.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 5, 2007
SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
VOLUME 16 Nº 42

Perspectives
Effie Caldarola sees bigger picture due to vanity plate; Father Hemrick reveals way to make church inspiring

| PAGES 14-15

Golden Mercy

School celebrates 50th anniversary

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM — In 1954, Our Lady of Mercy Church was established in response to an influx of Catholics relocating from the north. In May 1957, the church was dedicated and in the fall, Our Lady of Mercy School opened its doors to a small student body in Winston-Salem.

Last month, students, parents, current and former faculty members and pastors gathered to celebrate the school's 50-year history. The celebration included a morning Mass for the student body and a cake and ice cream party in the afternoon Sept. 19.

On Sept. 22, about 250 people attended a parish

See SCHOOL, page 8

Rejoicing in the house of the Lord

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

As Bishop Peter J. Jugis and parishioners watch, Bernie Humphries (center) and Marty Scheveling cut the ribbon before the dedication Mass of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville Sept. 30.

Bishop Jugis dedicates new St. John the Evangelist Church

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

WAYNESVILLE — The dedication Mass began as Bishop Peter J. Jugis greeted parishioners in the old church.

Led by fourth-degree Knights of Columbus from Great Smoky Mountain Assembly 3001, Bishop Jugis and the entire assembly then processed, singing, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122), through the grounds to the new St. John the Evangelist Church Sept. 30.

There, parishioner Steve Bernardi, a parish construction coordinator, gave the bishop the dedication documents and the church key. Marty Scheveling and Bernie Humphries, volunteer project

See CHURCH, page 9

Respect Life Month

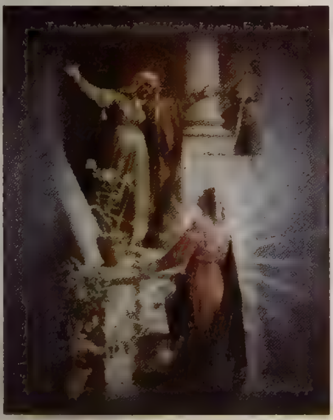


PHOTO BY CNS

This artwork is part of the materials for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities 2007-08 Respect Life program, which has as its theme "The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy."

See story page 12.

Service with a smile

Youths collect, donate clothes to needy in community

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The youths were smiling, waving at passersby; some were dancing.

And they were holding signs in both English and Spanish announcing their free clothing giveaway.

More than two dozen youths gave away donated clothes and other items to those in need outside Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Sept. 29.

"We want to make a difference," said Demondel Hood, 16. "When they see us out here, sharing God's love, they respond, they smile."

"It's time we gave back and made a difference," said Jacqueline Scott, 15. "The

See CLOTHES, page 5

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Youths dance while holding signs announcing a free clothing giveaway outside Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte Sept. 29.

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
#*

Catholic Social Services
OEO wins award; refugee volunteer work recognized

| PAGE 4

Culture Watch
Monitor reveals Darfur tragedy; priest inspires film

| PAGES 10-11

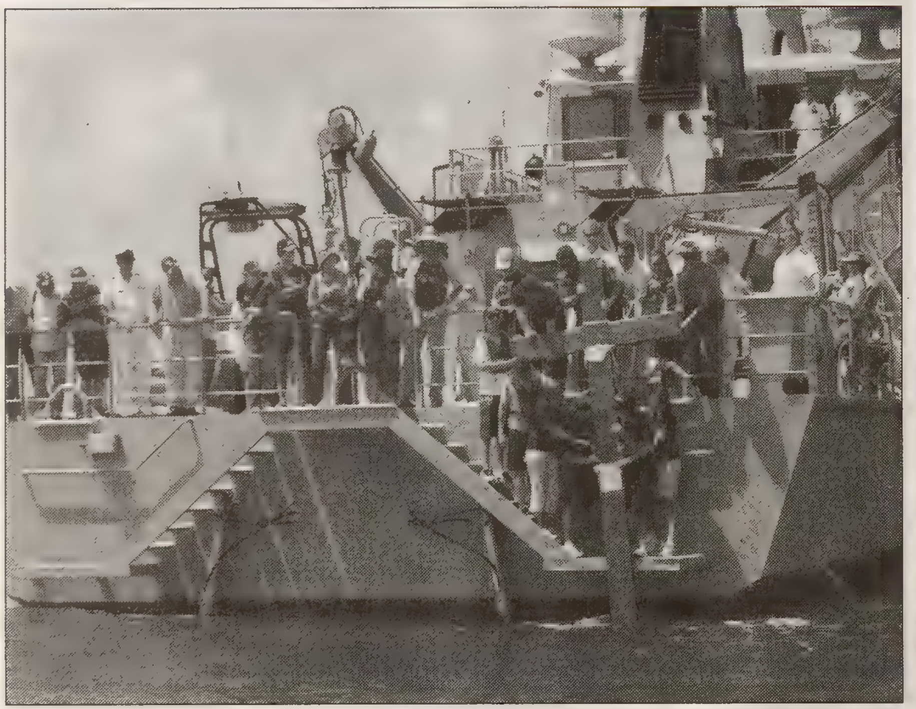
Heavenly bodies
Top astronomers attend Vatican conference

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FROM THE DEPTHS OF GOD'S LOVE



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Young Catholics dip the World Youth Day cross into the sea at the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Cairns, Australia, Sept. 22. The pilgrim cross, entrusted to the youths of the world by Pope John Paul II, has been carried more than 7,440 miles across Australia ahead of World Youth Day 2008.

Patrol boat becomes open-air chapel for World Youth Day pilgrims

CAIRNS, Australia (CNS) — The navy patrol boat HMAS Broome took a break from security operations along Australia's northern border to transport the World Youth Day cross, icon and aboriginal message stick to the aqua blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

The trip fulfilled another milestone in the epic journey that is taking the symbols around the Australian continent for a year before World Youth Day, July 15-20, in Sydney.

Anchored off Fitzroy Island, nearly 14 miles east of Cairns in the Coral Sea, the HMAS Broome became a rocking open-air chapel for a prayer service Sept. 22.

Deacon Matt Ransom, officiating for the Cairns Diocese, began the service quoting the Book of Genesis about God creating the waters teeming with swarms of living creatures.

Deacon Ransom said the Book of Genesis could be describing the abundance of life forms on the Great Barrier Reef and in its surrounding waters.

"People who spend even a few hours exploring the reef become conservationists for life," he said, noting that warming sea temperatures and climate change posed the greatest threat to the reef's biodiversity.

Deacon Ransom told the gathered pilgrims that since the World Youth Day cross had been brought to Cairns, he had witnessed "the depths of God's forgiving love" and its effects on the local people.

"I have seen people touching the cross and afterward they are glowing, their pain is gone. As humans, if we do not turn to the cross to take our pain, then we take it out on our environment," he said.

He led the group in a prayer for "an ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the earth."

At the service, army Lt. Ivan Yau offered a prayer for God's blessing on men and women serving in the armed forces.

"By your powerful spirit shield them from all harm. Uphold them in good times and bad ... and hasten the day when the human family will rejoice in lasting peace," he said.

Representing Australia's indigenous people at the service was 16-year-old Kim Reys, a member of the Yidinji clan, whose members traditionally have lived in the area from the southern plateaus outside Cairns to the reefs of the Coral Sea.

Reys held in her hands the message stick made by Sydney's Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. A message stick is a traditional form of greeting used by one indigenous people when entering another people's country.

The World Youth Day stick, decorated in totems of the whale, eagle and footprints, extends an invitation for all indigenous Catholics to come to World Youth Day in Sydney.

Reys said she will be going to World Youth Day with other pilgrims from the Cairns Diocese because "as an indigenous young person I want to feel the spirit and meet up with other indigenous people. It's something I'm really looking forward to."

U.S. religious leaders meet with Iran's president, stress diplomacy

NEW YORK (CNS) — U.S. religious leaders are "deeply concerned about the prospect of war with Iran," said a professor from a Catholic college who was part of an interfaith delegation that met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Sept. 26 in New York.

But Joseph Fahey, professor of religious studies at Manhattan College in Riverdale, said he left the meeting feeling hopeful because of statements Ahmadinejad made about the "renunciation of war and the quest for peace."

"This meeting was an attempt to build bridges with Iran despite the generally hostile reception President Ahmadinejad received here in New York City," Fahey said in a statement issued after the meeting.

"We strongly believe that only through formal and informal diplomacy and respect for international law can there be peace between Iran and the U.S.," he said.

Protests greeted Ahmadinejad while he was in New York to address the U.N. Security Council Sept. 25. He spoke to an audience at Columbia University the same day. The Iranian president has been criticized for questioning whether the Holocaust and the extermination of 6 million Jews during World War II ever happened. He also has said Israel should not exist.

In addition, his country's nuclear program has brought the threat of sanctions from the U.S., France and other countries who say Iran is enriching uranium for nuclear weapons, but Iranian officials say the program's goal is to produce energy. In his U.N. remarks Ahmadinejad said the nuclear issue is closed.

The interfaith delegation had an hourlong meeting with the Iranian leader. The religious group -- made up of more than 100 faith representatives, including Catholics, United Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Unitarians — stressed the need for diplomacy to prevent war.

Diocesan planner

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A *Public Square Rosary* in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Blessed Virgin Mary's apparitions in Fatima will take place on Oct. 13 at 12 p.m. at 2 South Pack Square. The rosary will be prayed for peace, reparation of sins and the return to the church of all those who have abandoned their faith. Free parking is to the right (south) of the City Hall: enter fenced lot from Eagle Street. For more information, call Lisena Maria Moss at (828) 254-4526 or e-mail jemoss@charter.net.

ASHEVILLE — A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortive Women and Men* will take place in the Asheville area Nov. 2-4. For more information, call the diocesan Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229 or e-mail mnadol@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *Pro-Life Prayer Vigil* will take place through Nov. 4. It will be a 40- day/24-hour peaceful prayer vigil in front of an abortion center with pro-life participants of many denominations. For more infor, e-mail Diane Hoefling at rhoef541@aol.com, call (704) 541-3760 or visit www.40daysforlife.com.

CHARLOTTE — *An Immigration Reform Workshop* will be held in Biss Hall of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 9, 7-8:30 p.m. The issue of immigration and migration has been called the "central narrative of our faith today." An immigration panel will present and discuss the issue as is affects our lives and the lives of our neighbors. For more information, please call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — *"Bereavement and Grief — Helping Seniors Cope"* will be presented at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Oct. 18, 7-8:30 p.m. Loss is difficult at any age, but what happens when the losses keep piling up? Is there such a thing as grief overload? Larry Dawalt of Hospice and Palliative Care will speak about the variety of losses seniors experience, coping mechanisms and the importance of treating senior survivors with grace and dignity. For more information, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — *"Understanding Your Late-Life Choices"* will be presented in the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Wednesdays, Oct. 24-Nov. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Bill Clayton, attorney, will present *"Protecting Your Assets"* Oct. 24. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are appreciated. RSVP to the church office at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will present *"The Acts of the Apostles"* Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., through Nov. 14. This study program will include individual study, small-group discussions and taped lectures. For registration and more information, call Mary at (704) 948-8285 or Angela at (704) 400-8517.

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with *"Lunchtime Spirituality"* at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. The topic for Oct. 18 will be "The Jesus Prayer." For more information, call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — The *Semi-Annual Rosary Rally* will be held Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East. This 33-year-old diocesan tradition will include the Holy Rosary, a

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

OCTOBER 5, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 42

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Too much medical technology can hurt patients, says Vatican official

ROME (CNS) — While progress in medicine and technology holds great promise for humanity, relying too heavily on biomedical technology runs the risk of hurting the very people meant to be helped, said a Vatican official.

Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, head of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said state-of-the-art equipment, medical procedures and medicines "are only part of the health care system, and undue insistence on their capabilities" may place more emphasis on meeting the demands of health care providers than on the needs of the patients.

The cardinal made his comments during a Sept. 28 conference on "Health, Technology and the Common Good."

The conference, which drew scholars and experts from the field of health care, genetics and pharmaceutical industries, was sponsored by the conservative U.S. think tank the Acton Institute and had the support of the Vatican health care council.

Cardinal Lozano said the ultimate goal of all technology must be that it is used for the good of all people, and he warned that "everything technologically possible need not be ethically permissible."

Even though scientific developments can appear to be "the most advanced and the most marvelous" ever seen, "technology in itself is blind" and can be used to either destroy or edify human life, he said.

Ethical guidelines are needed to establish "rules of behavior in the area of health and life," he said.

The cardinal criticized a new "paradigm shift" in ethical definitions being furthered by certain international, national and grass-roots groups, including the United Nations and its World Health Organization.

He said the World Health Organization's value-based Health for All framework establishes rights only "for the person, not for the human being."

Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. For more information, call Tina at (704) 846-7361.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A public Catholic conference, *"The Ingersoll Symposium: American Ideas of Liberty and Virtue: Political, Religious and Philosophical Dimensions,"* will take at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd., Oct. 19-20. Eight speakers will participate, including Peter Augustine Lawler, Ph.D., dana professor of government at Berry College, Ga., who will speak Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Dr. Robert Preston at (704) 829-7231, e-mail RobertPreston@bac.edu or visit www.bradleyinstitute.org.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church 2210 N. Elm St. will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Blessed Virgin Mary's apparition at Fatima, Portugal with a *"living rosary"* Oct. 13 at 12 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681.

GREENSBORO — A *Catholic Charismatic Renewal Celebration and Mass* will be celebrated at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 20, 1-3 p.m. The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Andy Latsko of Maryfield Nursing Home. Music will be by Freeway. Prayers for healing will be available after the Mass. For more information, call Melissa Miller at (336) 274-6520.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOCKSVILLE — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd., will hold a parish mission, *"Living Our Faith With Joy,"* Oct. 13-17 at 7 p.m. Franciscan Father Roderic Petrie will preach at Masses Oct. 13-14. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered Oct. 16. For more information, call Gayle O'Grady at (336) 751-2117.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Renew International's *"Why Catholic?"* program will be presented at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr., Oct. 8-Nov. 26. Small, informal groups will focus on the Apostles' Creed — what we believe regarding the public life of Jesus, his death and resurrection; the Holy Spirit and the church; Mary, mother of Christ; and life everlasting. Inactive Catholics and anyone inquiring about the Catholic faith are also encouraged to share this journey. Morning, afternoon and evening groups are available. For more information, call Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968.

SYLVA — St. Mary, Mother of God, Church, 22 Bartlett St., will present *"The Autumn of Our Lives"* led by Father Walter Williams Oct. 13, beginning with Mass at 9 a.m., followed by a light breakfast. Father Williams will provide scriptural-based teachings that will motivate and prepare us for this time of our lives. We will end with a noon luncheon. People over 40 are invited to attend. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series,* 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. David Harold will present "Decalogue for Peace" Oct. 10. Jim Day will present "Christian Paradox" Oct. 17. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 8 — 6 p.m.
Red Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

Oct. 11 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Winston-Salem

Oct. 12 — 12 p.m.
Pontifical visit of Catholicos Karekin II, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church
Duke Mansion, Charlotte

Oct. 13 — 6 p.m.
Deacon's retreat dinner
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

In message to Muslims, cardinal touches on violence, terrorism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message to the Muslim world, a leading Vatican official denounced terrorism and all violence committed in the name of religion. The message also took aim at religious discrimination, saying the rights of all believers must be protected during the "troubled times we are passing through."

The text, released by the Vatican Sept. 28, marked the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of prayer and fasting that concludes in mid-October. It was written by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who took over as head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue earlier this year.

Christians and Muslims, the cardinal said, need to intensify their dialogue so that younger generations "do not become cultural or religious blocs opposed to each other."

Cardinal Tauran began and ended his message by expressing the church's "warmest greetings" to the Islamic world. But the text touched on a number of sensitive issues, especially those of religious liberty, violence and terrorism.

All believers should do everything they can to "reject, denounce and refuse every recourse to violence, which can never be motivated by religion, since it wounds the very image of God in man," the cardinal said.

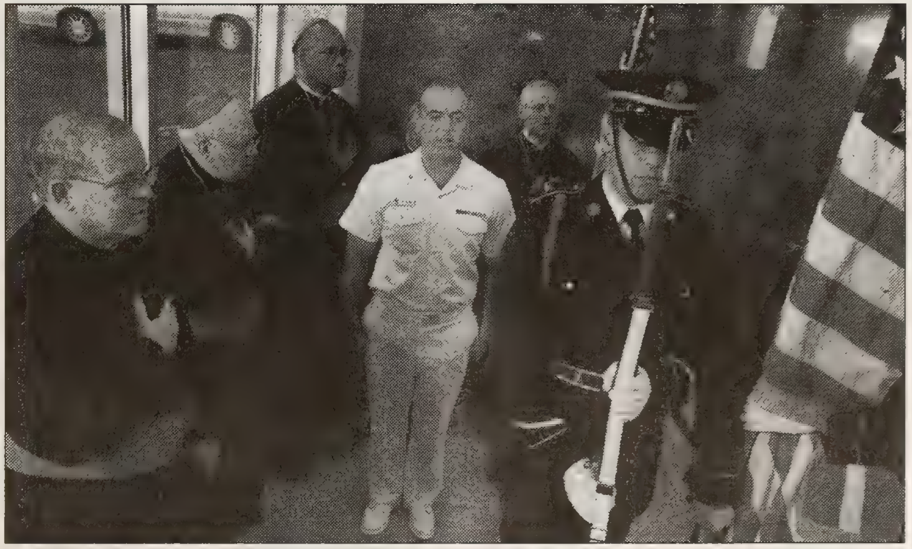
"We know that violence, especially terrorism which strikes blindly and claims countless innocent victims, is incapable of resolving conflicts and leads only to a deadly chain of destructive hatred, to the detriment of mankind and of societies," he said.

Cardinal Tauran said believers have a duty to work in favor of peace by showing respect for the convictions of individuals and communities everywhere. That is accomplished first of all by respecting the freedom of religious practice, which is more than freedom of worship, he said.

Cardinal Tauran did not name specific places or countries, but his message appeared aimed at predominantly Muslim countries that have enacted strict forms of Islamic law, often weakening the rights of the Christian minority.

He said it was important to intensify Christian-Muslim dialogue, which has an educational and cultural impact.

'A lasting monument'



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

Msgr. James Gillen, Auxiliary Bishop Francisco Gonzalez of Washington, Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of Washington, Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va. (not fully visible), and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington pledge allegiance to the flag at the dedication of the new headquarters of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services in Washington Sept. 26. Mike Webb of Reston, Va., a soloist with the U.S. Navy's Sea Chanters chorus, is also pictured.

In one of his last acts as head of the U.S. military archdiocese, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien blessed and dedicated the building that he hopes will be "a lasting monument" to the service and sacrifices of American military personnel and the chaplains who minister to them.

The archdiocese coordinates the spiritual care of nearly 1.5 million Catholics around the world, including active-duty and reserve military personnel and National Guard members, their families, U.S. government workers overseas and residents of Veterans Affairs hospitals.

U.S. Sikhs attend third dialogue with Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The conversation between U.S. Catholics and Sikhs continued in Washington Sept. 28-Oct. 1 as about a dozen members of each faith engaged in the third dialogue between the two denominations.

From the dialogues the Sikh participants learn about what the two faiths have in common.

"Both faiths are looking out for the welfare of mankind," said Kavneet Singh.

Both Sikhs and Catholics, he added, share the view that there is just one God.

The concept of a single God would be seen by Sikhs as more expansive than the Abrahamic concept of God, according to Manohar Singh, 71, who was born in the Punjab region of India, considered the cradle of Sikhism.

Manohar Singh — no relation to Kavneet — said Sikhs consider God to be "a mother, a father, brother, sister, even as a friend — any kind of relationship that you have here" on earth.

Strengthening families

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Larry Snyder (far left), president of Catholic Charities USA; and Janet Valente Pape (far right), chairwoman of the Catholic Charities USA board, present the Family Strengthening Award to (from left) Netta McFadden, OEO Far West Families First coordinator; Claudie Burchfield, OEO program director; and Joseph Purello, director of CSS' Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte at the annual Catholic Charities USA convention in Cincinnati Sept. 15.

Office of Economic Opportunity receives Catholic Charities USA award

CINCINNATI — Members of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte recently accepted a national award from Catholic Charities USA.

The Family Strengthening Award was presented to the diocesan Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy at the annual Catholic Charities USA convention in Cincinnati Sept. 15.

Accepting for the OEO were Netta McFaddin, OEO Far West Families First coordinator; Claudie Burchfield, OEO program director; and Joseph Purello, director of Catholic Social Services' Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Established in 1999 by the Office of Justice and Peace, the OEO serves the far-western North Carolina counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain.

The OEO is one of four programs Catholic Charities USA picked for the 2007 Family Strengthening Award, chosen from submissions from local Catholic Charities USA agencies across the country.

The award includes a $25,000 grant that will be used for the ministries provided by the OEO. Programs include Far West Families First, which matches struggling families with ecumenical faith teams who provide support and encouragement to help the families reach financial goals.

The OEO's goal "is to help families develop the skills needed to make better choices for building a more secure future," said Burchfield.

The OEO dedicated a new financial literacy computer lab Sept. 7.

"The Office of Economic Opportunity is one of the brightest stars in a constellation of outstanding Catholic Charities programs working to strengthen families," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, who presented the award along with Janet Valente Pape, chairwoman of the Catholic Charities USA board.

The Alexandria, Va.-based Catholic Charities USA is a national association of more than 1,500 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions that serve more than 7.4 million people a year.

The Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, a national charity watchdog group, recently gave its seal of approval to Catholic Charities USA, recognizing that it meets all standards for charity accountability.

Catholic Charities USA also was named earlier in 2007 as the eighth most fiscally responsible charity in the nation by Charity Navigator, which describes itself as "America's premier independent charity evaluator."

8TH ANNUAL KENNEDY LECTURE
OCTOBER 20, 2007, 9 AM-12:30 PM
"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
THE CHALLENGE OF SOLIDARITY"
by
M. SHAWN COPELAND, PHD.
Associate Professor, Boston College
St. Peter's Catholic Church
507 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, N.C.
Admission is free, but please phone to reserve your place. 704-332-2901, ext. 12.
www.stpeterscatholic.org for more information

Volunteer recognized for work with Charlotte-area refugees

ATLANTIC BEACH, N.C. — Bill Lamay, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, was recently recognized for his volunteer efforts with refugee resettlement in Charlotte.

The North Carolina State Refugee Office, an agency of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, honored Lamay as an "Outstanding Volunteer" for his work with Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte's Refugee Resettlement Office.

The award was presented during the North Carolina Refugee Conference, themed "Voyage of Discovery," in Atlantic Beach, N.C., Aug. 26-29.

The conference, held every two years for refugee resettlement agencies and ancillary agencies, offered workshops on refugee employment and health issues, English language training and other refugee-specific topics.

Lamay, 64, who recently retired from the Mecklenburg County Fire Department, serves as a Catholic Social Services board member and assists the CSS Refugee Resettlement Office in a number of capacities.

He divides his 35 volunteer hours per month between tutoring two Russian families in English, helping to set up apartments for new refugee arrivals, speaking on behalf of the Refugee Resettlement Office at special events, and being the "go-to" person when critical situations arise.

"Bill is never too busy to help. He's always ready to rearrange his schedule to accommodate a special need and is like a magnet for drawing other people in to help," said Cira Ponce, diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office director.

The Refugee Resettlement Office also recognized Southern Staircase as "Outstanding Employer." The company employed 30 Montagnard refugees.

"With the assistance of Catholic Social Services, our refugee workforce has raised the bar on what we have come to expect from our team members," said Joe Brienza, Southern Staircase's Charlotte branch manager.

Brienza, a parishioner of St. Matthew Church, is a member of the Refugee Resettlement Office's employment advisory council.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bill Lamay accepts his Outstanding Volunteer award from Marlene Myers, state refugee coordinator with the N.C. State Refugee Office, during the N.C. Refugee Conference in Atlantic Beach, N.C., Aug. 26-29.

What's The Road Like Ahead?

The road we have to travel is different for each of us. The only certainty is that we all must end the journey some day.

If you take the time to prepare for that journey's end now, your family, favorite parish, school and diocesan ministry will be supported. A will is an essential part of that overall plan for your life's journey.

The Foundation
of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

To receive the free booklet "Better Estate Planning" contact Judy Smith, Director of Planned Giving, 704-370-3320: 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203. jmsmith@charlottediocese.org.

"It's a great experience to help the less fortunate and to give of myself to help others."
— Julian Tucker, 16

Youths collect, donate clothes to those in need

CLOTHES, *from page 1*

people who come for the clothes — they smile, happy that they can get what they need and go."

The youth group at Our Lady of Consolation Church used to sell the donated clothes at low cost as a fundraiser, but many of those in need still couldn't afford them.

"We prayed about it and realized it wasn't about making money but about helping the community, so we decided to give the clothes away for free," said Nanette Lide, youth minister.

The youth group put up flyers around the community and placed ads in local Spanish-language newspapers. Clothing items were donated by parishioners, most of whom live outside of the community, said Lide.

"Those of us who are blessed want to share with those who aren't," she said.

"We want to help make the community a better place," said Sierra Stinson, 14.

The youth group is involved in a number of outreach activities, including collecting clothes for a battered women's shelter, organizing Christmas wish trees for a homeless shelter and a nursing home, and visiting a children's hospital.

The youths felt the clothing giveaway was another way to help those in need and to share Christ's love. They greeted all who approached with enthusiastic smiles; they waved eagerly to passing motorists, many of whom responded with waves or by honking horns.

"It's an important community service, and we're representing our church," said Jade Jones, 11.

"Many people have thanked us for doing this," said Carrington Byers, 11. "They really appreciate this."

"Little things can make a big difference in people's lives," said India Lipscomb, 17.

Julian Tucker, 16, agreed.

"We don't know what people are going through in their lives, so even the smiles on our faces can make their day a little bit better," he said.

"I like seeing the smiles on their faces," said Julian. "It's a great experience to help the less fortunate and to give of myself to help others."

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

A youth group member at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte holds a sign in Spanish announcing a free clothing giveaway outside the church Sept. 29.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

People look through clothes being given away outside Our Lady of Consolation Church Sept. 29.

Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

Invites You On A Pilgrimage To The

49th International
Eucharistic Congress
Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Quebec

Ste Anne de Beaupré, Québec

St. Joseph Oratory

Chateau Frontenac

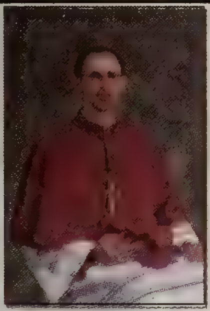
Your 10 Day Pilgrimage Tour Includes:

June 14 – 23, 2008

- Round trip scheduled air from Charlotte to Montreal
- Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations at the 4 star Chateau Laurier Hotel, Quebec City (or similar)
- Sightseeing tour of Quebec including: the Citadelle, Plains of Abraham, Chateau Frontenac, and Notre-Dame des Victoires Church
- Half day trip to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré
- Evening tour to the Ile d'Orleans with dinner in a traditional "Sugar Shack"
- Deluxe coach for round trip airport transfer from Montreal to Quebec City
- Hotel porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person and local taxes
- Registration fee to attend the Eucharistic Congress:
  - A week long experience of faith centered on the Eucharist
  - Closing Eucharistic celebration on the Plains of Abraham
  - Visit the Quebec Eucharistic Congress website, www.cei2008.ca for more details

Deposit by October 31 for special rate of only:
$2,899*

Call Corporate Travel at 800-727-1999; ext. 121 to book today – Limited Availability



Providing help. Creating hope. Changing lives.

Catholic Social Services — The Diocese of Charlotte

Executive Director: Elizabeth Thurbee (704) 370-3227
Associate Director: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3250
Refugee Office: Cira Ponce (704) 370-6930
Family Life: Gerard Carter (704) 370-3228
Justice and Peace: Joe Purello (704) 370-3225
OEO/CSS Murphy Satellite Office (828) 835-3535

Charlotte Region: 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
Area Director: Geri King (704) 370-6155

Western Region: 50 Orange Street, Asheville, NC 28801
Area Director: Debra Braese (828) 255-0146

Piedmont-Triad: 621 W. Second St., Winston-Salem, NC 27108
Area Director: Diane Bullard (336) 727-0705
Greensboro Satellite Office (336) 274-5577
Latino Family Center (336) 884-5858

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

1123 South Church Street, Charlotte NC 28203
www.cssnc.org

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Nun Laments Booming Business In Coffins for Babies

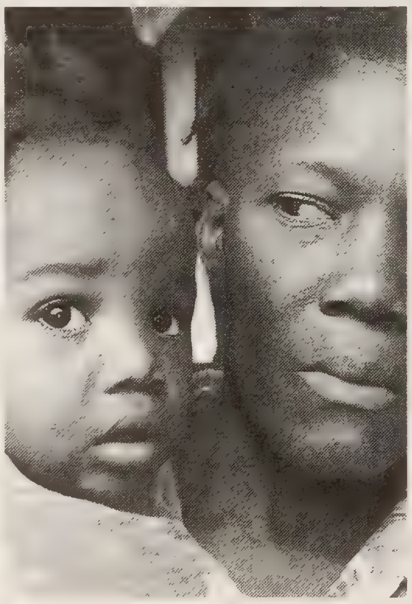
Sister Mary Ann has lived and worked in Jeremie on the remote southwest coast of Haiti for many years. She knows the poverty of her area well, but she still feels the pain of its terrible impact on the local people.

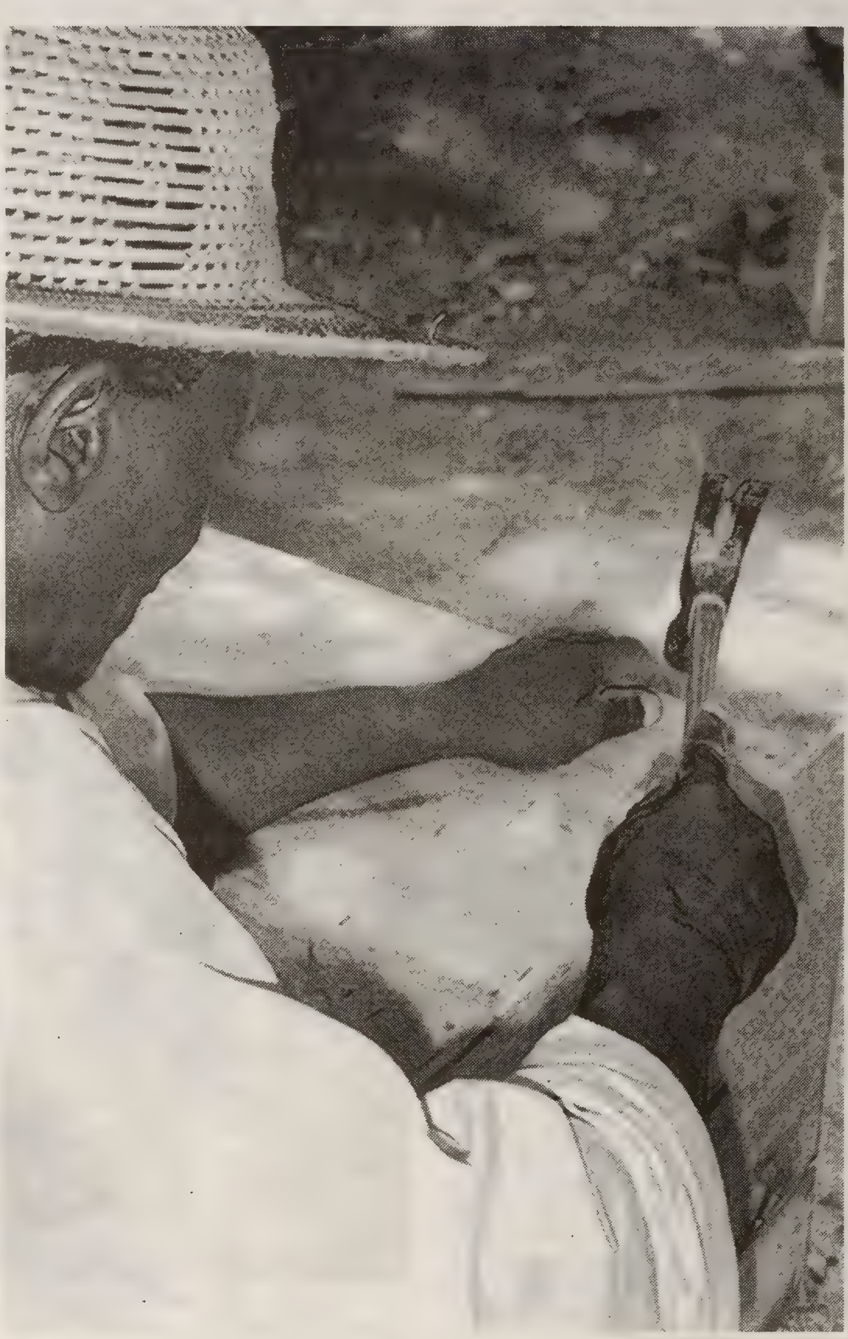
"When a baby dies, and they build the rough wood coffin, I feel the pain of the mother — of the whole community," she said. "Life is too precious — too valuable."

And still, the local carpenter has another coffin in his shop and one on his workbench ready for his saw and hammer. As long as the children die, the coffins must be made.

"Fortunately, we do have reason for hope. We have developed a medical outreach to this community and it's beginning to work — we are able to save the lives of these little ones," she added. "Sometimes we laugh, 'we will put these carpenters out of business. No more coffins for our babies."

The president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, Jim Cavnar, shares Sr. Mary Ann's sense of hope. While meeting with key staff from the Haitian Health Foundation, he was impressed by the determination and success of the outreach. With the help of contributions from American Catholics, Cross International will be able to supply Sr. Mary Ann's program with urgently needed medical supplies.





As long as children die, the coffins must be made. These small wooden boxes are a terrible symbol of how Haiti's crushing poverty is impacting the most vulnerable in the society.

The help, Cavnar knows, will be meaningful — not just a token gift.

"I met a boy just today who illustrates the impact of Sr. Mary Ann's work," he said. "Because of the Haitian Health Foundation, he could be treated for typhoid in time. We drove him home today. There won't be a coffin built for Makendy Louis. He will be back in school soon with a future ahead of him."

"The question is...will the next child receive the same life-saving help?" he added. "Will that next child live or die? Our actions now will answer that question."

> *"Will that child live or die? Our actions now will answer that question..."*
>
> James Cavnar,
> Cross International Catholic Outreach

To provide Sister Mary Ann and the Haitian Health Foundation with as many medicines as possible, Cross International is now seeking financial contributions from American Catholics.

"Our goal is to help fulfill Sister Mary Ann's dream — by ending Haiti's booming business in coffins for babies," Cavnar said. "If American Catholics will join with us in this effort, I know it can be done."

"And don't underestimate the impact your individual gift can have," he added. "In countries like Haiti, a $10 donation can literally save a life. There are scores of children that die because their mother or father couldn't obtain a simple anti-diarrhea medication — something we could supply with a donation of a few dollars. Imagine, saving a life. You can have that kind of impact with even a modest contribution to this outreach."

To contribute to the ministry's efforts in Haiti, either use the tear-off envelope in the brochure found this issue of the newspaper or mail your gift to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00416, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.

Catholic Leaders Help Build Strong Foundation for Cross

With His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler as its Patron, Cross International Catholic Outreach continues to build on a strong foundation of Catholic leadership and support.

The impressive group of Catholic bishops already on the organization's board includes its Chairman, Most Reverend Sam Jacobs, Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodauex, and directors Most Rev. Michael Cote, Most Rev. Carlos Sevilla, Most Rev. Edward Slattery and Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane.

"Cross International Catholic Outreach is an official Catholic organization, listed in the national Catholic directory, and our mission has always been tied to the work of the Catholic Church overseas," explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross. "Our goal is to make American Catholics aware of the work being done by the dedicated priests, nuns and other Catholic leaders serving overseas. The Catholic Church is accomplishing amazing things in serving the poor. More people should be aware of it — and support the work if they can."

In Cavnar's view, Cardinal Keeler, the Bishops serving on the board for Cross and the thousands of U.S. Catholics who support the ministry as benefactors are all part of one unified mission.

"Christ called us to love one another, and all of us are simply trying to respond to that command in a meaningful and tangible way," Cavnar explained. "We are people bound together by a shared mission, and God has blessed us. As Christ calls others to take part, we will continue to grow — expanding the outreach by feeding more who are hungry, providing shelter to those who need it, delivering medicines to comfort the sick and sharing the Gospel with those who are lost."

This commitment to the poor has also helped forge an official collaboration between Cross International Catholic Church and the Holy Father's own international relief organization, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum. This unique collaboration has already been a blessing for the poor following several disasters, including the tsunami in south-east Asia, floods in Haiti, drought in Africa and programs serving refugees in Rwanda.

His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler at a recent meeting with Pope Benedict XVI.

"Ultimately, the success of Cross depends on the prayers and support of American Catholics — their generosity and faithfulness have made all of this possible," Cavnar said. "We are deeply grateful for their support."

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

"Cross" Program Can Turn $50 Donation Into $4,250 Worth Of Aid For The Poor

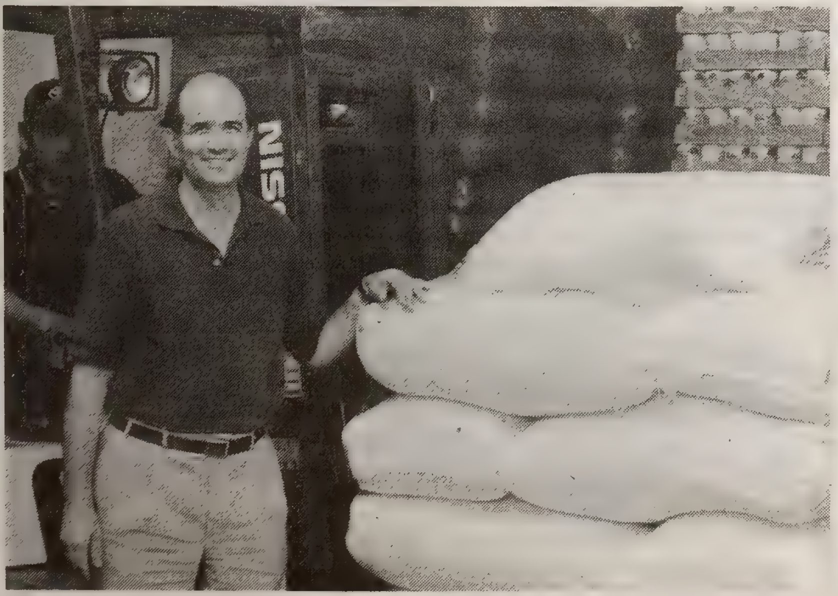
James Cavnar, the president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, looks at a $50 gift differently than most charity leaders.

"When I'm handed a $50 donation, I see a $4,250 shipment of material aid on its way to the poor. That's the end result of the gift when I use it to deliver donated goods overseas," Cavnar explained. "For example, we may convince a medical organization to donate life-saving medicines or nutritional supplements, but we can only deliver those items overseas if we have cash donations to pay for the shipping costs. For every $1 donated to our shipping program last year, we were able to send more than $85 worth of goods to the needy in Haiti and other third-world countries."

Of course, the same formulas apply to other gifts. A donation of $25 allows Cross to supply the poor with more than $2,000 worth of aid and ***a $100 gift can yield nearly $10,000 in food, medical supplies and other life-saving materials*** — an amazing multiplication of the donor's contribution.

"This program is popular because it produces more bang for the buck, as the saying goes. It also rescues goods that might have been wasted and puts them to good use – helping the poor," Cavnar said. "That's a win, win situation."

To contribute to the ministry's efforts in Haiti, either use the tear-off envelope portion of the brochure in this issue or mail your tax-deductible gift to: Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00416, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063.



Cross International's president, James Cavnar, with a shipment of food destined for Haiti.

"What is a child's life worth – certainly a few dollars..."

Catholic lay leaders and clergy in Haiti's Central Plateau are frustrated. In the isolated village they call home, children are dying and families are suffering for reasons they do not understand — reasons that test their spirit and their faith.

They recall one recent and painful experience.

"I will never forget it. I was called to the home of Madame Wilner, a woman who lived in a rural area outside the village. She was poor — very poor. Living in a shack with very little food and almost nothing for her children.

"When I arrived, she came out to meet me, frantic about her baby, Gason. 'I have tried to help him… made a cure… he is dying… help me,' she cried. I knew the cure she had made for the baby was some ineffective concoction of herbs that rural people often try in their desperation. Such things never work, but they are tried because there is no other choice.

"I gasped when I stepped inside the dreary shack and saw the baby. His body was covered with some kind of terrible skin infection. He was obviously suffering, and his tiny body also showed the disturbing signs of other trauma. I could clearly see his rib bones heaving with labored breaths, and his hair was orange from malnutrition. Sobbing, his mother begged for my help. 'Anything… please… do anything,' she cried. 'I have nothing… no way to save him.'

"Because the local clinic had been closed for lack of supplies, I knew that the baby's only hope was a mission hospital nearly 3 hours away by car. I carefully lifted the baby up, placed him into my automobile, and set out for help.

"I drove as quickly as I could over the rough dirt roads, but two hours into the trip, my spirit dropped. Something was wrong. I could see that Gason Wilner was slipping away. Suddenly, his body began to convulse — first slowly, then more violently. My eyes welled up with tears, and I began to pray. As if in merciful response, the baby's tormenting convulsions stopped. I drove on, tears running down my cheeks, as God gently took tiny Gason away.

"I will never forget it. It is yet another reason I beg on behalf of the poor. For Gason Wilner, and for the other children here who die needlessly. Something must be done."

James Cavnar agrees, and his meetings with clergy and lay leaders have already produced progress. Through Cavnar's organization, Cross International Catholic Outreach, medical supplies will be obtained for shipment to clinics that serve Haiti's poor. Cavnar is asking other American Catholics to join him in this endeavor.

"Frankly, we need your help. We need the help of American Catholics who want to assist priests to be part of the solution. The medicines that could have saved Gason Wilner would have cost a few dollars. What is a child's life worth — certainly a few dollars!? We need to see that these people are helped," Cavnar said. "The more people who contribute, the more we can do."

And, Cavnar pointed out, every donation contributed is important because it only takes a few dollars worth of medicines to save a life in many cases.

"On behalf of the priests, nuns and laypeople who are trying to help the poor of Haiti, I ask you to prayerfully consider making a sacrificial contribution to this cause," Cavnar said. "Your actions may save the life of a child. Your gift may be the gift of life for a little one like Gason."

Another child victim of Third World poverty. This young girl survived. Others are less fortunate. Even when children are given an initial treatment, they rarely receive follow-up care. Many are forever marked with terrible scars. Cross International Catholic Outreach makes the needs of children its highest priority, and it has launched special programs to supply aid. Read about it on the ministry's web site: www.crosscatholic.org.

Please, Help Now

Your help is needed for Cross International to bring Christ's mercy to the poor of Haiti. Use the enclosed postage-paid brochure to mail your gift or send it to Cross International Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC00416, 490 White Pond Drive, PO Box 63, Akron, OH 44309-0063. ***God bless you.***

Cross International
Catholic Outreach

Our Lady of Mercy School celebrates 50th anniversary

SCHOOL, *from page 1*

celebration including a Mass and a party. Sisters of St. Joseph, who have served as administrators and teachers for much of the school's history, were recognized for their dedicated service to the school.

During the party, Conventual Franciscan Father William Robinson, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church, and Sandra McMonagle, a former principal who served for 13 years, reminisced about the school's long history.

In February 1984, McMonagle was hired as the first lay principal. Three Sisters of St. Joseph continued to teach in Our Lady of Mercy School, while two others ministered in the field of religious education and social services.

During the celebration, Sister of St. Joseph Geri Rogers was especially honored for her 25 years of service. Ten members of her first class at Our Lady of Mercy School returned to surprise her.

Sister Rogers taught first grade for nine years, followed by 11 years teaching sixth grade. Following four years as assistant principal, she succeeded McMonagle as principal in August 2007.

The 276-memeber student body distinguishes itself by its dedication to community outreach projects. Among the projects, the younger grades visit nursing homes at Christmas and Valentine's Day; several grades send care packages to soldiers serving overseas.

"We are building leaders for the future beyond the classroom by allowing students to participate in outreach programs," said Linda Buchmeier, marketing chairperson for the school.

Each month of the school year the students will collect items for the disadvantaged. In September, the students collected nearly 200 suitcases, backpacks and duffle bags to be donated to Forsyth County Child Protective Services.

"When children have to be removed from their homes, they often have to carry their belongings in a trash bag," Buchmeier said. "Now they will have something of their own in which to carry their personal belongings."

Throughout the year, they will help stock the Catholic Social Services food pantry, beginning in October. In November, students will bring in coats, gloves and mittens, hats, scarves and boots for children who do not have winter clothing. A toy drive is scheduled for December.

In November 2002, the school moved from its original location on Banner Avenue to the former Bishop McGuinness High School. The move enabled the renovated school to offer a preschool for four-year-olds, individual classrooms for specialist teachers, a large media center, and a separate gym and cafeteria.

In the days ahead, the parish school of Our Lady of Mercy hopes to carry on the past tradition and develop an even richer one. The school utilizes 60 laptop computers, which can be used in the each classroom as additional learning resources.

"We hope to continue to grow as a faith community, increase enrollment and keep up with the latest technology," Sister Rogers said.

Contact Staff Writer Karen A. Evans by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

COURTESY PHOTO

Teachers at Our Lady of Mercy School in Winston-Salem sing a song dedicated to Sister of St. Joseph Geri Rogers, principal, during the school's 50th anniversary celebration Sept. 22.

"We hope to continue to grow as a faith community, increase enrollment and keep up with the latest technology."

— Sister of St. Joseph Geri Rogers, principal

Join Your Catholic Chaplain Fr. Mathew

Hawaii Cruise

15-Day Vacation Departs April 12, 2008

Travel with other Roman Catholics including your YMT Chaplain Father Mathew Kappalumakkel. This will be Father Mathew's third trip as a YMT Chaplain. He is Associate Pastor at *St. Mary's Star of the Sea* in Unionville, CT. You'll depart April 12, 2008, and visit the beautiful Hawaiian Islands during their spectacular spring-time, with flowers all in bloom! This 15-day vacation includes a 10-day cruise on NCL's ***Pride of Aloha*** with four hotel nights in Waikiki, with an included Honolulu city tour. Aboard ship visit Kahului, Maui; Hilo, Hawaii; Nawiliwili, Kauai; Lahaina, Maui; and Kona, Hawaii. Complete prices start from only $1598 (per person/double occupancy) and includes a flower-lei, aloha greeting, ship transfers, the 10-day cruise, four nights hotels, Honolulu city tour, and baggage handling. Add $900 for round trip airfare from Charlotte. Mass will be celebrated once in Honolulu and some days on ship.

$100 deposits are now due. Family & friends welcome.

For information reservations, brochure and Fr. Mathew's letter call 7 days a week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

North America's First Choice for travel since 1967!

Spend springtime in the Alps!

Discover spectacular

Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria

with the Diocese of Charlotte and Fr. Mo West

April 30 — May 9, 2008

Bring family and friends to experience the area's breathtaking scenery, the rich culture of the old-world cities, and the charm of the Alpine villages and their people!

Your 10-day, fully-escorted experience features daily excursions based out of 2 centrally-located "hub cities" – Bern, Switzerland and Innsbruck, Austria. That means less packing and more time to explore Lucerne, Montreux, Interlaken, Gindelwald, Salzburg and Oberammergau as well!

Highlights of this itinerary include:

- GoldenPass Panoramic Train ride past wood chalets and magnificent views on the way to Gstaad, world-famous Alpine resort
- sightseeing tour of Bern's historical Old Town, its famous sights of today, and the medieval Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area – plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
- plus leisure time to shop and explore these exciting sites on your own!

All-inclusive price: Only $2,699 from Charlotte INCLUDES airfare; all air taxes/surcharges and fees; hotel transfers; most meals; fulltime tour manager/escort; first class hotels; all guides and admission fees. Travel insurance is extra.

Space is very limited! A $250 deposit is due before November 30 so CALL NOW for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese: (704) 370-3332

Bishop Jugis dedicates new St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville

CHURCH, ***from page 1***

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop Peter J. Jugis pours sacred chrism onto the altar as altar server Joey Pelletier and Father Christopher Roux, bishop's priest secretary, watch during the dedication Mass of St. John the Evangelist Church in Waynesville Sept. 30.

superintendents, cut the blue ribbon at the entrance.

Father Lawrence LoMonaco, pastor, unlocked the door and parishioners streamed into the airy interior, singing, "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates" (Psalm 24).

It was the latest milestone for the oldest North Carolina Catholic parish west of Asheville.

From humble beginnings

Mass had been celebrated in homes and in the ballroom of the Gordon Hotel since before 1900.

In 1925, Bishop William J. Hafey, first bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh (the Diocese of Charlotte was not created until 1972) established the parish, which at that time comprised the seven counties of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

Some 27 people attended the new parish's first Mass in May 1926, in a private home that had been converted into a chapel and rectory. St. John the Evangelist Church's pastors were circuit-riding priests who visited the other communities in the seven counties.

In 1954, Glenmary priests began working with the bishop to establish parishes in towns throughout those counties.

Construction on Waynesville's first St. John the Evangelist Church, with a 250-person seating capacity, began n 1941.

The original church was not handicap accessible — worshipers had to climb two sets of steps from the sidewalk to the church and descend outside steps to reach the parish hall in the church basement.

The new handicap-accessible church seats 299.

The old church will be used for Haywood Catholic Youth activities, Bernardi said.

A place for God

"Why is it that we spend so much time and energy to build a beautiful church and fill it with beautiful images?" Bishop Jugis asked in his homily. "Here is the dwelling place of God."

He recalled that, "In the Old Testament we can see how the Jewish people meticulously prepared a place for God. The Arc (of the Covenant) was solemnly processed into the temple. Nothing else could take place in the temple except the worship of God."

"We have the real presence of God in the holy Eucharist: the real presence of Jesus Christ — his body, blood, soul and divinity," the bishop said.

"In the place of honor in the middle of the Temple is the real presence of God," he said.

Bishop Jugis went throughout the church, sprinkling the people and walls with holy water, symbolically washing the building and those within it.

Bernardi brought out a relic of St. Alfonso de Orozco to be inlaid in the altar. The bishop kissed the relic, then placed it, along with information about the saint, in an envelope and fastened it to the underside of a tile inlaid in the altar surface.

Bernardi cemented the tile in place, thus completing the center of the altar.

St. Alfonso de Orozco (1500-1591), an Augustinian priest and writer, preached to people at all levels of Spanish society.

According to information about him, "For Alfonso, preaching was a necessity inspired by the love of Jesus and done for the love of Jesus."

Canonized in 2002, his relic was chosen for the church when Augustinian Father Dennis McGowan was St. John the Evangelist Church's pastor.

"We'd been thinking about a new church for 40 years, but Father Dennis got it started," Bernardi said later.

Bishop Jugis rubbed sacred chrism into the altar and four crosses on the walls, asking God to make holy the altar and the building — visible signs of the mystery of Christ and his Catholic Church. Adding to the fragrance of the chrism oil, incense smoke rose like prayer.

Father LoMonaco then lit candles at the altar and around the church as electric lights switched on, filling the church interior with warm light.

Along with Father LoMonaco, Father William Evans and Father James Cahill, retired priests from the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, concelebrated Mass with Bishop Jugis.

The service concluded as the Blessed Sacrament was placed in the tabernacle for the first time.

Community effort

At the barbecue lunch after the service, Bernardi lauded the many volunteers of the 230-family parish who helped make the new church a reality.

In addition to raising money to build the structure, parishioners did most of the interior finishing work after the building's shell was completed.

"It was a great communitywide project," Bernardi said.

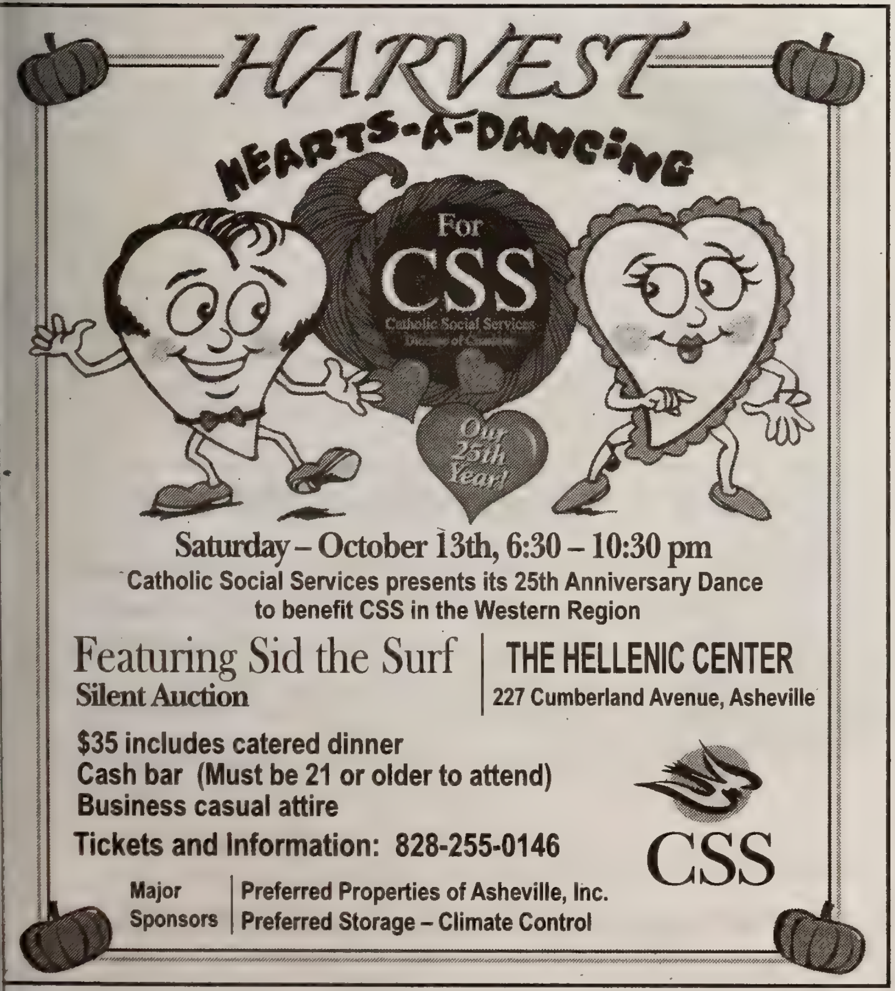
"I've been here eight years, and I got to know people I'd never known very well. It was almost an old-fashioned barn raising in a way," he said.

"I really just thank God for giving us the grace, and the people get the credit," Father LoMonaco said. "They made it happen."

One part of the worship space will be a day chapel. Not yet completed are the parish hall, a covered walkway and a bell tower.

Although those projects remain, "We do have the crown jewel," Father LoMonaco said.

Contact Correspondent Joanita M. Nellenbach by calling (828) 627-9209 or e-mail jnell@dnet.net.



HARVEST

Saturday – October 13th, 6:30 – 10:30 pm
Catholic Social Services presents its 25th Anniversary Dance
to benefit CSS in the Western Region

Featuring Sid the Surf
Silent Auction

THE HELLENIC CENTER
227 Cumberland Avenue, Asheville

$35 includes catered dinner
Cash bar (Must be 21 or older to attend)
Business casual attire
Tickets and Information: 828-255-0146

Major Sponsors | Preferred Properties of Asheville, Inc.
Preferred Storage – Climate Control

CSS

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To
Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com
Proud member of St. James Church

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

One of first Darfur monitors shares experiences in book, documentary

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Today, most of the world knows of the horrors of the Sudanese region of Darfur: the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people; the seemingly indiscriminate killing by the Janjaweed, militia groups believed to have government backing; the refugee crisis created by the murders; the terrorizing of aid workers who have gone to help.

But those horrors weren't always known. Brian Steidle, a Catholic, was one of the first to witness them for himself. At age 27, Steidle, a former U.S. Marine captain, became a monitor with the African Union in Darfur.

He was completely unprepared for what he would see.

Now 30, Steidle has been crossing the United States telling about the situation in Darfur. His experiences led to the filming of a documentary, "The Devil Came on Horseback."

Steidle and his sister, Gretchen, also co-wrote a book, "The Devil Came on Horseback: Bearing Witness to the Genocide in Darfur."

Steidle, in an interview with Catholic News Service, cited the reason why he went to Darfur in the first place.

"I was in the country already. I was working near the mountains, for a private contractor monitoring the North-South cease-fire," he said.

There have been a series of cease-fires in Sudan's long and bloody civil war pitting the Muslim government dominated by Northerners against the largely Christian and animist populations in the South.

"Before I went there, we didn't know anything about that war," Steidle said.

"The press doesn't move around the country. We didn't know what was going on," he said. "Nobody knew. Nobody had been there. Nobody reported. There hadn't been any information."

The enormity of the carnage Steidle witnessed in Darfur literally filled a book. Still, he declined to single out just one atrocity that exemplified what he and many others — including the U.S. Congress — consider genocide.

"There's not one thing I can pick out. There's definitely not one thing," he said. "There's too many to mention. It was every single day, different times each day."

Estimates of the lives lost in Darfur have reached 400,000.

Steidle said he is grateful the United Nations announced a peacekeeping mission in Darfur, although "I think it's been tremendously slow — too slow. I wish it had been faster. It shouldn't have taken millions of people around the world (to press for peacekeepers). It should have taken governments to do what is right. I'm glad there is now some push forward."

How to solve the crisis? Steidle has some ideas.

"We need to continue pressure on the U.N. to make sure the Security Council resolution (authorizing peacekeepers) is implemented. ... They've already backtracked and delayed deployment of the U.N. troops because they don't have enough commitment," he said. "They need the financial support and the airplanes and the helicopters and it's up to the Western powers to stand up and give it to them."

"We need to have some serious efforts on these peace talks next month in Libya," he added.

Rebel groups and the government of Sudan were scheduled to begin talks Oct. 27.

"A no-fly zone should have been implemented years ago," he said

There should be "legislation that prohibits any individuals or corporations from investing in companies or doing business with corporations that do business in Sudan — that's a blanket thing for all around the world. Travel ban restrictions on individuals around the world. All of these things need to be done," he said.

Steidle said the highest-ranking U.S. official he has talked to about the genocide is U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"There wasn't really too much there" in that conversation, he said. "It was all 'we're doing what we can. Thank you for what you've done.'"

"I'd like to see people take care of one another regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or anything," he said.

"I've read the Bible and I've read the Quran; I've read the Torah. That's what all religions teach, Buddhism and Hindu(ism): Respect individuals of this earth. That's the best lesson God and Jesus ever taught us," said Steidle.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 14, 2007

Oct. 14, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) 2 Kings 5:14-17
Psalm 98:1-4
2) 2 Timothy 2:8-13
3) Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Gratitude to God means giving something back

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Larry has been a theater teacher at a public high school for more than 20 years. Although his entire life is intensely infused with his Christian faith, he knows he can't be proselytizing among students.

That's not his mode of operating anyway. But he said, "I've never backed down from saying to the young people, 'You need to know where your gift comes from, and it's not from me.'"

When Larry was coming of age, drifting in and out of college trying to find himself, he found Jesus instead. It happened during a Catholic retreat to which he'd been invited by a friend.

The friend must have been astute to recognize Larry's need for faith and a seeming desire to be persuaded. Once converted, "It changed my life," said Larry. Totally.

"I instantly wanted to give something back to God," he said.

Within two months he had forme a theater company called The Agap Players, and at age 21 he was leading th troupe around his southern Californi community, bringing performances "Godspell" and the stories of Paul ("Th Servant") and Peter ("The Witness") Catholic churches and smaller venues.

Larry hasn't looked back as his caree has been alternately in youth ministr and theater — and often a combinatio of the two. Always, though, in his wor with young people in the performance and original plays he produces he share the basic message of Christ.

His work has been unabashedl "for God."

I've heard conversion storie before. But the way Larry's conversio immediately compelled him to live ever aspect of his life for God was a notabl radical response to the gift of faith.

In reading the Scriptures for thi weekend, Larry's life-changing attitud came back to me in the passage fror Timothy: "If we have died with him, w shall also live with him."

While the Gospel story about th leper may suggest the message is abou thanksgiving, it was that reminde in Timothy that points us back to conversion message in the Old Testamer story of Naaman who was drawn indee by gratitude to change his life to liv entirely for God.

Questions:

When have you felt such gratitude t God that you desired to "give somethin back"? How can you translate that desir into a lasting response?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 7-13
Sunday (Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time), Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14, Luke 17:5-10; **Monday**, Jonah 1:1–2:2, 11, Jonah 2:3-5, 8, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday (St. Denis and Companions, St. John Leonardi)**, Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday**, Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday**, Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday**, Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday**, Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 14-20
Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; **Monday (St. Teresa of Avila)**, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)**, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch)**, Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Luke)**, 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Friday (St. John de Brébeuf, St. Isaac Jogues and Companions)**, Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12.

Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

Fr. Patrick Winslow (pastor, St. John the Baptist Church) and Fr. Timothy Reid (parochial vicar, St. Matthew Church) cordially invite you to join them on an 11-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain May 7-17, 2007.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila & Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid. Price from Charlotte: $2689 ($2589 before January 27, 2007).

For more information contact Pentecost Tours at 1-800-713-9800.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not affiliated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Come and be filled!

FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS 2007

Annual retreat with presenters
Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio (English) and
Sr. Dominga Zapata (Spanish) and opening
remarks by Very Rev. Mauricio W. West,
Diocesan Vicar General and Chancellor

Living Faith: The Great Adventure
Viviendo la Fe: La Gran Aventura

Saturday, November 3
8 am – 3:30 pm
NOTE: NEW location:
Tuscola High School, Clyde, NC

Fire in the Mountains is a gathering of God's people committed to the rediscovery and exploration of their Judeo-Christian tradition. This annual retreat in the western North Carolina mountains seeks to connect its people to each other and to God through faith-sharing focused on issues critical to our immediate community and the modern world. A collaborative project of the people of the Asheville and Smoky Mountain Vicariates, this faith-filled day is sponsored by the Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Charlotte.

PRESENTATIONS:
From Belief to Living Faith -- "Over 90% of Americans 'believe in God.' That's to say, they believe that God exists. But belief in the existence of God is very different from the 'saving faith' spoken of in the Bible."
Dr. D'Ambrosio

Moral Choices and the Great Adventure -- "Many think that God's commands are arbitrary rules and regulations that restrict our freedom. Some never move beyond this vision of the moral life. But there comes a time when God invites each one of us to see moral choices differently, as guideposts given by a loving father to guide us into his path, a more glorious journey than we ever could have imagined." Dr. D'Ambrosio

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.
Dr. D'Ambrosio has a Ph.D. in Historical Theology from the Catholic University of America and his teaching has covered a broad range of subjects. He brings a practical, down-to-earth perspective that makes his words easy to understand and to put into practice. He often appears on EWTN and is regularly heard on the radio show "Catholic Answers Live."

Sr. Dominga Zapata
Sr. Zapata is a native of Puerto Rico and a member of the Society of Helpers. She completed her master's degree at Mundelein College in Chicago and did further studies at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary D. Min. program as well as pastoral theology studies at the University of Salamanca, Spain. She has worked in numerous capacities over the last 35 years with various Hispanic and Native American organizations in the Chicago Archdiocese and elsewhere, and has been published in several books, magazines and newspapers.

Register early and save $5!
Early registration deadline: **October 27**
$20 per person, including lunch and refreshments
(after October 27, the fee is $25)
Scholarships available on needs basis for individuals
or groups attending for the first time.
Sacrament of Reconciliation offered at lunchtime.

For information about registration or lodging:
Mary Ann Wharton at (828)667-4227 or
maryannwharton@charter.net
Check out our Web site: www.fireitm.org
Come for the day and enjoy the beauty of the
mountains while growing in your faith!

Motivations behind 'The Price of Sugar'

Filmmaker found priest 'extraordinary charismatic and principled'

BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CNS PHOTO BY UNCOMMON

An armed man guards the fields while cutters gather the sugar cane in a scene from the documentary "The Price of Sugar."

WASHINGTON — Filmmaker Bill Haney, who made the new documentary "The Price of Sugar," said one reason he decided to make a movie on the plight of Haitian sugar-cane cutters in the Dominican Republic was Father Christopher Hartley, the British-born priest who worked for several years with the Haitians and appears throughout the film.

"I found Father Christopher an extraordinarily charismatic and principled man," Haney said.

Although "educated in the spirit of reflection and contemplation," he added, "he was a bold leader taking real-life risks on behalf of the principles that he committed his life to."

Another reason was "the kind of startling and stark and almost painful dichotomy between the lifestyle that the resort-dwellers were enjoying along the (Dominican) coast and the deeply, deeply troubling conditions that the sugar-cane workers were enduring just a few miles away," said Haney, a Catholic.

A third reason for the film comes from Haney's education at Portsmouth Abbey in Portsmouth, R.I., a Benedictine-run school he attended from eighth through 12th grades while his father was teaching there.

"The stories in the media about priests in the last 10 years in the Boston area where I'm from have not been particularly heartening. When I was a boy, most of the adults I knew were priests, because my father taught at a boarding school," he said.

"I had a warm and positive feeling about that experience. So the story — a warm and compelling story — about a priest who is doing his ministry in such a self-sacrificing way, was compelling to me," he added.

Haney said he made 14 visits to sugar-cane country in the Dominican Republic, east of Santo Domingo, the capital. He said he had to be mindful of the possibility of violence during his trips.

"You're holding a camera and you're a Caucasian from North America. And you're in a sugar-cane field and you're surrounded by guys on horses with weapons. (Verbal) abuse was pretty common," Haney said. "The notion that something would get out of hand was always on our minds."

"The Price of Sugar" details how Haitians are lured from their incredibly poor country to work in the sugar-cane fields — but not before they are stripped of their passports and identity cards by the sugar growers' recruiters once they have crossed the Haiti-Dominican border on the island of Hispaniola.

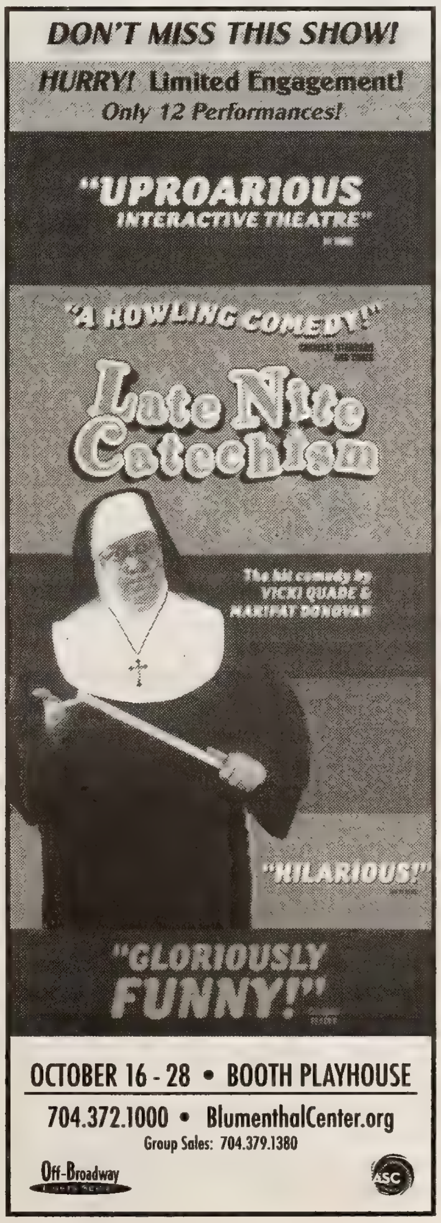
Actor Paul Newman narrates the documentary. It could be his last presence in a film. The 82-year-old actor announced earlier this year he was retiring from acting.

Although Newman's voice-over is gravelly, "it fits our story," Haney said. "It's a bit of the voice of God. He's got a bit of Methuselah in his voice."

"The Price of Sugar" is "both the inspiring story of an individual and the history of a mass movement," said a review by John Mulderig, a staff critic in the U.S. bishops' Office for Film & Broadcasting.

"This is a tale of exploitation. But it is also, fundamentally, a celebration of the good that can spring from one individual's deep religious commitment and from well-organized, nonviolent methods of mass resistance," he said.

The film received a classification of A-II — adults and adolescents — for graphic depictions of disease and brief nudity among bathing children.



DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!
HURRY! Limited Engagement!
Only 12 Performances!

OCTOBER 16 - 28 • BOOTH PLAYHOUSE
704.372.1000 • BlumenthalCenter.org
Group Sales: 704.379.1380
Off-Broadway

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

'Witness to the truth' about dignity of human life, cardinal urges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called on Catholics and "all people of good will to witness to the truth about the incomparable dignity and right to life of every human being."

In a Sept. 25 statement for Respect Life Sunday, to be celebrated in Catholic parishes in the United States Oct. 7 this year, the cardinal noted widespread confusion on life issues, including embryonic stem-cell research, partial-birth abortion and euthanasia.

The right to life is more than a religious concern, he said.

Quoting from the preamble to the 1989 U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child, he said the "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

In 1972 the U.S. bishops launched the Respect Life program and designated the first Sunday in October as Respect Life Sunday.

To mark the day and to kick off Respect Life Month, hundreds of Catholic churches around the country participate in Life Chains.

In the Diocese of Charlotte, parishioners will be standing along property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns, holding pro-life placards.

Pro-life individuals are welcome to participate in any of the gatherings.

Material published by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities for the 2007-08 Respect Life program uses the phrase "The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy" as its theme.

Taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the words refer to the pregnancies of Mary and her elderly cousin, Elizabeth — both "cause for rejoicing" despite their unusual circumstances, said a brochure published as part of the Respect Life package.

"The Old and New Testaments are filled with such passages extolling children as gift and blessing," the brochure says. "It is disheartening, therefore, to see how far our culture has diverged from this view."

"There was no confusion as to what and who were nestled under their mothers' hearts," Cardinal Rigali said about Mary and Elizabeth.

"Yet 2,000 years later, many well-educated people do not know — or claim they do not know — the truth about human life before birth," he said in his statement.

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

People hold pro-life placards outside of St. Ann Church in Charlotte as part of a parish Life Chain Oct. 1, 2006.

LIFE CHAINS
For a list of Life Chains in the Diocese of Charlotte, go online to www.charlottediocese.org.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center
CFCC
Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity
5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com
Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus

Restoration House
704-291-7945
"Come all who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Restoration House is a place for people to reflect, relax, and find peace in the scenic North Carolina mountains. It is a log cabin with beautiful views located off I-40 near Marion, NC — 90 minutes from Charlotte and 40 minutes east of Asheville. It is far from cell phones, email, and the hurried pace of daily living — perfect for restoring the mind, body and spirit. Restoration House is ideal for rental to small groups (small faith groups, women's groups, music groups, etc.) at $160 for an entire group per night. It is also available for rental to individuals and couples. Create your own get-a-away…or attend one of our planned retreats listed below.

Upcoming Facilitated Catholic Retreats for Adults:

October 12-14 **Women/Men:** "Growing Closer to God in the Midst of Personal Trials" with a video, inspirational speaker, and a Bible study on Job. — $150
October 26-28 **Women/Men:** "Wisdom for Living" shares valuable insights through Bible studies on proverbs and parables. — $150
November 9-11 **Couples or a Spouse Alone:** "Finding Christ in Your Marriage" uses a Bible study to look at what the Scriptures say about marriage. — $150 or $225 couple
December 7-9 **Women:** "Experiencing a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas" includes both reflective and festive activities — a great seasonal celebration. — $150

Rate includes 2 nights of lodging, a facilitated program by Tom and/or Amy Barsanti, (members of St. Luke Church, Mint Hill), workshop materials, and meals. Retreats begin Friday evening and end mid-day Sunday. Call Tom for more details: 704-291-7945.

6th Annual
Vineyard of Hope
Wines Around The World
Bring your friends and make a contribution to assist our neighbors in need.
Friday, October 26 - 7 p.m.
Charlotte Hilton Center City
All proceeds benefit
Catholic Social Services
The evening includes: *Wine Tasting, Heavy hors d'oeuvres Live entertainment from 'Common Ground,' a fabulous jazz band, and a silent auction of choice wines.*
Special Guest Speaker
Dr. William K. Thierfelder
President of Belmont Abbey College
Individual tickets are $50
Be a Hope Host and reserve a table of 8 for $350
Sponsorships Available
Call 704-370-3232 or visit www.cssnc.org
CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

Classifieds

FOR SALE

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: North Carolina mountains. Successful, ongoing land development company. Includes developer's home on 400+ acres. Permitted and approved erosion control plan for entire parcel in place. $4.2 mil. E-mail mountainlandforsale@yahoo.com.

FOR RENT

CONDO: OCEANFRONT on Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Great off-season rates: by the day, week or month. Consider a long weekend — close by getaway. Good swimming until October. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Smart shoppers

Courtesy Photo

imberly Van Scoy, a reporter with WXII television news, interviews Christian Gruebel and Annie Hanson, ird-graders at St. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem at a Lowes Foods supermarket Sept. 27. The ird-grade class and their teacher, Maureen Patti, took part in the store's free educational program, Be a Smart Shopper," which teaches healthy eating and lifestyle habits.

he third-graders sampled different types of foods, including vegetables. Both Christian and Annie told an Scoy that they enjoyed red cabbage.

Picture perfect

Courtesy Photo

rt teacher Sara Romanik is pictured Sept. 27 with the winners of the first photography contest held at t. Leo the Great School in Winston-Salem. Teachers judged the entries, taken over the summer break, nd chose first- and second-place winners from three categories: kindergarten through second-grade, hird- through fifth-grades and sixth- through eighth-grades.

ictured are: second-grader Kathryn Anderson, first place for K-2; second-grader Molly Isaac, second place or K-2; fifth-grader Ryan Anderson, second place for 3-5; fifth-grader Will Bruns, first place for 3-5; eighth-rader Daniela DeCristo, second place for 6-8; eighth-grader Caitlin Ferguson, first place for 6-8.

FUN FAIR
ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Saturday, October 13
9 am – 2 pm
RIDES GAMES $1,000 RAFFLE
AUCTION ROAD RACE BINGO FOOD
www.SMSGastonia.com
Located off Hwy 321 in Historic Gastonia

BMHS seniors commended in National Merit Scholarship program

KERNERSVILLE — Sean O'Shea and George Englebretson, seniors at Bishop McGuinness High School in Kernersville, were named as Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Principal George Repass made the announcement in a press release Sept. 27.

The program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships, is conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a nonprofit corporation established in 1955.

High school students enter the program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which serves as an initial screening of approximately 1.4 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry/participation requirements.

O'Shea and Englebretson are among 34,000 of the 50,000 high scorers on the qualifying test who will receive Letters of Commendation for their exceptional academic promise.

Although Commended Students do not continue in the 2008 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, some of them become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

"The young people named Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program are distinguished by their strong academic performance in their rigorous competition," said a press release issued by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

"Our nation's pursuit of educational excellence can be furthered by publicly honoring these outstanding students and by acknowledging the important role schools play in fostering their development," said the statement.

"We hope that this recognition will contribute to their educational opportunities and encourage all students to strive to realize their potential," it said.

Soaring students

Courtesy Photo

Eighth-graders from St. Pius X School in Greensboro are pictured at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Education Center in Reidsville Sept. 10, where they participated in the "Soaring Thru Spaces" program.

The program utilizes group initiatives, teambuilding challenges — including high- and low-rope courses — and focused discussions to develop life skills and character. Working in small teams, the 43 eighth-graders shared ideas, made decisions and created plans of action to accomplish goals.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING
Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with NO BUY-IN FEES
- And, optional in-home health care services
For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.
(336) 282-8870
ABBOTSWOOD at Irving Park
The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Valuable hurricane relief lessons learned

Tips for successfully helping those in a disaster

Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY

CNS COLUMNIST

Our parish is making it sixth mission trip to the Mississippi Gulf coast since Hurricane Katrina. Here are a few of the lessons learned over the last two years.

First, capitalize on the moment.

When Hurricane Katrina hit it was all over the news. It was on everybody's mind.

The Sunday afterward, we did not take up our regular parish collection. Instead, we took up a collection only for hurricane relief. Making a sacrifice said these people have needs greater than our own.

We got more than $20,000 that day alone. Over the next year we would collect another $85,000.

Second, make a contact on the ground in the area of need.

Right after Hurricane Katrina hit I heard a priest, Josephite Father Richard Wagner, on National Public Radio. I called him up and asked what we could do. It was the beginning of a great relationship. He directed us to where help was really needed.

Third, do what the local people say is needed, not what you think is needed.

Father Wagner told us about the need for gift cards so families could buy necessities. We bought thousands of dollars of them and sent them to pastors in the hurricane-affected areas.

Fourth, establish a long-term personal relationship and tell people you are with them for the long haul. This is the most important lesson learned.

Father Wagner put us in touch with 86-year-old Josephite Father Bart Endslow at Our Mother of Mercy Church in Pass Christian, Miss. It was a perfect fit; his parish's need matched our capabilities.

Their rectory had floated away in the storm surge. The church and school were ruined. But they were still there.

Over the past two years we have built not just buildings but a relationship. We have come to know the parishioners in Mississippi as our friends. They are part of our extended family. It is like being home.

Sending aid to them is not like writing a check to some relief organization; it is like helping your own family.

Fifth, get people who know what they are doing and send them down in advance to scope out the work.

Before we sent any volunteer team to the Gulf Coast, four of us made an advance trip — a home builder, an electrician, the manager of our buildings and grounds, and I made the journey.

We decided we could put a roof on the school building. We figured out the costs, the tools and the time. A month later we were back with the people, tools and supplies needed. It was a success.

All the subsequent volunteer trips used similar advance planning. When we needed windows we sent down our project manager and a window manufacturer.

It is worth a few hundred dollars in airfare to save a disastrous experience for the volunteers on an unplanned trip.

Seventh, keep the parish fully informed.

We make periodic reports to our parish on our progress. We honor the volunteers that go to Mississippi. We bring back photos and display them in church and on our Web site.

So when we ask for more money, people give it willingly.

Finally, make it a spiritual relationship.

That is the difference between us and FEMA. Every Sunday we pray for our sister parish in Mississippi. We call them on the phone. We invite them to our parish events.

That is what it means to be a communion of saints.

Our parish experience in disaster relief has been a real blessing.

'UR4GVN'

A vanity plate made me see the bigger picture

For the Journey

EFFIE CALDAROLA

CNS COLUMNIST

You wouldn't expect grace or theological insight or a moment of inspiration to come to you via the vanity license plate on the car in front of you.

But maybe a generous God, and one with a sense of humor, knows that sometimes a busy mom needs any opportunity she can get for inspiration. And wasn't it St. Ignatius of Loyola who said we should find God in all things?

It was an icy day outside our Catholic elementary school. Just moments before I arrived to pick up my two children, the school prankster was heard to remark to a friend, "See those sixth-graders over there? I'm going to slide into them and see how many of them I can knock down."

As luck would have it, one of those sixth-graders was my son and the unexpected impact of the collision sent him to the pavement where he bumped his teeth and loosened his braces.

As Mike and his sister climbed into the car, he presented his mouth for inspection.

"Great. This is just what I need today," I thought.

Our orthodontist works on the other side of town.

Pushing aside thoughts of "What's for dinner?" and the 20 other things I had on my agenda for the rest of the day, I headed to the orthodontist with the two children in tow, hearing the gory details of the sliding incident.

My anger and frustration built. What a pointless, careless thing to do on the part of the offender.

And was there damage to the teeth? The teeth I was already paying several thousand dollars to straighten?

When we finally reached the orthodontist's office, Mike disappeared into the examination room, and I flipped through a dog-eared magazine I could muster absolutely no interest in.

The good news: The braces could be tightened; the teeth had not been hurt.

We all headed to the car, the darkness of evening already gathering around us and headed back out into the clogge streets full of people hurrying home fro work. My relief that the teeth were OK soon gave way to frustration that nigh was coming, that the whole evening wa in disarray, that dinner would be late.

I felt my stomach tighten; my bod became that little knot of tenseness that i the opposite of everything I try to be.

Then on the street ahead, I saw th license plate: UR4GVN, it announce to me just as clearly as if the Archange Michael had climbed into the front sea of the car and delivered the messag personally.

Suddenly, I had to wipe away th tears that clouded my eyes. A feeling o release went through my whole body. was forgiven?

I could forgive the boy who slid o the ice.

But could I forgive myself for m impatience and anger? For not being th efficient homemaker with dinner planne out ahead of time? For putting too man things on my "to do" list and then goin nuts when it deteriorated into a "didn' do" list?

But I was forgiven.

Who, I wondered, pays to put message like that on their vanity plates?

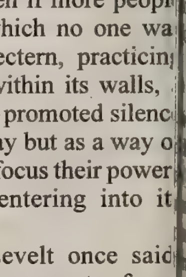
Someone who has no idea he made frazzled mom cry on the way home fro the orthodontist.

Making church inspiring

The Human Side

FATHER EUGENE HEMRICK

CNS COLUMNIST



When you enter church, are you gripped with a sense of reverential awe? Does stillness and order speak of being in God's presence?

Or do you get the impression of a social gathering of friends? When you enter are people scurrying around the altar, lectors looking over texts, choirs practicing and ushers and parishioners conversing?

Several years ago, a classmate and I visited a newly constructed church. As we entered, a woman was standing at the lectern hollering instructions to young people about an upcoming social event.

My classmate remarked, "The lectern should be kept sacred for the word of God. It's not a public podium!"

At first I thought this conservative. I have experienced churches being used for social gatherings. In many poor parishes, they don't have any other facility to use.

With the recent concern of Pope Benedict XVI about the surge in secularism and loss of sacredness, I've had a change of mind. I now wonder whether our churches are unconsciously contributing to this.

To be secular is to be primarily concerned with the here and now. Sacred traditions are of no value, nor is meditating the transcendent.

Not only is our society more secular; it is more profane. The word "profane" means to be "outside the temple."

How to get more of our society into the temple and its divine mysteries is a big challenge. This is especially true of attracting our youth who are brought up in overstimulated environments.

What is there to attract them to our churches? Do we compete with their music with upbeat songs? Do we provide a more inviting social atmosphere for them? Do we focus on contemporary homilies that aim at their world? Or are on the wrong track in this thinking? Instead of increasing stimulation in our churches, make them quiet, awesome temples.

What would happen if more peopl entered a church in which no one wa on the altar, at the lectern, practicin music or conversing within its walls, church whose entrance promoted silenc not in a disciplinary way but as a way o encouraging people to focus their power of concentration on entering into it divine mysteries?

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said "Concentration is the secret of ou strength." Churchgoers should leav church strengthened. What better way t achieve this than creating an awesom stillness that says, God is here?

Bring on the 'individuarians'

New word classifies someone intent on improving common good

Looking Around

JESUIT FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON
CNS COLUMNIST

There is no room for individualism in Catholic social teaching, I remarked recently to a Jewish friend. She thought there should be and wondered why I thought differently.

I explained that any "ism" throws a noun into italics, so to speak, or gives it a bold-face emphasis that almost always results in an imbalance. Racism, sexism, materialism are just three examples I offered to make that point.

I indicated that the word I've come up with to describe an individual who is unique, autonomous and socially responsible is "individuarian."

The word is not in the dictionary, I acknowledged, but it is one that is useful to describe persons who are neither rugged individualists nor ideological communists, even though they are strong-minded individuals.

A good description of the wrong kind of individualist is offered by Mary Douglas and Steven Ney in "Missing Persons":

"Individualists, as the name implies, are not trying to create a community but rather aiming to free themselves from the fetters of social restriction. They thrive in loose organizational structures, around which they can move freely without long-term commitment, able to negotiate their own dealings with other individuals.

"Well-being for them means the freedom to pursue self-interested ends. It is the well-being of the narrowly defined ego, the ideal of negative freedom from interference."

We certainly don't need more of that in contemporary society. We need persons with higher ideals, larger hearts and wider horizons.

In searching for a label for this kind of person, I recalled that "communitarian" came into currency some years ago to describe a community-minded, socially responsible, environmentally sensitive, resourceful and self-starting citizen.

Might not "individuarian" be a good label now for the innovators and enablers we need to offset the community-eroding effects of individualism in daily life?

Individuarians are needed now if America is to find a balanced future free of individualistic excesses.

The meaning of individualism, David Riesman wrote decades ago, depends on the historical setting.

In America at mid-20th century, he saw newer varieties of what he labeled "groupism" becoming "increasingly menacing," while there was a corresponding rise in a character orientation he called "inner-direction" that was guided by values and ideals that made the principled persons who held them "appear to be more individualistic than they actually were."

The "appear to be" qualifier is important.

I use "individuarian" to describe a good form of individualism. It is needed now, I think, to protect the common good from the extremes of self-centeredness on the right and mindless groupism on the left.

It serves to classify the strong individual who is intent on contributing to a stronger and measurably more just society by protecting and advancing the common good. Although respectful of competition and fully capable of confrontation, the individuarian prefers cooperation as an instrument of change on the way to community improvement.

We need more individuarians at all levels of society if society itself is going to survive.

Letting go as your children grow up

Maturity is needed for both kids, parents

Your Family

BILL AND MONICA DODDS
CNS COLUMNISTS

It should get easier, shouldn't it, letting our children move on to the next step — the next stage — in their lives?

But it never does, does it? Dropping the little one at day care for the first time. Walking out of the kindergarten classroom. Seeing a child enter middle school, high school, college.

Standing by as they enter the job market or the military. An overseas deployment. A move to another part of the country or the world.

It isn't that you don't want that child to grow in wisdom and age and grace. It's just that ...

Just that what?

Sometimes we're so busy parenting, we fail to notice that our child is changing; is, in so many ways, becoming a different person. Day to day, we aren't as likely to see it. It's at those dramatic moments, those milestones, that the transformation is startling.

It suddenly becomes clear we no longer have a preschooler.

Yes, those early years had their challenges and, yes, we looked forward to that little one heading off to school for a half day — then a full day! — but when that first school year actually begins — it's then we realize the preschooler is gone.

And we loved that preschooler. Just as we loved that infant. Then that toddler.

Just as, a few years down the road, we'll love that middle-schooler. That high-schooler. That college student. That young adult. (And, as some older seniors will tell you, eventually that middle-ager who has become eligible for AARP, senior discounts and social security. Don't say you weren't warned!)

Loving and letting go is at the heart of parenting. We love who they were. We love who they are. We love who they will be. We treasure all three.

A friend of ours who is a parish director of religious education says one of her favorite stories in the Gospels is Mary and Joseph losing Jesus after a visit to Jerusalem. After three days (three days!), they find him in the Temple (Lk 2:41-52).

Mom: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

Child: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

"There you have proof," our friend maintains, "even in the very best of families, things get mixed up. And messed up. If it happens in the Holy Family, you can be sure it's going to happen in yours."

Sometimes it's our children who remind us they're growing up. They really are old enough to do this or that. But other times, it's a mom or dad who has to point out to that child — or teen — that he or she isn't quite that old yet.

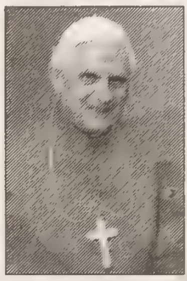
The opposite can happen, too. A parent may need to do a little prodding to get a son or daughter to take the next step. That could be one very loose interpretation of the story of the wedding feast at Cana (Jn 2:1-12).

The sandal was on the other foot there! It was Mary who nudged Jesus to perform his first public miracle.

Pope says Jesus' promise to remain with believers gives them strength

The Pope Speaks

POPE BENEDICT XVI



VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The fact that Christ is both human and divine, that he existed from all eternity and has promised to stay with believers until the end of time, gives Christians the strength they need to live meaningful and upright lives, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"This is important: The eternal God was born of a woman and remains with us each day. Trusting in this, we live. And trusting in this, we find the pathway for our lives," the pope said Oct. 3 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope had returned to the Vatican from his summer villa at Castel Gandolfo where he had been since late July.

The pope discussed the teaching of St. Cyril of Alexandria, the fourth-century bishop and doctor of the church known especially for his defense of the teaching that Jesus Christ was both human and divine, one person with two natures.

The pope described as "significant" St. Cyril's insistence on "the clarity of the doctrine of our faith."

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The subject of today's catechesis is St. Cyril of Alexandria, known as the "pillar of faith" and the "seal of all the Fathers."

He was born somewhere between 370 and 380, and at a young age became bishop of Alexandria.

Cyril was a zealous defender of the faith. He took care to ensure that his theology was firmly situated within the tradition of the church by referring to preceding ecclesiastical authorities, especially Athanasius.

Through a series of letters countering the position of Nestorius, the bishop of Constantinople, Cyril made a very significant contribution to Christology, defending the divinity and humanity of Christ united in the one Lord, Christ and Son. He was also of utmost influence at the Council of Ephesus, supporting the recognition of the Virgin Mary as the "Mother of God." This led to the deposition of Nestorius as bishop of Constantinople.

St. Cyril, a prolific writer whose works were read throughout the church, was declared a doctor of the church by Pope Leo XIII in 1882.

May our remembrance of this outstanding figure in the history of Christianity remind us that the centre of our faith is the encounter with Jesus Christ, who gives each one of us a new horizon and a decisive direction.

Heavenly bodies

Vatican pulls top astronomers into its orbit for galaxy conference

BY CAROL GLATZ
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME — The Vatican Observatory called together some of the world's top astronomers for a major conference on the creation and evolution of disk galaxies in an effort to better understand the nature of the universe.

More than 200 men and women from 26 countries attended the Oct. 1-5 conference in Rome to share some of the discoveries since the Vatican's last galaxy conference in 2000.

The observatory director, Argentine Jesuit Father Jose Funes, said they were able to attract top scientists and scholars for the meeting because "the Vatican Observatory is a prestigious institute, and the Holy See is well recognized in this field of astronomy."

Hosting the meeting in the heart of Rome also made it "particularly appealing to people," he told reporters Oct. 3.

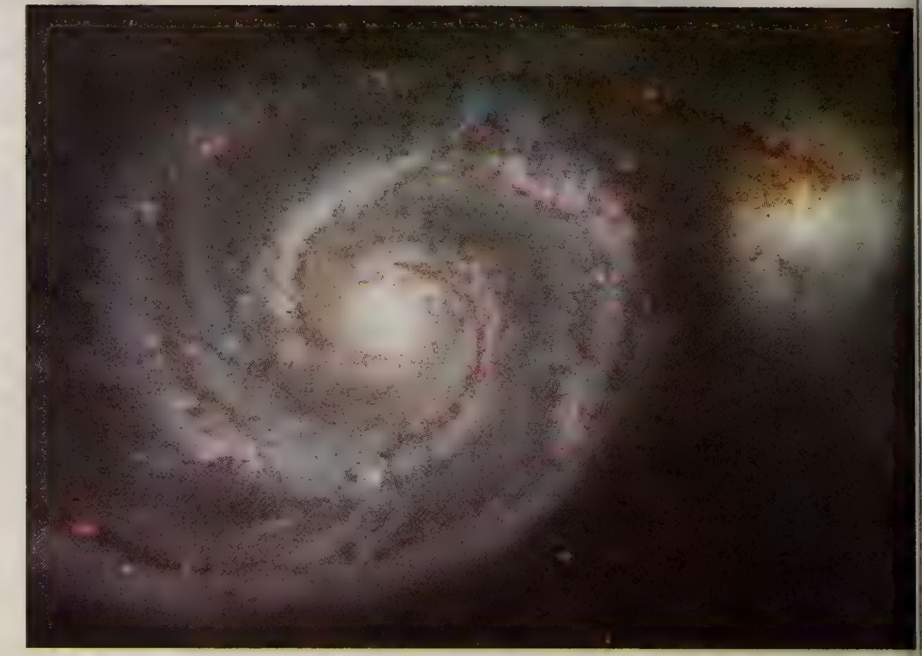
So much is to be discovered about how planets, stars and galaxies are formed, he said. Scientists hope getting a clearer picture of how nearby galaxies developed will help unlock secrets about the nature of more distant galaxies, he said.

Father Funes, an astronomer who specializes in galaxies, said participants were investigating one type of galaxy, the disk galaxy, which, because of its flat circle of stars rotating around a nucleus or central bulge, looks like "a fried egg."

Because of the development of bigger and more powerful telescopes, many discoveries are being made, he said. For example, galaxies are spread out even farther than scientists once thought, he said.

Father Funes said new findings on how galaxies are growing also were being unveiled at the gathering.

Mary Putman, a professor of astronomy at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, said smaller, dwarf galaxies are being lured toward a larger galaxy, which then "gobbles up" the smaller star-systems.



CNS PHOTO BY NASA

The Whirlpool galaxy and the Companion galaxy are seen in this image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. The Vatican Observatory held an international conference Oct. 1-5 in Rome on the formation and evolution of disk galaxies.

She said neighboring dwarf galaxies are drawn in and ripped apart by the strong gravitational pull of the larger galaxy that then sucks in the smaller galaxy's material for its own use.

Putnam, with a team of astronomers, produced in 1998 the world's first image showing the Milky Way tearing off parts of two nearby galaxies.

She told Catholic News Service that an evolving disk galaxy is in constant need of fuel to power its growth.

Earth's galaxy, the Milky Way, gets its energy from a combination of eating up smaller orbiting systems, and having giant clouds which condense in the disk's outer reaches and then "rain" hydrogen fuel onto the galaxy, she said.

Putnam said colleagues in the United States were surprised and "got a kick" out of hearing she was going to present her research to a conference sponsored by the Vatican. But she said that "when I was getting into astronomy I was aware of the Vatican Observatory."

She said seeing the church involved in the field "also shows that whatever your belief system, there is still the mystery of the science going on in the universe that's intriguing to everyone."

Father Funes said that while studying the stars and gazing at galaxies does not erase misery and suffering in the world, "astronomy plays an important role in making us more human."

Discovering the immensity of the universe "helps us to realize we're a small planet, a very fragile planet and we have to take care of it," and save resources for future generations, he said.

Astronomy shows that human beings also "are fragile and small, and in the hands of God," he said.

Space is limited! Call NOW
for your winter cruise to the sun !

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31 - February 11 2008
Join Fr. Mo West and cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, porterage and all port charges! Optional: Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

Sister Helen Prejean

Saturday, October 27 – 6pm at The Oratory
Sister Helen will participate in the 6 pm liturgy at the Oratory church.

Monday, October 29 – 7 pm
at Winthrop University, Tillman Auditorium
Sister Helen will offer a major presentation on capital punishment. Her talk is free and open to the public.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

OCTOBER 12, 2007

SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE

VOLUME 16 Nº 43

Perspectives

Father Pavone suggests a theology of giving; Moises Sandoval looks at Hispanic Catholics' religious heritage

| PAGES 14-15

Good counsel

Diocese of Charlotte issues new guidelines for pastoral councils

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte soon will be issuing new guidelines for parish pastoral councils.

The revised guidelines, which will be promulgated by Bishop Peter J. Jugis and made available after training classes for clergy and laity in November, reflect the changing role of pastoral councils in the 21st century.

"The guidelines reflect a new tone of decision-making that returns the focus of pastoral councils to their original intent — from managing interior church matters to consulting and advising the pastor on matters relating to the parish and the larger community in which its members are called by Christ to serve," said George Cobb, director of planning and research for the Diocese of Charlotte.

See COUNCILS, page 12

Daring deeds in a deadly desert

CNS PHOTO BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA, CATHOLIC SUN

Walt Staton of Tucson, Ariz., and Dane Rossman of New Jersey, volunteers with the humanitarian group No More Deaths, look Sept. 4 for illegal immigrants left behind by their smugglers in the Sonoran Desert near the U.S.-Mexican border.

Deterrence efforts at Arizona-Mexico border rise, but so do deaths

BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ARIVACA, Ariz. — After an immigration reform bill stalled in Congress in June, experts predict that it may take another two years before any meaningful attempts at fixing the situation will see the light of day.

Meanwhile, families remain divided, and lives continue to be lost in the desert.

If you ask people working in the desert, they'll tell you that water can be deadly.

Water makes puddles. Puddles make soggy socks. Soggy socks make for nasty blisters that you can't walk on.

For people crossing the desert, this kind of blister will get them left behind in a hurry.

See BORDER, page 5

'Spirit of gratitude'

St. Pius X recognized for stewardship excellence

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church in Greensboro was recognized recently by the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) for the parish's successful ongoing stewardship efforts.

St. Pius X Church was one of 14 parishes in the United States to receive the 2007 Parish Stewardship Certificate of Recognition, which is given to parishes that excel in stewardship efforts in a variety of parish ministries.

Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office and the president of the board of the ICSC, presented the award to Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor; Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office; Pat Spivey, pastoral associate; Lynn Fly, capital

See STEWARDS, page 4

ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Pro-life supporters take part in a Life Chain along Park Road outside of St. Ann Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7.

Standing up for life

Hundreds of Catholics took part in Life Chains on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7

To show their support for life, parishioners stood along the property lines of their churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns.

For photographs, see pages 8-9.

#BXNPDVQ***************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-6 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

#*

Forming the faith

Catechists attend workshops, training sessions

| PAGE 7

Culture Watch

Children's book about pope; Arab Catholic on TV show

| PAGES 10-11

Habitat of helping

St. Luke Church works to aid wildlife

| PAGE 16

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

RECORD RUNNERS

CNS PHOTO BY DICK MEYER, THE COMPASS

Thirteen of the 14 children born to Ed and Janet Weisse of Oshkosh, Wis., broke the world record for the most siblings to complete the same marathon. They are pictured holding a banner with their mother, Janet.

Catholic family sets record for most siblings to finish same marathon

APPLETON, Wis. (CNS) — When they crossed the finish line, 13 of the 14 children born to Ed and Janet Weisse of Oshkosh broke the world record for the most siblings to complete the same marathon.

But their brother Peter, who died of brain cancer at the age of 3 in 1968, was very much a part of the group and the focus of the day as his siblings ran the 26.2 miles in his memory and to raise money for cancer research.

The Weisses competed in the Community First Fox Cities Marathon Sept. 23.

Running in memory of Peter "gave the event more purpose," said Ben Weisse, the 12th of the siblings and instigator of the family event.

"Whether we get the record or not, who cares? There are 14 of us. We always include Peter in the number. He's my brother," he said.

Greg Weisse, the oldest, agreed.

"This is to remember Peter. We are at a time in our lives where we are all celebrating marriages, first Communions, baptisms," he said.

"This is Peter's day. We're having a celebration for him — that's what makes it pretty cool," he said.

The runners among the siblings finished first. Those who were walking the course were much further behind, and there was concern for Ben and Bernadette as the eight-hour deadline approached.

To break the record set by the 12 siblings of the Irwin family of Ireland in the 2005 Dublin City Marathon, all of the Weisses in the race had to finish it in eight hours.

"They were two miles out with 20 minutes to go," said Chris Weisse, the third oldest and fourth-place finisher among the siblings..

"There was a period in there we were doubting we'd get the record," he said.

"Ben came in at the end. He was the instigator but was hurt in ... training. He said, 'I forced everybody into this, I've got to do it,'" he said.

Chris Weisse said setting the world record is great.

"It was unbelievable how many people were cheering for us, most of them complete strangers. That part was really neat, having so much support from the community," he said.

The close-knit siblings, who now range in age from 33 to 54, grew up in Oshkosh, where Ed Weisse was a longtime member of the board of education for the Green Bay Diocese.

The parents are members of St. Jude the Apostle Church. Most of their children still live in Wisconsin.

"The thing that's beautiful to me is all my kids didn't want to do (the marathon), but they didn't want to be the one that didn't do it," Janet Weisse said. "That I'm proud of. They're doing it for each other. That's love."

Bishop Baker installed as fourth bishop of Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — Bishop Robert J. Baker was installed as the fourth bishop of Birmingham at the Cathedral of St. Paul Oct. 2.

The three-hour ceremony began with Bishop Baker knocking at the Birmingham cathedral door, signaling his willingness to enter and become head of the diocese.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, read the mandate from Pope Benedict XVI appointing Bishop Baker. Archbishop Sambi and Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile escorted Bishop Baker to the cathedra, the chair that symbolizes a bishop's teaching office and his pastoral authority in the local church.

Archbishop Lipscomb then presented him with the crosier, the pastoral staff that is the symbol of his office.

"I am happy to be the new bishop of Birmingham," Bishop Baker told the congregation.

He also thanked his predecessor, retired Bishop David E. Foley, for his "devoted leadership."

Bishop Foley retired in May 2005, but was diocesan administrator until Bishop Baker's installation.

Greeting the Hispanic community in Spanish, Bishop Baker said, "Consider me, my brothers and sisters, not only your pastor, but your brother and companion in this journey to the promised land.

"I firmly desire to develop a loving and close relationship with the Hispanic/Latino community coming from so many rich and diverse cultures that share, among other things, the devotion to Mary and the Spanish language," he added. "You are a blessing not only to the United States, but for our diocese. Continue to live your values, your devotions and traditions. They are your wealth."

He thanked the Eternal Word Television Network, based in Birmingham, for carrying the installation live and providing a live feed to the overflow crowd.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *Family Ultreya* will take Oct. 21, 12-2 p.m., at in the family room of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. All Cursillistas, their families and friends are invited to join us for faith, food and fellowship. We will have an inspirational witness talk, grouping and a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. For more information, call Tom and Heather Martin at (704) 544-7011. For babysitting arrangements, call Vicki Torres at (704) 543-7677, ext. 1011.

CHARLOTTE — A *Pro-Life Prayer Vigil* will take place through Nov. 4. For more information, e-mail Diane Hoefling at rhoef541@aol.com or call (704) 541-3760 or (704) 519-8086. Also visit www.40daysforlife.com.

CHARLOTTE — *"Bereavement and Grief — Helping Seniors Cope"* will be presented at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Oct. 18, 7-8:30 p.m. Larry Dawalt of Hospice and Palliative Care will speak about the variety of losses seniors experience, coping mechanisms and the importance of treating senior survivors with grace and dignity. For more information, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will present *"The Acts of the Apostles"* Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., through Nov. 14. This study program will include individual study, small-group discussions and taped lectures. For registration and more information, call Mary at (704) 948-8285 or Angela at (704) 400-8517.

CHARLOTTE — Deepen your faith this fall with *"Lunchtime Spirituality"* at St. Peter Church, 12-12:45 p.m., in the Annex, 507 S. Tryon St. Bring your lunch, listen to a talk on spirituality and participate in a short prayer session — a great way to renew during the workweek and to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Topic for Oct. 18 is "The Jesus Prayer." For more information, call the office at (704) 332-2901.

CHARLOTTE — Dr. M. Shawn Copeland will present *"Who is my Neighbor? The Challenge of Solidarity"* as part of the Kennedy Lecture Series in Biss Hall at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.stpeterscatholic.org. Call the church office at (704) 332-2901, ext. 12 to RSVP.

CHARLOTTE — St. Basil the Great Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church will have a *Ukrainian Mass* in English in the chapel of Charlotte Catholic High School, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. The Mass is open to anyone who would like to attend. For more information, please contact Father Mark Shuey at mshuey2@nc.rr.com or call (919) 779-7246.

CHARLOTTE — *Christians in Career Transition* is a ministry devoted to helping people in career crisis. The group meets the first and third Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in room 132 of the New Life Center at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. Please call Jack Rueckel at (704) 341-8449 for more information.

GASTONIA VICARIATE

BELMONT — A public Catholic conference, *"The Ingersoll Symposium: American Ideas of Liberty and Virtue: Political, Religious and Philosophical Dimensions,"* will take at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd., Oct. 19-20. For more information, call Dr. Robert Preston at (704) 829-7231, e-mail RobertPreston@bac.edu or visit www.bradleyinstitute.org.

—THE—
CATHOLIC
NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

OCTOBER 12, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 43

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

World Jewish leaders meet with pope, discuss anti-Semitism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI recently welcomed the new leaders of the World Jewish Congress to the Vatican.

Ronald S. Lauder, elected president of the congress in June, said his talks at the Vatican Oct. 8 focused on interreligious dialogue and on anti-Semitism in a number of European countries.

The congress represents Jewish communities in more than 80 countries.

The congress' statement released to the press said Lauder, a former U.S. ambassador to Austria, told the pope that "the anti-Semitic statements" attributed to Redemptorist Father Tadeusz Rydzyk, founder and director of Poland's Radio Maryja, "should not be tolerated anymore."

Lauder "called on the pontiff to take action against those in the church who wanted to do damage to the close and positive relationship between Christians and Jews," the statement said.

Father Rydzyk, whose radio station ranks fifth in Poland's national ratings, repeatedly has been accused of making anti-Semitic remarks.

When Lauder and the organization's secretary-general, Michael Schneider, met the pope, they also highlighted the importance of dialogue among Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Christians and Jews, he said, must reach out to the Muslim majority and build "bridges of tolerance and understanding."

The press statement also said Lauder "offered to host a joint event in honor of the pope during the pontiff's forthcoming visit to the United States."

The congress has headquarters in New York, which is reported to be on the pope's itinerary for a spring 2008 trip.

"The pope accepted the invitation in principle and said that both sides should work on the arrangements," the congress said.

Vatican official says religions must be free to contribute to peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The only way to ensure that religions contribute to peace rather than violence is to guarantee religious freedom and promote religious education so believers understand that peace and harmony are at the core of every religion, the Vatican's foreign minister said.

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, spoke Oct. 5 at the U.N. General Assembly's high-level dialogue on interreligious and intercultural understanding and cooperation for peace.

Archbishop Mamberti said Pope Benedict has taught that "faithfulness to one's own religious convictions is not expressed in violence and intolerance, but in sincere respect for others, in dialogue and in an announcement that appeals to freedom and reason while remaining committed to peace and reconciliation."

While religion is a herald and source of peace, the archbishop said, it too often has been manipulated by politicians, nationalists and those seeking power.

Theological reflection, philosophical questioning and spiritual discernment have been used effectively throughout the ages to harness religious fervor and direct it toward the good of society, he said.

"There cannot be peace without understanding and cooperation among religions," he said. "There cannot be understanding and cooperation among religions without religious liberty."

Archbishop Mamberti told the conference, "The full exercise of the right to religious freedom is based on respect for human reason and its capacity to know the truth; it ensures openness to transcendence as an indispensable guarantee of human dignity; (and) it allows all religions to manifest their own identity publicly, free from any pressure to hide or disguise it."

Restricting or denying religious freedom is not the way to combat violent tendencies when they arise, he said.

Rather, governments and groups must mobilize religious leaders, promote education, and rally the public in opposition to "hate speech and other public acts calculated to spur sectarian violence."

Archbishop Mamberti said international interreligious meetings to promote prayers for peace, such as those convoked by Pope John Paul II in Assisi, Italy, should be duplicated on the local and national level.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *2007 St. Pius X Community Health Expo* will take place Oct. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Kloster Center of St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. This free event will include informational sessions on back care; cardiac health; mental health; and strategies for managing osteoarthritis, weight and diabetes. Vision, bone density, blood pressure screenings will be available. Childcare will be available in the parish nursery. For more information, call the church office at (336) 272-4681 or e-mail piusxfaith@aol.com.

GREENSBORO — A *Catholic Charismatic Renewal Celebration and Mass* will be celebrated at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., Oct. 20, 1-3 p.m. For more information, call Melissa Miller at (336) 274-6520.

GREENSBORO — Young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s are invited to come and experience great speakers, excellent food and conversations at *Theology on Tap*. ToT will meet Tuesdays, Oct. 23-Nov. 13 at 6:45 p.m. for dinner and a social hour. Speakers begin at 7:45 p.m. Each week we will collect cranberry sauce and stuffing for Our Lady of Grace Church's Thanksgiving baskets. For more info e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call Deb at (336) 286-3687.

HIGH POINT — Have you been away from the church for a while? No matter how long you've been away, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., invites you to attend the *Hope of Seeing Everyone Again* program. This small group meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. through Nov. 14. To register and for more information, call the church office at (336) 869-7730 or Jan Hitch at (336) 884-5067.

GREENSBORO — The *Men's Early Morning Bible Study Group* at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., meets Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. in the Parish Life Center, room 4. "Genesis 1-11: The Primordial History," will be studied through Dec. 18. Bring your own Bible. For more information, contact Gus Magrinat at gmagrinat@pol.net or John Malmfelt at jmalmsie@aol.com.

SALISBURY VICARIATE

MOCKSVILLE — St. Francis of Assisi Church, 862 Yadkinville Rd., will hold a parish mission, *"Living Our Faith With Joy,"* Oct. 13-17 at 7 p.m. Themes include "Loving God and One Another," "Am I Forgiven? Can I Forgive?" and "Wholeness of Body and Soul." The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered Oct. 16. For more information, call Gayle O'Grady at (336) 751-2117.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MURPHY — The office of faith formation of St. William Church, 765 Andrews Rd., will present a four-part film, *"Feast of Faith: The Transforming Power of the Eucharist,"* Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Commons. For more information, call Michelle Calascione at (828) 837-2000 or e-mail stwilliamfaithformation@msn.com.

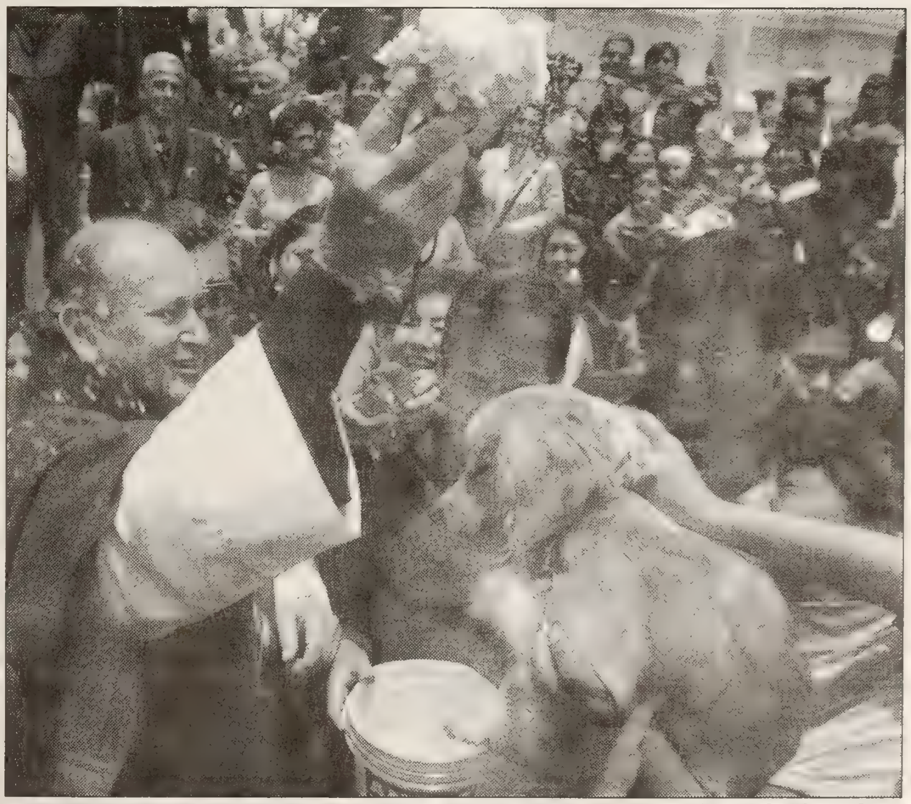
MURPHY — *The Bereavement Support Group* of St. William Church will meet Tuesdays through Nov. 6, 1-3 p.m., in the Glenmary Center, 731 Andrews Rd. This support group will aid in the healing process of anyone who has experienced loss through death, divorce or other life-changing situations. For more information, call Heather Schmitt at (828) 837-7048.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series,* 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations on a variety of topics. Jim Day will present "Christian Paradox" Oct. 17. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Pet blessings



CNS PHOTO BY PILAR OLIVARES, REUTERS

A Catholic priest blesses a dog outside St. Francis Church in Lima, Peru, during an Oct. 7 celebration of the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 13 — 6 p.m.
Deacons' retreat dinner
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Oct. 14 — 1 p.m.
Enthronement of the Infant of Prague
Divine Redeemer Church, Boonville

Oct. 17 — 10 a.m.
Finance Council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Oct. 17 — 6:15 p.m.
Forty-day vigil Mass
St. Ann Church, Charlotte

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.

2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.

3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

St. Pius lauded for stewardship

STEWARDS, *from page 1*

campaign administrative chairperson; Gary Fly, capital campaign chairperson; and Tracy Welliver, pastoral associate, at the council's annual conference in Miami Sept. 23-26.

"We are entrusted with certain gifts from God, and those gifts are meant to be shared," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

"The people at St. Pius have very generous hearts; they are a eucharistic people who have enormous gratitude for God's gifts," he said. "They are fed at the altar, and then go into the community to make a difference."

"It's a blessing to see how the parish responds to the disadvantaged," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

St. Pius X Church has embraced the idea of stewardship for most of its 52-year history. Previous pastors, notably Father George Kloster and Father Francis Connelly, focused on stewardship, and Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor, is a proponent, as well.

"Msgr. Marcaccio manages to incorporate stewardship into almost every one of his homilies," said Spivey.

"Stewardship is an integral part of our Catholic faith if we truly want to follow Jesus," said Spivey. "We have to realize that we are entrusted to share our time, talent and treasure with others, and we must develop our gifts and give back tenfold."

The parish keeps stewardship on the forefront with a "Stewardship Corner" in the weekly bulletin and articles in "Echoes," the parish newsletter.

The parish celebrated September 2007 as Stewardship Month with a stewardship fair and commitment weekend Sept. 15-16.

As part of Stewardship Month, the parish invited Father Daniel Mahan to speak at the parish Sept. 8-11. He preached at the weekend Masses and gave three mission talks during his visit.

Father Mahan is executive director of the Marian College Center for Catholic Stewardship in Indianapolis and director of formation for the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

"Father Mahan talked about having a 'spirit of gratitude,' which then leads to a sense of responsibility to reciprocate with your time, talent and treasure," said Welliver.

"Stewardship is misunderstood in the church today," Father Mahan said. "It's often seen as just secular fundraising in sheep's clothing."

"But stewardship is about much more than money — it's a way of life, deeply rooted in the person of Jesus Christ," he said. "My hope is that the parish mission not only will make clear the true meaning of stewardship, but also will inspire parishioners to live their spirituality more fully."

"Everything you do — wherever you are — that's ministry and its stewardship," Spivey said.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on promoting stewardship as a way of life in your parish, contact Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development, at (704) 370-3302 or visit www.charlottediocese.org/stewardship.

Church's capital campaign recognized

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Church in Greensboro has received the award from the International Catholic Stewardship Council for Excellence in Total Capital Campaign Program and Materials.

The award was presented at the council's annual conference in Miami.

In September 2003, St. Pius X Church's pastoral council established a "Vision 2010 Committee" to identify pastoral priorities for planning and decision-making by the pastor, the pastoral council and the parish staff.

In the spring of 2004, the committee began collecting data, which included a parish profile describing the current state of the parish, a parish survey designed to solicit opinions regarding the future of the parish and the results of listening sessions involving small groups of parishioners discussing their hopes and concerns for the parish. It also anticipated trends in the local community and the Catholic Church

In January 2005, the pastoral council used that data to develop the Vision 2010 Planning Document, which outlined the strengths and weaknesses of the parish, pastoral priorities and future initiatives.

One of the primary focuses of the document is the need for a parish campus to meet the physical, liturgical and social needs of the growing population.

"Our parishioners understand the necessity for a new church, and their response has been phenomenal," said Msgr. Anthony Marcaccio, pastor.

The capital campaign was launched in April 2007, with a goal of raising $4.2 million to construct a new church.

"The diocese warned us that this is an ambitious goal, but the people have responded enthusiastically," said Msgr. Marcaccio.

In less than six months, about 86 percent of the funds have been pledged, said Tracy Welliver, pastoral associate, and they hope to break ground next fall.

"Because the parish has a strong sense of stewardship, the capital campaign has been that much easier," Welliver said.

According to Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office, the parish may reach its goal in pledges by the end of November 2007.

"Under the leadership of Msgr. Marcaccio; Gary Fly, the campaign chairman; and the campaign committee, St. Pius has done an outstanding job in its campaign efforts," said Kelley. "By winning this award, they are a model for every parish in the country."

Signing up stewards

RESPEC
LIFE
Take My Hand
LIFE CH

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Fred Werth, parochial vicar of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, is pictured Sept. 30 with parishioner Jill Lawler during the Stewardship Fair held after Masses Sept. 29-30. Lawler volunteers with the parish's respect life activities. About 50 parish groups had booths and more than 300 parishioners signed up to assist during the upcoming year.

Spend springtime
in the Alps!

Discover spectacular
Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria
with the Diocese of Charlotte and Fr. Mo West
April 30 — May 9, 2008

Bring family and friends to experience the area's breathtaking scenery, the rich culture of the old-world cities, and the charm of the Alpine villages and their people!

Your 10-day, fully-escorted experience features daily excursions based out of 2 centrally-located "hub cities" – Bern, Switzerland and Innsbruck, Austria. That means less packing and more time to explore Lucerne, Montreux, Interlaken, Gindelwald, Salzburg and Oberammergau as well!

Highlights of this itinerary include:

- GoldenPass Panoramic Train ride past wood chalets and magnificent views on the way to Gstaad, world-famous Alpine resort
- sightseeing tour of Bern's historical Old Town, its famous sights of today, and the medieval Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area – plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
- plus leisure time to shop and explore these exciting sites on your own!

All-inclusive price: Only $2,699 from Charlotte INCLUDES airfare; all air taxes/surcharges and fees; hotel transfers; most meals; fulltime tour manager/escort; first class hotels; all guides and admission fees. Travel insurance is extra.

Space is very limited! A $250 deposit is due before November 30 so CALL NOW for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese: (704) 370-3332

Humanitarian group offers aid in desert

BORDER, from page 1

"Rains make this time of year more dangerous," said Joe Shortall from Los Angeles, volunteering with No More Deaths, a humanitarian group that patrols the Arizona desert looking for illegal immigrants left behind by smugglers.

Rainfall and sweltering heat made crossing the Sonoran Desert as dangerous as ever for illegal immigrants this summer. The U.S. Border Patrol's Tucson sector reported finding 186 bodies so far this year, 26 more than at the same time last year.

Border Patrol Agent Dove Haber said environmental factors, like puddles that lead to debilitating blisters, could explain changes in the death toll.

Yet the number of humanitarians and Border Patrol agents patrolling the desert continues to grow, and the Border Patrol, reporting the apprehension of fewer illegal immigrants this year, estimates fewer crossings.

"Despite the increase in presence, there's an increase in deaths," said Franciscan Brother David Bruer, who walks desert patrols with No More Deaths on the weekends.

Walt Staton with No More Deaths didn't think changes in the weather were enough to explain the increase in deaths this year.

> "...We'll keep coming out there until we have a whole summer without finding anyone, until there are no more deaths."
>
> — Walt Staton,
> No More Deaths

"Every mile of fence creates a more dangerous situation for those people who are crossing," he said. "It's meant to be a deterrent, but it hasn't happened. It's not going to happen."

Current security measures include building walls and beefing up enforcement near large, urban centers.

According to an August 2001 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the strategy has diverted immigrants away from the Border Patrol to more remote regions of the desert.

Staton suggested there was a direct correlation between the miles of fence built and the number of migrants who died crossing the border. The claim is difficult to evaluate since there is no official record of the number of people who have died crossing the U.S.-Mexican border.

CNS PHOTO BY J.D. LONG-GARCIA, CATHOLIC SUN

Walt Staton of Tucson, Ariz., Dane Rossman of New Jersey and Jimmy Wells of Tucson, volunteers with the humanitarian group No More Deaths, map out their Sept. 4 search for illegal immigrants left behind by their smugglers in the Sonoran Desert near the U.S.-Mexican border.

"Traffic patterns really do ebb and flow in reaction to where we respond," Haber said. "We need to still do what we're hired to do."

The reason why the Border Patrol places particular emphasis on urban centers is because border-crossers are able to "blend into the environment of that surrounding community," she said.

Last year Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, formally asked President George W. Bush to veto a congressional proposal to erect a 700-mile fence.

"In our estimation, the erection of a border fence would force migrants, desperate to find employment to support their families, to seek alternative and more dangerous ways to enter the country, contributing to an increase in deaths, including women and children," he wrote.

"The U.S. Catholic bishops are supportive of efforts to enforce immigration law and secure our borders, as long as the mechanisms and strategies applied toward this end protect human dignity and protect human life," Bishop Barnes added.

Whatever the cause, the church and humanitarian groups such as No More Deaths continue their efforts aimed at preventing death in the desert.

"What our church is trying to teach us is that we are in the midst of a humanitarian crisis, and we need to respond with love and compassion," said Brother Bruer of the San Xavier del Bac Mission in southern Arizona.

At the Arivaca camp Sept. 4, a beat-up thermometer measured the 101-degree temperature while a baby tarantula nestled into the waterproof awning overhead.

On the afternoon patrol, Staton and Dane Rossman from New Jersey hiked through the desert, passing clothes, empty water bottles and Red Bull energy-drink cans that those crossing the border had left behind.

"I always say it's good when we don't find anyone. It means there wasn't someone in need on that trail," Staton said.

"But we'll keep coming out there until we have a whole summer without finding anyone," he added, "until there are no more deaths."

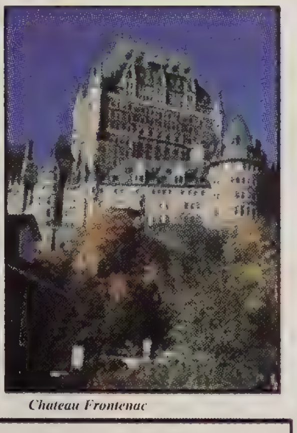
Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

Invites You On A Pilgrimage To The

49th International
Eucharistic Congress
Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Quebec

Ste Anne de Beaupré, Quebec

St. Joseph Oratory



Chateau Frontenac

Your 10 Day Pilgrimage Tour Includes:

June 14 – 23, 2008

- Round trip scheduled air from Charlotte to Montreal
- Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations at the 4 star Chateau Laurier Hotel, Quebec City (or similar)
- Sightseeing tour of Quebec including: the Citadelle, Plains of Abraham, Chateau Frontenac, and Notre-Dame des Victoires Church
- Half day trip to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré
- Evening tour to the Ile d'Orleans with dinner in a traditional "Sugar Shack"
- Deluxe coach for round trip airport transfer from Montreal to Quebec City
- Hotel porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person and local taxes
- Registration fee to attend the Eucharistic Congress:
  - A week long experience of faith centered on the Eucharist
  - Closing Eucharistic celebration on the Plains of Abraham
  - Visit the Quebec Eucharistic Congress website, www.cei2008.ca for more details

Deposit by October 31
for special rate of only:
$2,899*

Call Corporate Travel at 800-727-1999; ext. 121 to book today – Limited Availability!

docPod
diocese of charlotte podcast

It's news and inspiration about the Diocese of Charlotte!

Bishop Jugis talks about Catholic Cemeteries

Subscribe today — it's FREE!

Check it out at www.CharlotteDiocese.org.

Celebrating 50 years

COURTESY PHOTO

Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes, parochial vicar of St. Therese Church in Mooresville, is pictured with Knights of Columbus color guard after the Mass at which Father Kappes celebrated 50 years as a Jesuit priest. A reception in the parish hall followed the Mass.

Father Kappes is chaplain of Knights of Columbus Council 7604. Prior to arriving in the Diocese of Charlotte, he served as a teacher, counselor and administrator at Jesuit high schools in the Detroit province, as well as an associate pastor and pastor at parishes in Ohio.

Franklin woman receives habit from Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne

HAWTHORNE, N.Y. — Marian Morales, a novice with the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, recently became Sister Estella Mary.

Morales, who has lived and worked in Franklin, N.C., was one of two novices who received habits and took religious names in the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne during a ceremony in Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel at the community's motherhouse in Hawthorne, N.Y., Sept. 14.

During the ceremony, two other women also took vows as Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne. Mother Anne Marie Holden, superior general, received the vows.

Founded in 1900, the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne is a nursing order dedicated to caring for terminally ill cancer patients.

Come one! Come all!
YARD SALE & BAKE SALE
Saturday, October 20th 8 am – 3 pm
Our Lady of the Annunciation Church
416 N. Second St., Albemarle
(Family Life Center - enter on Third St.)
Children's clothes – Household treasures – Books galore
Something for everyone!

Delicious breakfast
8 – 11:30 am
Pancakes, sausage gravy
and biscuits, sausage biscuits!

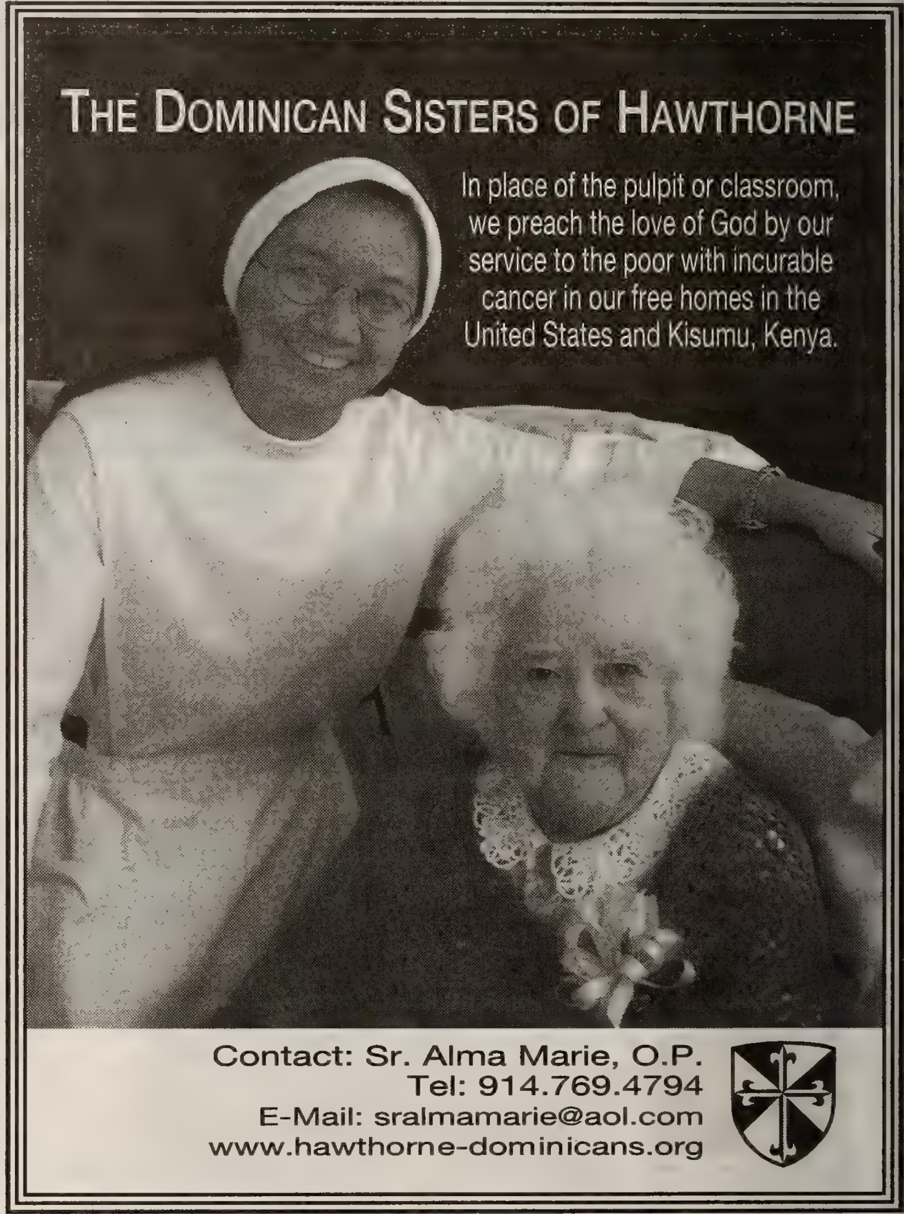
CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Thinking about a will?

Request a free Wills Kit from CRS.
Learn what you need to know
before you see an attorney.

1-800-235-2772 ext. 7318

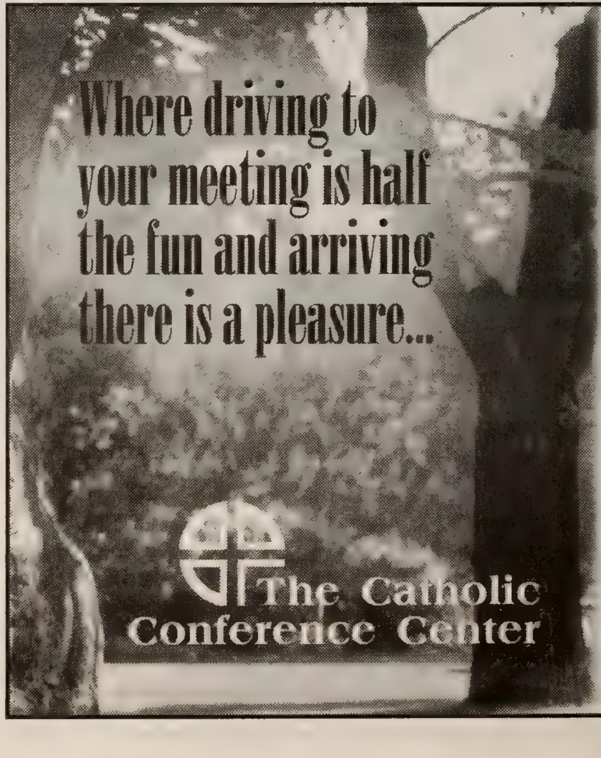
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
Serving the poorest of the poor overseas.



THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE

In place of the pulpit or classroom,
we preach the love of God by our
service to the poor with incurable
cancer in our free homes in the
United States and Kisumu, Kenya.

Contact: Sr. Alma Marie, O.P.
Tel: 914.769.4794
E-Mail: sralmamarie@aol.com
www.hawthorne-dominicans.org



Where driving to your meeting is half the fun and arriving there is a pleasure...
The Catholic Conference Center

The Center is centrally located in the Piedmont of North Carolina. Located only an hour's drive from three major cities assures meeting planners and attendees a meeting that is more accessible than ever. Being accessible to the country and a peaceful setting is a meeting place only we can offer!

1551 Trinity Lane
Hickory, NC 28602

(828) 327-7441
Toll-free (888) 536-7441
info@catholicconference.org
www.catholicconference.org

Leading catechists

COURTESY PHOTO

The leadership team for the diocesan Office of Faith Formation's central region is pictured during the catechetical training day, themed "Sowers of the Seed VII," held at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir Sept. 29. The leadership team has implemented catechist formation workshops for catechists at churches within the central region, which includes the Gastonia, Hickory and Boone vicariates.

Pictured are (standing, from left): Cuauhtemoc Gonzales, Mary Sorel, Terri Martino, Dennis Teall-Fleming, Carol Brown, Father Antonio Juya and Deacon Dario Garcia.

8TH ANNUAL KENNEDY LECTURE
OCTOBER 20, 2007, 9 AM-12:30 PM
"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?
THE CHALLENGE OF SOLIDARITY"
by
M. SHAWN COPELAND, PHD.
Associate Professor, Boston College
St. Peter's Catholic Church
507 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, N.C.
Admission is free, but please phone to reserve your place. 704-332-2901, ext. 12.
www.stpeterscatholic.org for more information

Have you visited a Catholic school lately?

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS—
October 21th 1:30 - 3:30pm
October 23rd 9:00 -12:00pm
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic School (PK-5)
4225 Shamrock Drive • Charlotte
St. Ann Catholic School (TK-5)
600 Hillside Avenue • Charlotte
St. Gabriel Catholic School (K-5)
3028 Providence Road • Charlotte
St. Mark Catholic School (K-8)
14750 Stumptown Road • Huntersville
St. Matthew Catholic School (TK-5)
11525 Elm Lane • Charlotte
St. Patrick Catholic School (K-5)
1125 Buchanan Street • Charlotte

MACS
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools
OPEN HOUSE
1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203
Admissions: (704) 370-3273

MACS admit students of any race, color, sex, religion, and national or ethnic origin.

Circle of conversation

COURTESY PHOTO BY THERESA PRYMUSZEWSKI

A group of catechists take part in a small group discussion during the first bilingual workshop for catechists from Catholic churches in the diocesan Office of Faith Formation's western region, held at St. Joan of Arc Church in Candler Sept. 8. The western region includes both Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates.

Sixty-one people attended the workshop, which featured speakers including Father Patrick Winslow, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon, and Jesuit Father William Ameche, a Hispanic minister in the Asheville Vicariate.

Pictured (from left) are Hector Onate, Connie De La Paz, Luisa Leon and Yolanda Reyes of St. Eugene Church in Asheville; and Innocencia Chacon of St. Joan of Arc Church.

Exploring spiritual foundations

COURTESY PHOTO BY DR. CRIS VILLAPANDO

Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, speaks during a catechetical leadership in-service day at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Sept. 27. More than 75 parish catechetical leaders and pastors from churches across the diocese attended the event, themed "Spiritual Foundation of the Catechist."

We're finally open! IMMACULATA CATHOLIC CO.
BIGGER & NEW LOCATION!
1123 SOUTH CHURCH ST., CHARLOTTE
(AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER, ONE BLOCK OFF MOREHEAD ST.)
Your COMPLETE CATHOLIC store!
* Extensive book selection
* Beautiful Catholic art
* Used book bargains
* Unique cards, rosaries, medals
* Gifts for every special occasion
* ...and a kids' play area!
SPECIAL ORDERS AND MAIL ORDERS, TOO!
HOURS: MON-FRI – 9 - 5:30 704 - 651 - 1854

Walking for life

COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners from Holy Spirit Church in Denver are pictured during the First Steps Annual Life Walk fundraiser for East Lincoln Pregnancy Counseling Center in Denver, held at the Rock Springs Elementary track Sept. 8. The enthusiastic walkers from Holy Spirit Church raised more than $2,100, the largest amount donated from participating churches and organizations. The center offers support and counseling to pregnant women in need.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are some of the more than 700 people who participated in the Life Chain on Battleground Avenue in Greensboro on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7.

Sponsored by Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministries

Share your day and lunch with friends!

Fall Day of Reflection for Seniors

CSS
Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

TWO DATES & LOCATIONS
TO CHOOSE FROM!

Wednesday, Nov. 7 – St. Mark, Huntersville – 10:30 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Monday, Oct. 29
Presenter and Mass Celebrant: Fr. Frank O'Rourke

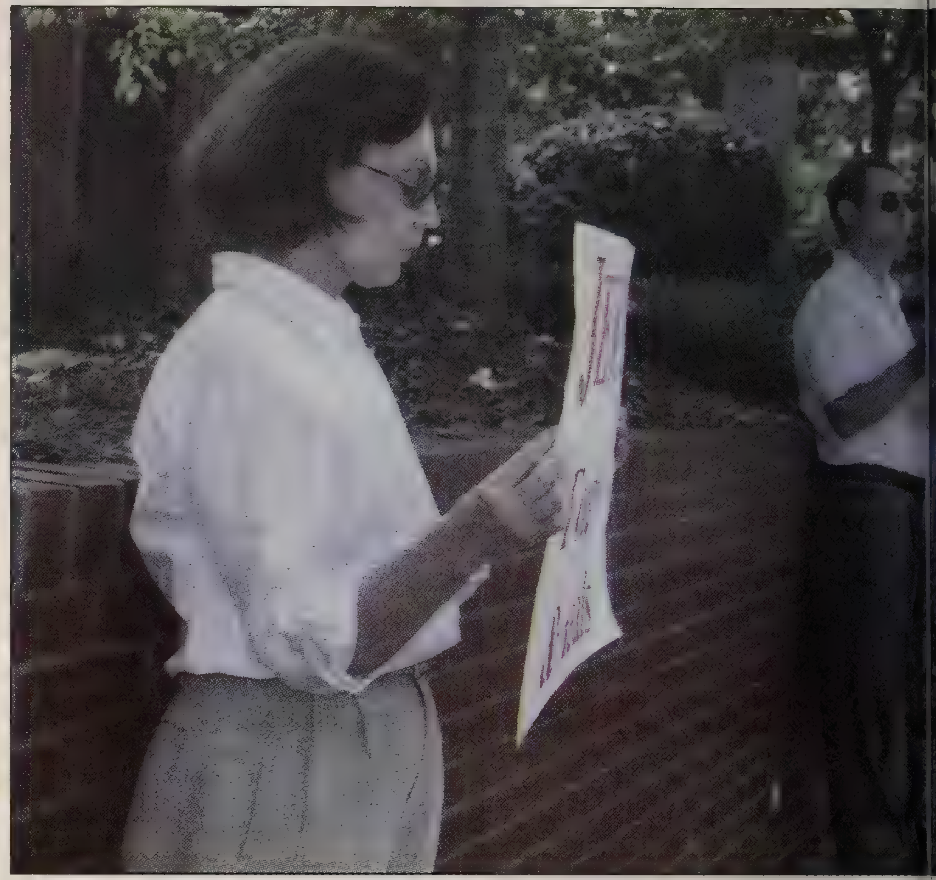
Thursday, Nov. 15 – Catholic Conference Center – 10 am – 3 pm
Deadline for registration: Friday, Nov. 2
Presenter and Mass celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Mo West

Cost: $12 - includes coffee and snacks, and full lunch
Register as a group or individually by sending your check (payable to Catholic Social Services) and your parish name to: **Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry**
1123 S. Church St.
Charlotte NC 28203-4003

For more information call Sandra at 704-370-3220 or Sherill at 704-370-3228.

STANDING UP R

Hundreds of Catholics around the Diocese of Cha
show their support for pro-life causes on Re



Pro-life supporters take part in a Life Chain outside St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunda

International Adoption

Please join us for an information session about our programs with Russia and China.

Saturday, October 20
1-3 pm
St. Matthew Catholic Church
8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway
Charlotte

Catholic Social Services
Diocese of Charlotte

For more information, contact us:

1-888-990-4199 or cssadopt@charlottediocese.org

R LIFE

ok part in Life Chains to
fe Sunday, Oct. 7.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

WANT MORE PHOTOS?
More photos from this event are available at www.charlottediocese.org.

FACE IT
Abortion Kills
ALL

AY TO
END
ORTION
ALL

Photos by Kevin E. Murray

(Above and at right) Bishop Peter J. Jugis and parishioners from St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte take part in a Life Chain along Kings Drive in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7.

Abortion Kills Children
God made Children to LIVE
Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation
ADOPTION: Loving Option

Courtesy Photo

People take part in a Life Chain at Innes Street and Main Street in Salisbury Oct. 7. Parishioners from Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury along with members of Knights of Columbus Council 8680 took part in the pro-life event.

JESUS
Forgives
& Heals

Courtesy Photo

People take part in a Life Chain outside of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7.

Caring for Charlotte Area Catholic Families in Their Hour of Need Since 1926

McEWEN
FUNERAL SERVICE, INC.

Charlotte 704-334-6421
Pineville 704-544-1412
Mint Hill 704-545-4864
Derita 704-596-3291

Learn Rosary Making

A Catholic Tradition

Contact us for a catalog and introductory offer!

LEWIS
& COMPANY
Dedicated to Rosary Making!

rosaryparts.com
(800) 342 - 2400

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church invites you to a

Day of Reflection featuring
Dr. Scott Hahn
Saturday, November 10
10 am – 4 pm

Internationally known theologian, author, speaker and professor at Franciscan University, Dr. Hahn will be giving three talks about the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and defending the Catholic faith.

NOTE: Tickets must be purchased in advance - $10

Please bring a bagged lunch.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
1400 Suther Road, Charlotte 28213

Call 704-549-1607 for tickets.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Chico the cat tells children how his best friend became Pope Benedict

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Chico the cat thinks he is in the "purrfect" position to tell children the story of how one of his best friends became Pope Benedict XVI.

The cat's tale is confirmed, at least as far as the facts of the papal biography go, by Msgr. Georg Ganswein, Pope Benedict's personal secretary and the author of the preface to the Italian children's book, "Joseph and Chico: A Cat Recounts the Life of Pope Benedict XVI."

A spokeswoman for the Conventual Franciscans' Edizioni Messaggero Padova, the book's publisher, said they expect to find translators and foreign publishers for the book at the mid-October International Frankfurt Book Fair in Germany.

In his preface, Msgr. Ganswein wrote to young readers, "It's not every day that a cat considers the Holy Father his friend and sits down to write his story."

Having served first as secretary to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then as his secretary after he became pope, Msgr. Ganswein assured readers that he knows Pope Benedict well and that the words author Jeanne Perego puts into the mouth of Chico — between a few meows — are "all true and interesting."

The papal secretary said he shares Chico's opinion that "the Holy Father is a special person," especially because "he is a sincere friend of Jesus."

Chico, a ginger tabby, said he met the future pope in Pentling, Germany, a town near Regensburg where the pope and his brother have a house. Chico officially belonged to the neighbors, but said he was welcome in the Ratzinger house.

Chico would rub up against the pope's legs, curl up in his lap, watch and listen, which is how he came to know the details of the pope's biography.

While the future pope and his brother were teenagers preparing for the priesthood, "in Germany the tragedy that would shake the world unfolded. I am speaking of Nazism, one of the most dramatic and shameful moments of human history," the cat wrote.

"Joseph was forced to do something that absolutely went against his will: enter the army and leave for war," he said.

The young Ratzinger was assigned to a unit defending a factory that made airplane motors and then was sent to prepare bunkers against a possible tank attack.

As the book ends, Chico said he watched coverage of the 2005 death of Pope John Paul II and the conclave on television.

"In my house, we were all deliriously happy" when it was announced to the world that Cardinal Ratzinger had been elected pope.

"I was so excited that I forgot to demand my dinner," he said.

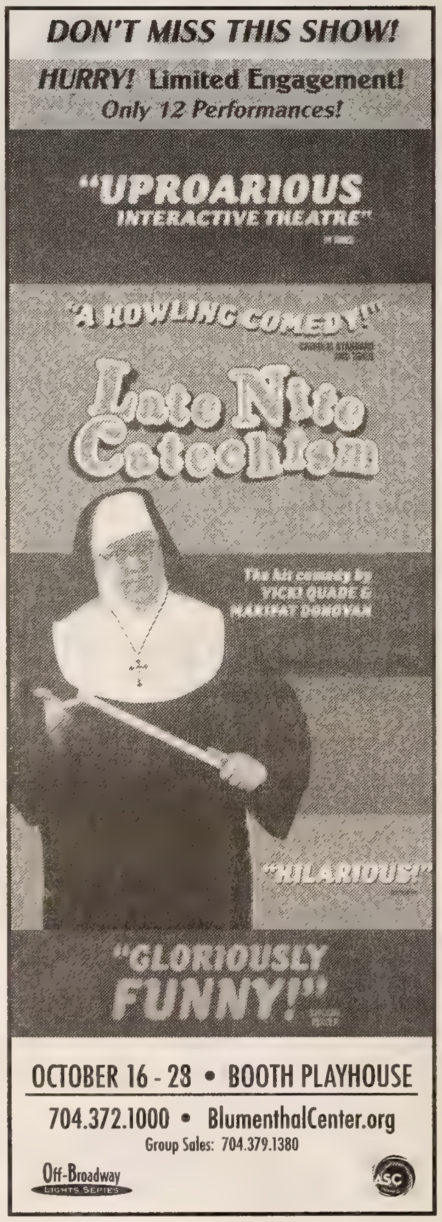
"Now Joseph Ratzinger is not just my friend, but also the great friend and guide of all Catholics," he said.

Carolina
Funeral &
Cremation
Center

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and
Knights of Columbus


DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!
HURRY! Limited Engagement!
Only 12 Performances!

OCTOBER 16 - 28 • BOOTH PLAYHOUSE
704.372.1000 • BlumenthalCenter.org
Group Sales: 704.379.1380
Off-Broadway Lights Series

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 21, 2007

Oct. 21, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Exodus 17:8-13
Psalm 121:1-8
2) 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
3) Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Individuals, not stereotypes, needed to preach God's Word

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

We too often tend to think and form opinions about people on the basis of stereotypes. If we were to think of any of our contemporaries acting or writing like the characters in this weekend's readings, we'd picture religious fanatics.

Who would not think so? Consider the steadfastness of Moses, hands raised to God in supplication as Joshua fought in battle below him, and Paul's admonition to Timothy charging him to "preach the word, to stay with this task whether convenient or inconvenient — correcting, reproving, appealing, constantly teaching and never losing patience."

And so some are. But the stereotypical fanatics these images bring to mind are not the types from Scripture.

An adherence to Scripture that ignores the central role of love of God and neighbor produces distortions of the Gospel.

When I read this week's passages, four men I know rather well came to mind. One is a priest who shines with intensity in his love of God, his word and his people. Another is a young man, a counselor, whose gentle persistence and love of God's word and his people is inspiring.

The third is a layperson who teaches from the Scriptures and church teaching and is impelled to reach out to others with the good news at all times.

The fourth is a Protestant layman and conference speaker, dead for about 10 years now, who had all these same characteristics such that once, when I sat down with him in a cafeteria at a conference, he proceeded to ask a stranger at the other end of the table, "Friend, do you know Jesus?" in such a way that he gave no offense.

Such was the sweet, genuine nature of his character and approach.

None of these guys are anything alike, except in their love of God, his word, his people (and those not yet counted among his people) and his church.

One is an introvert. The three extroverts are about as different in personality and appearance, tone of voice and so on as three individuals can be. But each projects God's love from the uniqueness of his own personality and demeanor.

But how I wish I were as motivated and empowered by the love of God, his word and others as each of these is. Growing in love is a goal worth striving for.

Questions:

Do you have examples around you of such men and women, made alive by the word of God and love of God and his church? Where might you spend more time to come in contact with such folk?

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 14-20

Sunday (Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time), 2 Kings 5:14-17, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, Luke 17:11-19; **Monday (St. Teresa of Avila)**, Romans 1:1-7, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Hedwig, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque)**, Romans 1:16-25, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch)**, Romans 2:1-11, Luke 11:42-46; **Thursday (St. Luke)**, 2 Timothy 4:10-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Friday (St. John de Brébeuf, St. Isaac Jogues and Companions)**, Romans 4:1-8, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Romans 4:13, 16-18, Luke 12:8-12.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 21-27

Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2, Luke 18:1-8; **Monday**, Romans 4:20-25, Luke 1:69-75, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. John of Capistrano)**, Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday (St. Anthony Mary Claret)**, Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday**, Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday**, Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday**, Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9.

Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage
Father Philip Scarcella (pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption Church) and Deacon Carlos Medina (St. Patrick Cathedral) cordially invite you to join them on a 10-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain, May 1-10, 2008.
Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila and Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid.
Price from Charlotte: $2799 (or $2699 before January 27)
For more information, contact Father Scarcella at 704-535-9965, Deacon Carlos at 704-400-3111 or Pentecost Tours at 800-713-9800.
(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Coming Soon... Going Fast!

The exciting Pennybyrn at Maryfield is almost fully reserved – that means only a few more can take advantage of pre-opening pricing. Will you be one of them?

This architecturally stunning new retirement community is scheduled to open soon. An active, modern lifestyle that offers you gorgeous private residences, superior amenities and a professional staff to provide unparalleled services…it's the retirement lifestyle that you've been waiting for!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Current pricing ends soon! Call (336) 821-4050 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 today... prices will never be this low again!

PENNYBYRN at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

'Voice of an angel'

Arab Catholic attributes participation on Israeli show to her faith

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JERUSALEM — The first Arab Catholic contestant on the Israeli version of "American Idol" said that without her faith and her parish's choir she never would have been able to participate in the show.

"The most beautiful thing is when the church choir sings together. It is beautiful and fun, and it gives me both mental and spiritual strength," said Miriam Toukan, a 25-year-old law student from the Israeli Arab village of Ibilline.

"It pushes me forward. I can't give that up," she said.

Toukan was the first Arab chosen to participate in the popular TV show, "A Star Is Born," since it began five years ago. Friends convinced Toukan, who has been singing in the choir of St. George Melkite Catholic Church since first grade, to try out for the show last spring.

At the auditions, one judge worried about people's reaction to Toukan's Arabic accent, but another judge, popular singer Margalit Tzanani, who is of Yemenite origin, brushed his objections away.

"Her accent is beautiful. She is an Arab and that is how she speaks. She is who she is, and she doesn't have to try to hide it," said Tzanani brusquely. "She has the voice of an angel."

Toukan, who has also performed internationally with the Ibilline Al Karawan Choir, became one of the show's top 10 finalists. One of her performances with a fellow contestant where she spoke some verses in Arabic was voted as the fifth most popular duet of the season.

She was bumped from the show at the end of July when the competition began to heat up among the 10 best singers.

It was important for her not to try to minimize her Arabic identity on the show, she said. Though she sang Israeli songs, she said she intentionally sang them with a touch of Arabic or Eastern musical scales to make them her own.

"I think that is what people loved," Toukan said.

"When I sing a solo and I help people enter into the spirit of the prayer, help them meet with the other godly world, it gives me a sense of satisfaction," she said. "I am happy that I can help them in their prayers with my singing and it also helps me with my prayer."

Toukan, who with her long, striking hair and wide smile, soon became a favorite among both judges and contestants.

"At first I received all sorts of angry SMS (text) messages both from Jews and Arabs who didn't want to see an Arab, or specifically an Arab woman, participating in the show. There were also negative messages because I was a Christian. I am a minority within a minority," she said.

But toward the end of the season, she started getting messages from people who admitted she charmed them and that they were rooting for her, said Toukan.

"To change people's ideas just by singing was amazing," she said in a phone interview as she was driving to a television studio to appear on a children's show.

Earlier in the same week she taped a singing appearance on a game show.

"I am glad I was able to get my message across that we are all people, and we need to judge people as individuals for who they are and not according to which group they belong to," she said.

Singing for tolerance is nothing new for Toukan, who three years ago participated in a European singing program for youths from countries with conflicts. Toukan said that she would like to continue studying the field of human rights law after a short break for singing opportunities.

Sales of pope's book hits 2 million copies worldwide

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two million copies of Pope Benedict XVI's book, "Jesus of Nazareth," have been sold worldwide.

The first volume of the book was published in German, Polish and Italian in mid-April, and in English in May followed by dozens of other translations.

The book highlights what the Bible says about Jesus, what the moral implications of his teachings are and how reading the Scriptures can lead to a real relationship with Jesus.

The 400-page book has been the number one book on the Catholic Best-Sellers List for the past three months, according to the Catholic Book Publishers Association. It shot to the top slot starting with the association's August list, which reflected June sales. It also ranked among the top 10 hardcover nonfiction books on the New York Times Best Sellers' list.

The pope currently is working on completing his second volume on the life of Jesus.

Attention: Homeowners...Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!...
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte (704) 795-9349 Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Diocese issues new guidelines for pastoral councils

COUNCILS, *from page 1*

"Members of pastoral councils are called to be people who are close to the Eucharist, having studied the Scriptures and church teachings in their effort to discern the will of God in the world today," said Cobb, who assists pastors and parish councils in clarifying and implementing these diocesan guidelines.

The Catholic Church defines the role of pastoral councils as assisting in the church's apostolic work and "coordinating of the various lay associations and undertakings" of the parish, according to the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, approved by the Second Vatican Council in 1965.

The role of pastoral councils was re-established by the council and encouraged by Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II.

Bishops of the Diocese of Charlotte have required the use of pastoral councils in parishes since the diocese was founded in 1972, and the need for them was reaffirmed by a diocesan synod in 1987.

That year, the diocese issued its first guidelines for both parish pastoral and finance councils, defining the nature, responsibilities and functions of each.

As the diocese and individual parishes grew, the roles of pastoral councils expanded and many became managerial entities, overseeing parish committees and other internal matters.

However, in his 1988 apostolic exhortation on the mission and vocation of the laity, "Christifideles Laici," Pope John Paul II stressed the importance of diocesan councils for "collaboration, dialogue and discernment" especially with inclusion of the laity.

"The participation of the lay faithful in these councils can broaden resources in consultation and the principle of collaboration — and in certain instances also in decision-making," said the pope.

With a growing bilingual population and a multitude of other issues to face over the next 20 years, said Cobb, it is "important for the pastor to have at his disposal a group of individuals knowledgeable in the life of the church, whom he may turn to for advice and counsel. They must also be familiar with the issues facing the parish."

The new guidelines will bring uniformity to the use of pastoral councils in the diocese by standardizing their roles and their relationship with the other parish organizations, said Cobb.

The new guidelines are, however, flexible enough to meet the varying needs of all the parishes of the diocese, said Cobb.

The guidelines provide further clarification on the role of parish commissions within the parish, and parish staffs' relationships with lay councils and commissions. At the request of the pastors, the guidelines also will include model bylaws for pastoral councils.

"Parishes will be encouraged to review their current pastoral council bylaws to ensure they are reflective of the new diocesan guidelines," said Cobb.

The new guidelines, to be issued in both English and Spanish, are to be presented at the pastoral council training sessions for clergy Nov. 11 and for laity Nov. 17.

They also will be available on the diocesan Web site at www.charlottediocese.org/parish.html after the November meetings.

The church on pastoral councils

The Participation of the Lay Faithful in the Life of the Church as Communion

It is necessary that in light of faith all rediscover the true meaning of the parish, that is, the place where the very 'mystery' of the Church is present and at work, even if at times it is lacking persons and means, even if at other times it might be scattered over vast territories or almost not to be found in crowded and chaotic modern sections of cities.

The parish is not principally a structure, a territory, or a building, but rather, "the family of God, a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit," a "familial and welcoming home," the "community of the faithful. Plainly and simply, the parish is founded on a theological reality because it is a Eucharistic community." *(Christifideles Laici, No. 26.2)*

Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office in the Church

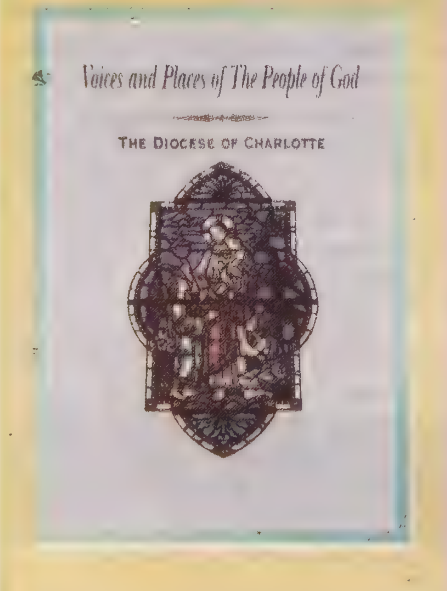
These councils "... will be to investigate and to weigh matters which bear on pastoral activity, and to formulate practical conclusions regarding them." *(Christus Dominus, No. 27)*

The Code of Canon Law

After the diocesan bishop has listened to the presbyteral council and if he judges it opportune, a pastoral council is to be established in each parish; the pastor presides over it, and through it the Christian faithful along with those who share in the pastoral care of the parish in virtue of their office give their help in fostering pastoral activity. *(Canon 516, §1)*

Voices and Places
of The People of God

Makes a great Christmas Gift!



The Diocese of Charlotte's
35th Anniversary Book

More than 35 Spiritual Reflections from clergy and laity including:

Bishop Peter J. Jugis
Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Archbishop John F. Donoghue

Historical photos and interesting facts about the founding of the diocese and its growth—

Read an excerpt or place your order at www.Charlottediocese.org.

$25.99 - plus tax and shipping (allow 2 weeks for delivery)

Travel with other Catholics July 13, 2008

Canadian Rockies Tour Offers 'Cool' Vacation

14 Days from $999*

Join your Catholic Chaplain Father Aaron Kriss and other Roman Catholics. Fly into Sioux Falls, SD for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. En route visit Fargo and Bismarck, ND; then north to Saskatchewan to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Highlights include Lake Louise; Banff National Park; ride a SnoCoach over the Columbia Ice Fields; Canmore, Alberta; Waterton Lakes National Park; Kananaskis Country; Helena and Billings MT; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park; and more! Includes 13 nights hotels, baggage handling, and lots of motor coach sight-seeing. Farther Kriss is pastor of Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic Church in Tarentum, PA. *Per person, double occupancy plus $149 tax, service, gov't fees. Add $600 airfare from Charlotte.

For brochure, information, and letter from Father Kriss call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

Classifieds

FOR SALE

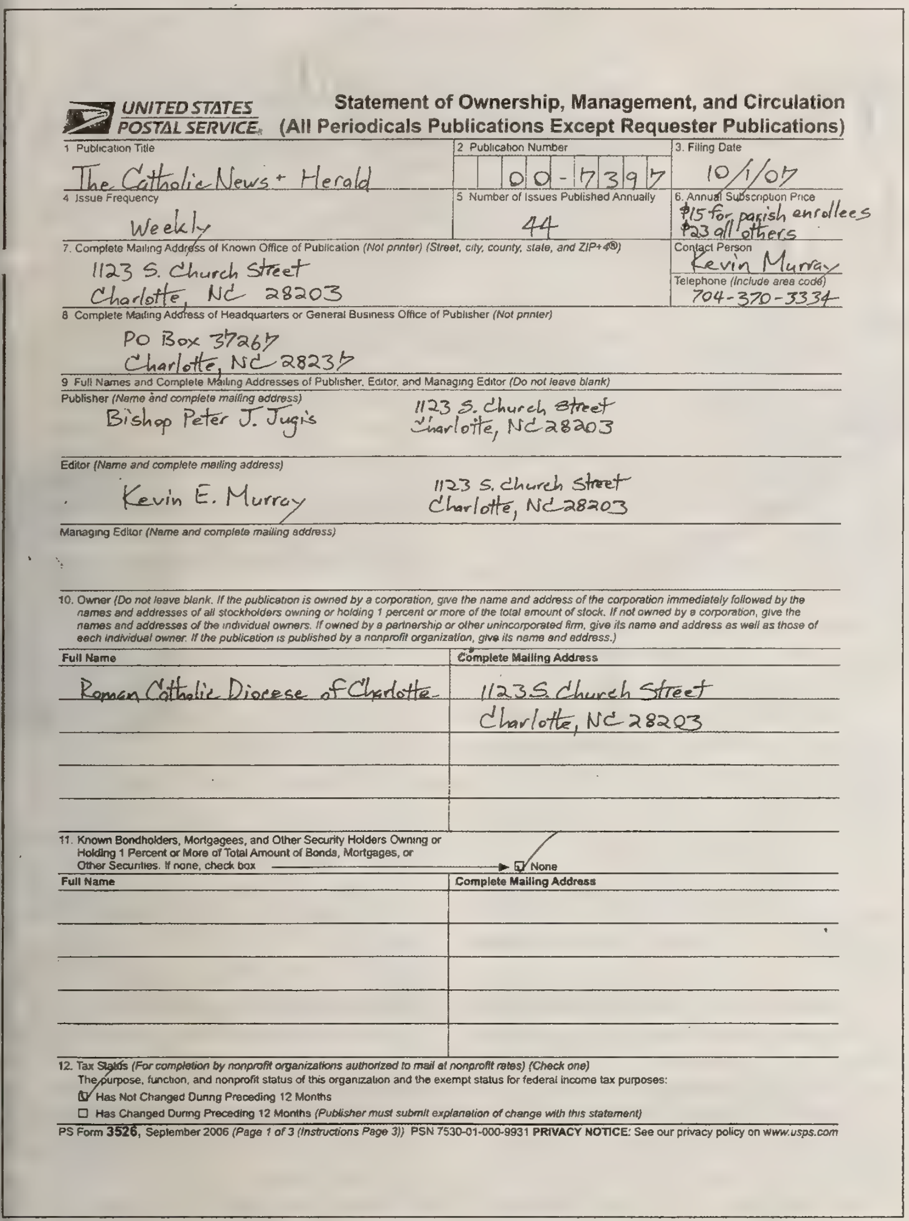
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: North Carolina mountains. Successful, ongoing land development company. Includes developer's home on 400+ acres. Permitted and approved erosion control plan for entire parcel in place. $4.2 mil. E-mail mountainlandforsale@yahoo.com.

HOME: Coastal NC. 2BR/2BA brick home on quiet cul-de-sac in popular coastal golf community near Calabash — $195,000. Considering ALL offers! View at www.JanetteSchroeder.com or call (910)575-7788 for more information.

FOR RENT

CONDO: OCEANFRONT on Pleasure Island. 2 BD/2 BA. Minutes from Wilmington. Great off-season rates: by the day, week or month. Consider a long weekend — close by getaway. Good swimming until October. Call 703-450-8480 or write wfkelle@aol.com for availability.

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1 Publication Title: The Catholic News + Herald
2 Publication Number: 00-7397
3. Filing Date: 10/1/07
4 Issue Frequency: Weekly
5 Number of Issues Published Annually: 44
6. Annual Subscription Price: $15 for parish enrollees $23 all others
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication *(Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®)*: 1123 S. Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203
Contact Person: Kevin Murray
Telephone *(Include area code)*: 704-370-3334
8 Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher *(Not printer)*: PO Box 37267 Charlotte, NC 28237
9 Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor *(Do not leave blank)*
Publisher *(Name and complete mailing address)*: Bishop Peter J. Jugis 1123 S. Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203
Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*: Kevin E. Murray 1123 S. Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203
Managing Editor *(Name and complete mailing address)*:

10. Owner *(Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)*

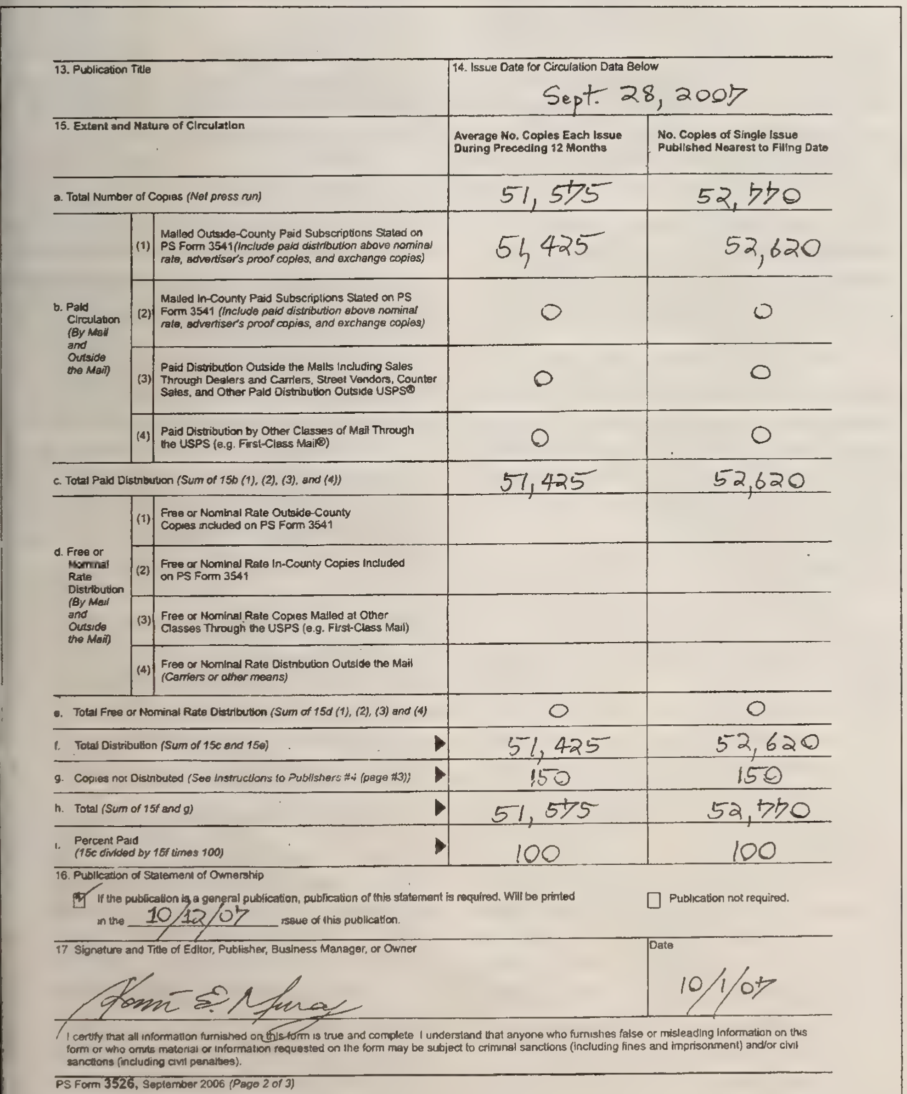
Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte	1123 S. Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☑ None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status *(For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)*
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☑ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months *(Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)*

PS Form **3526**, September 2006 *(Page 1 of 3 (Instructions Page 3))* PSN 7530-01-000-9931 **PRIVACY NOTICE:** See our privacy policy on www.usps.com



13. Publication Title
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 28, 2007

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation			Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies *(Net press run)*			51,575	52,770
b. Paid Circulation *(By Mail and Outside the Mail)*	(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 *(Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)*	51,425	52,620
	(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 *(Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)*	0	0
	(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution *(Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))*			51,425	52,620
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution *(By Mail and Outside the Mail)*	(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		
	(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail *(Carriers or other means)*		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution *(Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4)*			0	0
f. Total Distribution *(Sum of 15c and 15e)*			51,425	52,620
g. Copies not Distributed *(See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))*			150	150
h. Total *(Sum of 15f and g)*			51,575	52,770
i. Percent Paid *(15c divided by 15f times 100)*			100	100

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
☑ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/12/07 issue of this publication.
☐ Publication not required.

17 Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Kevin E. Murray
Date: 10/1/07

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form **3526**, September 2006 *(Page 2 of 3)*

Photo by Carole McGrotty

Jo McGill of Buncombe County Schools leads seventh-graders in a decision-making exercise at Asheville Catholic School Sept. 25.

Asheville Catholic students discuss decision-making, bullying

BY CAROLE McGROTTY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — Asheville Catholic School middle school students recently entered their classrooms to find a different teacher ready to conduct classes.

Jo McGill, a health educator with Buncombe County Schools' Safe and Drug Free Schools Program, visited with the sixth- through eighth-graders Sept. 25.

While the sixth-grade class learned about bullying — how to prevent it and how to help someone who is the target of bullying — the seventh- and eighth-graders learned about decision-making.

After outlining possible consequences of making poor decisions, McGill led a discussion about the necessity of reversing poor decisions, making restitution and apologizing.

An apology, she said, needs to be more than just, "I'm sorry." The reason for the apology must also be stated, she said.

The students then participated in brainstorming activities and exercises to demonstrate the importance of making good decisions.

Living rosary

Courtesy Photo

Students take part in a "living rosary" around a statue of Mary outside Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro Oct. 3. Students sat in the shape of a rosary as eighth-graders and representatives from each grade level led the prayers, with fellow classmates, teachers, parents and parishioners from Our Lady of Grace Church participating.

Speaking to pilgrims Oct. 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Pope Benedict XVI urged Catholics to pray the rosary for peace in the world.

The pope, noting that October was dedicated in a special way to evangelization, said the rosary can stimulate missionary action by leading Christians to meditate on the life of Jesus.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

The theology of giving

God's love lives in those who open their hearts to others

Guest Column

FATHER FRANK PAVONE
GUEST COLUMNIST

The goods of the earth have been given for all. We are to share those goods not simply when we don't need them, but also when we do.

There is, indeed, a theology of giving.

Giving, whether of our time, talent or treasure, is based on the example God himself gives us by creating us and dying for us. He taught us the meaning of giving when we don't have to and of giving from our very substance, from our very life.

After observing the wealthy putting their sizable donations into the temple treasury, Jesus saw a poor widow making her contribution, whereupon he said, "I assure you, this poor widow has put in more than all the rest. They make contributions out of their surplus, but she from her want has given what she could not afford — every penny she had to live on" (Luke 21:3-4).

Most of us give to some charity at some time or other, and most of us give what we do not need. But how often do we give away what we do need?

"But I need it," we object. Yet that is precisely why we need to share it.

We are one body. The needs of another are not just the other's needs; they are our needs. We are one.

St. Paul teaches, "The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ ... God has so constructed the body ... that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another.

"If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy. You, then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it" (1Cor.12:12, 24-27).

How much should we give to a cause that we know is right? The measure of our giving should be how much the other needs the gift, not how much the giver does not need it.

No group of people is more needy in our society than the unborn, deprived of the very right to their lives. More money is spent in this country to kill the unborn than is spent to save them. Some wealthy people contribute billions to the very groups that promote the killing.

"I ask you, how can God's love survive in a man who has enough of this world's goods yet closes his heart to his brother when he sees him in need?" (1 John 3:17).

Given that the greatest of "this world's goods" is life itself, we can rephrase the verse: How can God's love survive in anyone who is alive yet closes his heart to his brother who is in danger of death?

When we give out of our very need, we give life itself to others. Nowhere is that more true than when we give to the efforts to end abortion.

Father Pavone is national director of Priests for Life.

Letter to the Editor

An unexpected encounter at the Eucharistic Congress

As I stood on the corner waiting for the eucharistic procession to pass by, a group of rowdy teenage boys came my way. I held my pocketbook a little tighter as they passed by.

As the procession approached, the boys were looking up the street to see what was happening. I surprised myself by calling to them: "Hey, come here. Guess who is coming."

They came over, at first one or two, then all stood around me. "Jesus is coming," I told them.

They started asking me questions about the different groups in the procession, such as the Knights of Columbus, the deacons and priests, and I was able to tell them about each group. They were in awe of the procession.

I told them that Jesus was there in the monstrance (carried by the bishop). I knelt in adoration as he passed, and, to my surprise, the teenagers knelt with me.

I felt a special bond had developed between this grandmother and these teenage boys, so I invited them to attend the Eucharistic Congress. I told them about Father Leo Patalinghug, the break-dancing priest, and they were amazed.

I saw the boys later in the Charlotte Convention Center, where they were going to attend the Teen Track. How grateful I am that Jesus let our paths cross that day. What started out as a fearful and judgmental encounter on my part ended up being a beautiful, divine appointment.

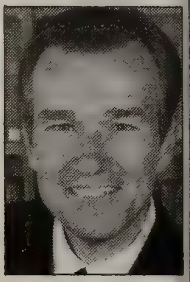
— Patricia Hennessy
Charlotte

The ethics of dying a happy death

Hard questions dictate knowing facts, church teaching

Faith & Precedent

DOUGLAS W. KMIEC
CNS COLUMNIST



End-of-life care remains a difficult path to ethically navigate.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith has reaffirmed that the provision of food and water even artificially through a tube is not extraordinary care. Therefore, it should be provided even when the person is in a "persistent vegetative state" for a prolonged period.

That the church takes a position in favor of feeding the hungry, even the hungry near death, should not be surprising. But we should not understate either its difficulty or the nuance with which it must contend.

Consider the plight of two people who died within weeks of each other in 2005: Terri Schiavo and Pope John Paul II.

Terri Schiavo was short-changed. At a young age, she fell into a so-called "vegetative" state, which, at the time of her death, had lasted for 15 years.

Church teaching often uses scare quotes around the word "vegetative," underscoring that no human person should ever be reduced to, or thought of as, a vegetable.

In terms of formal church instruction, even Schiavo's subsequent autopsy, finding her without sufficient brain matter to have had any hope of recovery, supplied no justification for depriving her of nutrition.

By this newly emphasized church instruction, the withdrawal of Schiavo's feeding tube was not a withdrawal of extraordinary and particularly burdensome care (which is permitted), but the deprivation of basic, ordinary care (which is not).

Few thought Pope John Paul II's death posed a similar dilemma. However, it is now argued by an Italian anesthesiologist that those attending the late pontiff actually were slow in getting the Holy Father a feeding tube and then deprived him of the most appropriate one.

Late in his illness, Pope John Paul II was apparently given a nasal feeding tube; given his Parkinson's disease, which makes it difficult to swallow, an abdominal feeding tube would have been more appropriate.

Dr. Lina Pavanelli accuses the church of not following its own instruction. To be deprived of the most appropriate feeding tube, she reasons, violates Catholic teaching.

All of us who witnessed the profound teaching of Pope John Paul II (including his prayerful understanding of pain and dying) find these accusations outrageous. Dr. Pavanelli was not present at the pontiff's bedside and has had no access to his medical records.

Of course, other than a few immediate family members, those pronouncing upon the ethics of Schiavo's treatment were equally absent. Ethical standards for the care of patients must be clearly written, but as a matter of subsidiarity, it is most appropriate for the patient, if conscious, or the immediate family to apply.

As carefully drawn as the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith's recent statement is, no detached ethical observer can know all the contingent facts.

It is indeed clarifying for the church to specify that the provision of food and water even by artificial means is in general ordinary care. But even the Vatican concedes that, in specific, it may not be, if it does not "accomplish its proper finality."

(For example, if the body is rejecting or not metabolizing the food or even if the introduction of food is harmful, as in the case of some cancers.)

Catholics can expect close questioning from non-Catholic friends about this reaffirmed teaching. Many will be unable to perceive anything but excessive expense and prolonged hospitalization in the artificial provision of food to a patient who, to use the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's terminology, "to a moral certainty will never recover consciousness."

The church permits the removal of artificial respiration when it is recognized that it is the underlying disease, not the willful act of the patient or doctor, that would cause death.

Why, some will surely ask, is it not also the underlying illness that has destroyed the natural capacity to eat and drink? Why should one manifestation of the natural process of death, an incapacity to breathe, be put on one side of the line and the inability to eat be put on the other?

These are inescapably hard questions. We should not pretend otherwise. Prudently, we should update our health care directives or living wills to faithfully reflect a presumption in favor of providing nutrition and hydration. Beyond that, pray.

Catholics have traditionally prayed to be delivered "from a sudden and unprovided death." The blessing and curse of medical science presents the possibility of a prolonged and debilitating death.

For this we need an even older prayer "for the grace of a happy death."

A mix of unity

A look at the religious heritage of Hispanics in the Catholic Church

Seeking Life

MOISES
SANDOVAL
CNS COLUMNIST

The packets of peanuts passed out by Southwest Airlines proclaim Hispanic Heritage Month and stir thoughts in this traveler of what we Hispanics bring to the church.

The greatest gift — and the one least appreciated — is that we are "mestizo," of mixed race. As the Census Bureau points out, Hispanics can be of any race and, most often, we are a mix of several.

Unfortunately, to be "mestizo" is seen as a curse in a society where being white is considered most desirable.

But because of the biological and cultural processes that made them who they are, Hispanics have the opportunity and mission to help build a new society that will not be torn by the racial divisions of the current one.

In a book titled "The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World," Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes wrote that Hispanic faith in the United States contains not only Catholicism "but something more like a deep sense of the sacred, a recognition that the world is holy, which is probably the oldest and deepest certitude of the Amerindian world."

Theological research for the fifth centenary celebration in 1992 revealed the richness of indigenous belief in Hispanic religiosity. Holy Cross Father Daniel Groody, who worked with immigrant farm workers in California, wrote that pre-Columbian religion runs in their veins.

He marveled at their ability to celebrate life in the face of struggle, disappointment, sickness and even death.

"It is in our fiestas that our legitimate identity and destiny are experienced," Father Virgil Elizondo, leading Mexican-American theologian, said.

"These are the joyful, spontaneous and collective celebrations of what has already begun in us even if it is not recognized by others or verbalized by ourselves. ... In the fiestas, we rise above our daily living experiences of death to experience life beyond death," he said.

No matter how difficult it is, life is to be lived, appreciated and celebrated. Peruvian theologian Gustavo Gutierrez adds that Hispanics do not lose hope in God or the resolve to create a more just and more human world.

It would be difficult to find a people more devoted to the mother of God, especially to Our Lady of Guadalupe. She is one of the most important living symbols of the Catholicism of the Americas, Father Elizondo wrote.

"If Our Lady of Guadalupe had not appeared, the collective struggles of the Mexican people to find meaning in their chaotic existence would have created her," the Mexican-American priest wrote.

"The cultural clash of 16th-century Spain and Mexico was reconciled in the brown Lady of Tepeyac in a way no other symbol can rival. In her, the new 'mestizo' race, born of the violent encounter between Europe and indigenous America, finds its meaning, uniqueness and unity," he wrote.

"Guadalupe is the key to understanding the Christianity of the New World and the Christian consciousness of the Mexican-Americans in the United States," he wrote.

Historian Carey McWilliams wrote: "Waves and still more waves have passed over the Spanish-speaking people, but they are still as firmly rooted in the Southwest as a forest of Joshua trees."

They are similarly rooted in the church. No other ethnic group has remained so steadfast. Even now, despite inroads in recent years by Pentecostal and evangelical churches, 65 percent are loyal to the faith of their fathers and mothers.

Finally, Hispanics bring the gift of commitment to family, struggling to keep it together, in Fuentes' words, "perhaps not avoiding poverty but certainly avoiding a lonely poverty. The family is regarded as the hearth, the sustaining warmth."

Because of Jesus' divinity, all humans can be saved

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY — Because God became human in Jesus Christ, all humans can be saved, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Christ is our savior precisely because he is true God and true man," he said Oct. 10 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Continuing a series of audience talks about early church theologians, Pope Benedict focused his remarks on St. Hilary of Poitiers, a fourth-century doctor of the church and strong defender of the church teaching that Christ was both fully human and fully divine.

St. Hilary taught that Christ, who came from perfection, "is perfection," the pope said. "Assuming a human nature, the Son of God united every human being to himself."

"Because of this, the path toward Christ is open to everyone," Pope Benedict said.

St. Hilary taught, as the beloved Son of God, Jesus must possess all that his father possesses, which is why Christians recognize him as God.

Here is the Vatican text of Pope Benedict's remarks in English.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The subject of today's catechesis is St. Hilary of Poitiers.

He was born around the year 310, baptized when he was about 35, and became bishop of Poitiers some eight years later.

In opposition to the Arians, who believed Jesus was a created being, Hilary dedicated his life to defending our faith in the divinity of Christ.

While exiled to Frigia, because of the stance he took against the Arians at the Synod of Béziers, he began his most important work, De Trinitate. In this text he demonstrates how both the Old and New Testaments clearly attest the divinity of the Son and his equality with the Father with whom he shares one nature.

In his De Synodis, Hilary maintained a conciliatory spirit with those who used deficient theological formulations, while leading them to accept fully the Nicean creed. In 360 he returned home, took up his pastoral duties and continued to write.

The influence of his teaching spread and many were strengthened in their resistance to Arian thought, realizing that Christ is our savior precisely because he is true God and true man.

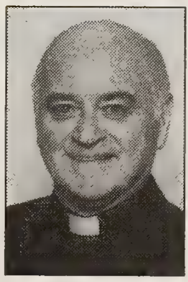
Fundamental to Hilary's insight was the importance of our Trinitarian baptismal faith. Let us join him in praying to the Lord that we remain faithful to this confession, and always bear joyful witness to our baptismal call!

Mother Teresa's agony

Perseverance needs reliance on faith, not feelings

Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN
CATOIR
CNS COLUMNIST



Last month Time magazine put Mother Teresa on its cover with this heading: "The Secret Life of Mother Teresa — Her letters reveal a 50-year crisis of faith in which she rarely sensed the presence of God in her life."

Then Time posed this question: "What does her experience teach us about the value of doubt?"

Remember, a thousand difficulties do not make a single doubt. For a Christian there is no value in doubting. Jesus often reproached doubters, saying, "Oh you of little faith."

To doubt is to withhold assent and disbelieve. Blessed Mother Teresa never for a moment stopped persevering in the faith. In spite of many years of emotional darkness she fought the good fight.

She knew that if she walked away, refusing to believe, she would be abandoning her calling to help those in need.

Most of us ask, "Why is God silent?" or "How can this mystery be true?" (God becoming man, for instance.) These questions are not doubts.

A doubter says, "I will not believe it until it is proven to me with empirical evidence." He or she refuses to believe.

Faith is the acceptance of mystery even when the mystery defies all logic. The act of faith is essentially assenting to mystery.

Time should have asked a different question: "What does Mother Teresa's experience of living in darkness, without the benefit of any spiritual consolations, teach us about the value of persevering in the faith?"

It can teach us a lot, especially when we feel overwhelmed. We can look to Mother Teresa all the more because of her courage in times of darkness.

I knew Mother Teresa personally and once gave a nine-day retreat to her novices. I witnessed firsthand the impact of her inspiration, joy and idealism.

She communicated the highest level of love. Her novices were inspired by her idealism. If she was suffering at the time, she showed no sign of it.

Mother Teresa had the courage to rely on her faith, not her feelings. She knew that God loved her even though she did not feel his love. She never stopped trusting him.

She had an iron will, exercising authority with confidence, even in the face of military power. She once demanded that in Lebanon fighting be halted so that her sisters could go into the combat zone and take out the wounded.

The generals on both sides had to back down and let her through. There was no doubt about what this little woman demanded.

Mother Teresa carried her crosses admirably. She may have suffered emotional pain because of God's silence, but why should that surprise anyone? We can all relate to the experience of puzzlement when God's silence exasperates us.

Like all the saints, she suffered from a lack of personal fulfillment on the human level, but this is also normal for a holy person.

Jesus said, "By their fruits you will know them." We know Mother Teresa by her amazing spiritual legacy.

Agnostics refuse to believe in the existence of the supernatural. They withhold assent. Their life of continual doubting produces a barren legacy. They have no spiritual power.

A believer says, "I may not understand the mysteries of faith, but I believe them nevertheless because I trust in Jesus Christ, the Lord of my life."

Hold on to your precious faith and protect it.

Mother Teresa, pray for us, help us to persevere in spite of the darkness.

In the habitat of helping

St. Luke Church working to aid wildlife

MINT HILL — St. Luke Church in Mint Hill has received certification for "Fellowship Actions Impacting the Habitat" (F.A.I.T.H.) from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

St. Luke Church is the first Catholic church in the Diocese of Charlotte to receive certification in the F.A.I.T.H. program, a non-denominational initiative designed to recognize and certify places of worship that meet the requirements for a wildlife-friendly habitat.

Ramah Presbyterian Church in Huntersville was the first church to become a F.A.I.T.H. certified site. Other communities include Wedgewood Baptist and Unitarian Universalist churches in Charlotte.

"This program is designed to encourage ongoing stewardship of our wildlife and wild places in urban, suburban and rural settings," said Tim Gestwicki, director of the regional office of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

By reaching out to the many church communities in the area, "we can spread this message of stewardship, awareness and appreciation of wildlife and our state's resources while helping these groups create beautiful and peaceful habitats," he said.

Habitat and Wildlife Keepers (HAWK), a local chapter of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, advised the St. Luke Church habitat team on how to achieve a wildlife-friendly habitat.

The church erected nest boxes for bluebirds and songbirds and planted native plant gardens. The gardens provide food and cover for butterflies, birds and pollinating insects.

The church also has constructed a large pond with a waterfall and birdbath and has reduced its use of fertilizers and pesticides.

"Shelter and places to raise young are provided by trees, bushes, grasses and birdhouses," said Debbie Foster, a parish volunteer.

"Food is provided by using seed-bearing native perennials in the garden areas and berry-bearing trees on the property," she said.

Sister Jay McCann, a member of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus and head of the parish gardening committee, said she has seen an increase in the number of birds and bird species on the property due to the new habitat.

Courtesy Photo

The new wildlife-friendly habitat at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill was recently certified in the F.A.I.T.H. program by the N.C. Wildlife Federation.

WANT MORE INFO?
To tour the St. Luke Church habitat or for more information about the project, contact Debbie Foster at (704) 841-1372 or fostdebbie@gmail.com.

Courtesy Photo

Pictured is a section of the new wildlife-friendly habitat at St. Luke Church in Mint Hill. The habitat earned the church a F.A.I.T.H. certification from the North Carolina Wildlife Federation.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

*Shouldn't they see **YOUR COMPANY'S** name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic News & Herald

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with **NO BUY-IN FEES**
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Space is limited! Call NOW for your winter cruise to the sun !

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31 - February 11, 2008

Join Fr. Mo West and cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, porterage and all port charges! Optional: Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

FC282
C363c

www.charlottediocese.org

Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Established Jan. 12, 1972
by Pope Paul VI

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Perspectives
Finding silence to hear God's voice; Catholics and money; feeding the hungry
| PAGES 14-15

OCTOBER 19, 2007 SERVING CATHOLICS IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA IN THE DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE VOLUME 16 Nº 44

Fighting the good fight

Judge encourages pro-life advocates at Room at the Inn banquet

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Pro-life advocates are "warriors" in the fight against abortion, Judge Andrew Napolitano said.

And that fight, he said, "is one that must be taken to the enemy at every opportunity, at every turn."

Napolitano, an author and Fox News Channel senior judicial analyst, spoke to more than 1,300 people attending the 13th annual banquet benefiting Room at the Inn, held at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 11.

See PRO-LIFE, page 13

Standing for life

ABORTION
KILLS
CHILDREN

PHOTO BY KAREN A. EVANS

Patrick Martin holds a pro-life sign during a prayer vigil outside a reproductive health clinic in Charlotte Oct. 17.

FOR STORY, SEE PAGE 13.

Visiting the 'city of churches'

PHOTO BY KEVIN E. MURRAY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis shakes hands with Catholicos Karekin II, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, after receiving a cross from the supreme pontiff during an ecumenical luncheon at the Duke Mansion in Charlotte Oct. 12.

Bishop Jugis welcomes Catholicos Karekin II to Charlotte

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — A day after joining interfaith leaders at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church joined Bishop Peter J. Jugis for lunch in Charlotte.

Catholicos Karekin II was the guest of honor at an ecumenical luncheon sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte and held at the Duke Mansion in Charlotte Oct. 12. Approximately 80 religious and civic leaders took part in the gathering.

"The culture of the southern United States has always been known for its spirit of hospitality and welcome … . Today we welcome you as a brother in

See KAREKIN, page 9

Beyond borders

Bolivian doctor studies in North Carolina, thanks to local parishioner

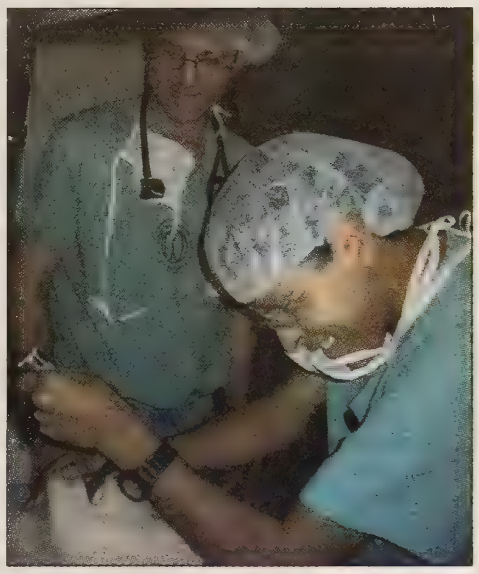
BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN
CORRESPONDENT

WINSTON-SALEM — Dr. Guido Martinez had never ridden on an airplane before his flight to North Carolina earlier this year.

Having had little opportunity to travel far beyond the borders of his native Bolivia, he admitted to feeling some fear. He would be gone for 10 weeks, have no family with him and know very few people; he spoke only a little English.

But a familiar face — Dr. Mary Claire O'Brien, a parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, who had met Martinez during

See BOLIVIA, page 5



COURTESY PHOTO BY ROY BENSON

Dr. Guido Martinez of Bolivia practices intubation on a dummy patient under the instruction of Dr. John Reynolds, an anesthesiologist in the Winston-Salem area.

Martinez spent 10 weeks studying the latest medical techniques in Winston-Salem, thanks to the efforts of a local Catholic doctor he met during a mission trip to Bolivia.

#BXNPDVQ**************3-DIGIT 275
#420836#
S-7 P-1
NC COLLECTION
WILSON LIBRARY CB 3930
UNC
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599
#*

Foundation of faith
Endowment helps fund education in Salisbury
| PAGE 4

Celebrating service
Knights council celebrates 50 years in High Point
| PAGE 7

Culture Watch
Pope's second encyclical; book on Knights Templar
| PAGES 10-11

In Brief

Current and upcoming topics from around the world to your own backyard

FROM FATIMA, FORWARD IN FAITH

CNS PHOTO BY NACHO DOCE, REUTERS

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, walks in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima during the opening of the new Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Fatima, Portugal, Oct. 12.

Fatima's message is that following Gospel is path to peace, pope says

FATIMA, Portugal (CNS) — The heart of the message of Fatima is that following the Gospel is the path to authentic peace, Pope Benedict XVI said in a message broadcast Oct. 14 at the Marian shrine.

Marking the 90th anniversary of the last apparition of Our Lady of Fatima to three young children, Pope Benedict said the shrine continues to echo Mary's call to "her children to live their baptismal consecration in every moment of their existence."

"She is the refuge and the path that leads to God," he told thousands of pilgrims at the shrine for an anniversary Mass and the dedication of a new shrine church.

During his midday Angelus prayer at the Vatican, the pope asked Mary to give "all Christians the gift of true conversion so that the perennial Gospel message, which shows humanity the path to authentic peace, would be proclaimed and witnessed to with coherence and fidelity."

Cardinal Bertone marked the 90th anniversary of the last Fatima apparition with a Mass Oct. 13, then dedicated the new church Oct. 14.

In his homily Oct. 13, Cardinal Bertone told an estimated 300,000 people gathered at the shrine that while the Fatima apparitions marked a "supernatural" sign from God "it would be foolish to continue to ask indefinitely" for more outward signs of God's presence when the most effective signs of God's love "are interior signs: the change of hearts touched by the grace of God."

"Our Lady did not ask to be admired, invoked or venerated," he said. "She asked people to entrust themselves to her. She asked that the hearts of individuals, nations and all humanity would be consecrated to her."

Passage of bill on affordable housing called 'huge victory'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Passage by the House of Representatives of legislation to increase the nation's affordable housing stock is "a huge victory for housing advocates," said an official with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, which passed by a 264-148 vote Oct. 10, would add 1.5 million affordable homes to the nation's housing stock in the next 10 years.

It would require that at least 75 percent of the funds go to housing for households defined as "extremely low-income," those earning less than 30 percent of an area's median income.

Thomas Shellabarger, a policy adviser in the USCCB Office of Domestic Social Development, said the USCCB and the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign have "been working since 2001 on the passage of legislation to establish a national housing trust fund."

In a letter to House members shortly before the vote, the head of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy said Catholic agencies, dioceses and parishes see people every day who are affected by the lack of affordable housing.

The church's experience has shown that "inadequate, substandard housing destroys lives, undermines families, hurts communities and weakens the social fabric of our nation," said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Despite our efforts — and the efforts of so many others — there continues to exist a severe shortage of affordable housing nationwide."

Passage of the legislation would present "a genuine opportunity to let the American people know" that the housing needed by low-income families "is a national priority," the bishop said.

Nationwide there are only 6.2 million homes rented at prices affordable to the 9 million extremely low-income renter households, leaving a shortage of 2.8 million homes.

Diocesan planner

For more events taking place in the Diocese of Charlotte, visit www.charlottediocese.org/calendarofevents-cn.

ASHEVILLE VICARIATE

ASHEVILLE — A *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Post-Abortive Women and Men* will take place in the Asheville area Nov. 2-4. For more information, call the diocesan Respect Life Office at (704) 370-3229 or e-mail mnadol@charlottediocese.org.

CHARLOTTE VICARIATE

CHARLOTTE — A *Pro-life Prayer Vigil* will take place through Nov. 4. It will be a 40-day/24-hour peaceful prayer vigil in front of an abortion center with pro-life participants of many denominations. Together we can all build a Culture of Life. For more information, e-mail Diane Hoefling, 40 Days for Life Charlotte media, at rhoef541@aol.com or call (704) 541-3760 or (704) 519-8086. Also visit www.40daysforlife.com.

CHARLOTTE — Consider setting aside some personal time for reflection and attend a women's retreat, *"Made in God's Image,"* Nov. 10 in Biss Hall of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. Parking is free in The Green parking garage next door to the church. Sign in begins at 8:30 a.m., the retreat begins at 9 a.m. ending with Mass at 11:30 a.m. To register, e-mail retreat4women@gmail.com or call the church office at (704) 332-2901.

WINSTON-SALEM — The African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte is hosting the first *Diocesan Black Catholic History Month Celebration*, Nov. 17, 4-7 p.m., at St. Benedict the Moor Church, 1625 East 12th St. This free event will feature cultural foods, networking opportunities and informative programs. As space is limited, registration is required. Register by e-mail to Sandy Murdock at spmurdock@charlottediocese.org or by voice mail at (704) 370-3376. Please provide your name, number of attendees and a telephone number.

CHARLOTTE — *"Understanding Your Late-Life Choices"* will be presented in the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Wednesdays, Oct. 24-Nov. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. Attorney Bill Clayton will present *"Protecting Your Assets"* Oct. 24. There is no fee to attend, but reservations are appreciated. RSVP to the church office at (704) 364-5431. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 335-0253.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will present *"The Acts of the Apostles"* Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m., through Nov. 14. This study program will include individual study, small-group discussions and taped lectures. For registration and more information, call Mary at (704) 948-8285 or Angela at (704) 400-8517.

GREENSBORO VICARIATE

GREENSBORO — The *Greensboro Council of Catholic Women* will have its annual memorial Mass for deceased members, family and friends Nov. 14 at St. Benedict Church, 109 W. Smith Street. The Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m., followed by a bring-your-own lunch. Refreshments and dessert will be provided. A Christmas collection will be taken for a needy family. For more information, please contact

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

PUBLISHER: Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
EDITOR: Kevin E. Murray
STAFF WRITER: Karen A. Evans
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Tim Faragher
ADVERTISING MANAGER: Cindi Feerick
SECRETARY: Deborah Hiles

1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203
MAIL: P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237
PHONE: (704) 370-3333 FAX: (704) 370-3382
E-MAIL: catholicnews@charlottediocese.org

OCTOBER 19, 2007
VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 44

The Catholic News & Herald, USPC 007-393, is published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203, 44 times a year, weekly except for Christmas week and Easter week and every two weeks during June, July and August for $15 per year for enrollees in parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and $23 per year for all other subscribers. The Catholic News & Herald reserves the right to reject or cancel advertising for any reason deemed appropriate. We do not recommend or guarantee any product, service or benefit claimed by our advertisers. Second-class postage paid at Charlotte NC and other cities. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, NC 28237.

FROM THE VATICAN

Feeding the hungry is moral obligation, pope says for World Food Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Feeding the hungry is not simply a logistical and economic challenge, it is a moral obligation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In a message for the Oct. 16 celebration of World Food Day, sponsored by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the pope said that perhaps the failure to significantly reduce the rate of malnutrition in the world is due to the fact that too many people consider it a "technical and economic" problem.

Individuals and nations, he said, must give priority to "the ethical dimension of feeding the hungry. This priority relates to the feeling of compassion and solidarity that is part of being human, leading to sharing with others not only material goods, but also (sharing) the love all of us need."

"Indeed, we give too little if we offer only material goods," Pope Benedict said in the message sent to Jacques Diouf, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The pope said studies of the situation of the world's 850 million hungry people demonstrate that a lack a food is not due only to natural factors such as drought, but is due "above all, to situations caused by human behavior," including wars that force people to flee their land and their homes.

"The goal of eradicating hunger and, at the same time, providing healthy and sufficient diets, requires specific methods and actions that would allow for an exploitation of resources in a way that respects the patrimony of creation," he said.

Pope Benedict called for scientists, researchers and technology developers to work in conjunction with farmers, farmworkers and the indigenous who know the "cycles and rhythms of nature" and have protected them for centuries.

Cardinals tell bishops, chaplains they must protect human rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church and its members serving in the military must be on the front line of protecting human rights, said Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re.

"The church, bearer of the human, moral and spiritual values without which it is impossible to build a worthy and true human society — a family of families — must be on the front line in supporting a correct application of humanitarian law in every circumstance," said the cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

The cardinal spoke at the Oct. 12 opening of a two-day course in humanitarian law offered to military ordinaries and chaplains from around the world. Military ordinaries are bishops responsible for the pastoral care of Catholics in the armed forces.

The course brought together about 80 participants from more than 30 countries and included speakers representing other religions and other Christian communities, as well as experts on international relations and on humanitarian law.

Cardinal Re told the bishops and priests that promoting human rights is part of their pastoral role.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told participants that religious believers have a special obligation to work together to defend the rights of all people.

The Congregation for Bishops, the justice and peace council, and the councils for interreligious dialogue and for Christian unity co-sponsored the course.

In a message sent to the meeting, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his hope that members of different religions would work together for "the promotion of the fundamental value of peace, based on truth, love, justice and freedom."

Carmen Wood (336) 545-9266.

GREENSBORO — Young adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s are invited to come and experience great speakers, excellent food and conversations at *Theology on Tap*. ToT will meet Tuesdays, through Nov. 13 at 6:45 p.m. for dinner and a social hour. Speakers begin at 7:45 p.m. Each week we will collect cranberry sauce and stuffing for Our Lady of Grace Church's Thanksgiving baskets. For more info e-mail greensborotot@yahoo.com, visit www.triadcatholics.org or call (336) 286-3687.

HIGH POINT — *Free Spanish Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Thursdays through Nov. 1, 7-8:30 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, call Nancy Skee at (336) 884-0522 or e-mail nsskee@hotmail.com, or call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

HIGH POINT — *Free Italian Classes* will be offered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 4145 Johnson St., Wednesdays through Nov. 7, 7-8 p.m. All class materials are furnished. For more information, e-mail Gianfranco Vettor at gvettor@yahoo.com or call Larry Kwan at (336) 688-1220 or e-mail hlkwan@lexcominc.net.

HICKORY VICARIATE

HICKORY — A retreat, *"Come see what the Lord has planned for you,"* will be held Oct. 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Sebastian Chapel of St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second Street NE. Each person should bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. The retreat is sponsored by the Christian Mothers of St. Aloysius. For more information, call Ginnie Stewart at (828) 324-2923.

HICKORY — The annual *World Community Day* ecumenical worship service will be held at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 52 16th Avenue NW, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. With the theme "Embracing Justice Under God's Tent," the focus of this bilingual service will be on immigration issues and will feature guest speaker Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott, director for diocesan Hispanic ministry. This event is sponsored by more than 15 area churches. Childcare will be provided, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN VICARIATE

MAGGIE VALLEY — Renew International's *"Why Catholic?"* program will be presented at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, 37 Murphy Dr., through Nov. 26. Small, informal groups will focus on the Apostles' Creed — What we believe regarding the public life of Jesus, his death and resurrection; the Holy Spirit and the church; Mary, mother of Christ; and life everlasting. Inactive Catholics and anyone inquiring about the Catholic faith are also encouraged to share this journey. Morning, afternoon and evening groups are available. For more information, call Sharon Foy at (828) 926-9968.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE

WINSTON-SALEM — Spirit of Assisi presents the *Wednesday Lunch Series,* 12:30-1:15 p.m., at the Fatima Chapel, 211 W. Third St. Enjoy a light lunch and free presentations on a variety of topics. Rev. Tim Auman, chaplain at Wake Forest University, will present "Interfaith Dialogue: The Language of Community" Oct. 24. Julie Ostergaard, campus minister at Wake Forest University, will speak Oct. 31. You may call ahead to indicate your attendance, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, e-mail Sister Kathy Ganiel at spiritofassisi@bellsouth.net or call (336) 723-1092.

Is your parish or school sponsoring a free event open to the general public? Deadline for all submissions for the Diocesan Planner is 10 days prior to desired publication date. Submit in writing to Karen A. Evans at kaevans@charlottediocese.org or fax to (704) 370-3382.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop Peter J. Jugis will participate in the following events:

Oct. 20 — 10 a.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
St. James Church, Concord

Oct. 22 — 7 p.m.
Sacrament of Confirmation
Immaculate Conception Church, Hendersonville

Oct. 23 — 1:30 p.m.
Building Commission meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Oct. 25 — 6 p.m.
Friends of Seminarians dinner
Bishop's residence, Charlotte

At the Church of the Nativity

CNS PHOTO BY KEVIN FRAYER, REUTERS

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stands next to Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theofilos III of Jerusalem during her visit to the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem Oct. 17. Rice lit a candle at the church and voiced hope that religion could be a force for reconciliation in the Middle East.

Pope names 23 cardinals, including two from U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named 23 new cardinals, including U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and U.S. Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, the first cardinal from a Texas diocese.

The pope announced the names at the end of his weekly general audience Oct. 17 and said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Nov. 24.

Cardinal-designate Foley was in St. Peter's Square when the announcement was made; he told Catholic News Service he had gone into the square, wading into the midst of the crowd, after going to a doctor's appointment.

While rumors were running strong that the pope would name cardinals at the end of the audience and his nomination was almost a given, Cardinal-designate Foley said he was shocked to be the second name announced by the pope.

The order in which the cardinals are announced determines their seniority in the College of Cardinals, which has little practical effect except in liturgical processions.

CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 5 issue, the story "Golden Mercy: School celebrates 50th anniversary" stated Sandra McMonagle served as principal of Our Lady of Mercy School for 13 years. She was principal at the school for 23 years.

In the Oct. 12 issue, the story "Good counsel: Diocese of Charlotte issues new guidelines for pastoral councils" stated a training session for clergy will be on Nov. 11. It will actually be on Nov. 15.

In the Oct. 12 issue, a photo caption listed Jesuit Father Joseph Kappes as celebrating 50 years as a Jesuit priest. He actually celebrated 50 years as a Jesuit. He has served as a priest for 30 years.

Building the foundation of faith

Endowment funds education in Salisbury

BY KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — When Ed Murphy created his endowment with the Foundation for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, he hoped that he would be able to serve the faithful for many years to come.

Over the past 11 years, that dream has been realized, and will continue to be realized far into the future.

"Many people will leave gifts to the Diocese of Charlotte in their estate plans, but there are some who choose to set up their endowments while they are still alive," said Jim Kelley, director of the diocesan development office.

Murphy was one such person, and he was able to witness the fruits of his generosity before his death earlier this year.

In 1996, Murphy set up an endowment divided into two components — the Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Endowment Fund and the Yates-Murphy Educational Endowment Fund — through a gift of stock, initially valued at $428,000.

The Eleanor C. Murphy fund was established to benefit Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, while the Yates-Murphy fund benefits Holy Name Church in New Bedford, Mass., Murphy's childhood parish.

The endowments provide scholarships for students of each parish's school, for parishioners needing vocational training and for seminary education.

"The two churches have received more than $286,000 in income from the endowment, while the principal amount has grown to more than $584,000," said Kelley. "Over time, these churches will continue to receive income from this endowment, which will eventually grow into millions of dollars."

Murphy spent the better part of 50 years as an active member of Sacred Heart Church. From serving on the original parish council to singing in the choir, Murphy and his late wife, Eleanor, were involved in many ministries of the parish.

"Over the years, Ed became a prominent member of the local Catholic community," said Don Hodgens, an attorney who helped Murphy set up the endowment. "In his later years, he was committed to the success of the Diocese of Charlotte."

"He shared his wealth with many charitable causes, both locally and elsewhere, and he was always loyal to his Catholic roots," he said.

"The principle use of the Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Endowment has been to benefit Sacred Heart School," said Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church. "The fruit of this gift has enabled many students, who would otherwise not be able to afford a Catholic school, to receive a Catholic education."

"The Murphys recognized the benefits of Catholic education and through their generosity, those benefits will be shared with our young people for years to come," Father Putnam said.

"Through his gift, Mr. Murphy left a legacy that will help meet the needs of individuals at both Sacred Heart and Holy Name churches today and in the future," said Kelley. "More and more parishioners across the diocese are following Mr. Murphy's example by remembering the church in their current and future estate plans."

Currently, there are more than 850 members of the Catholic Heritage Society — those people who have designated a parish, school or entity in the Diocese of Charlotte as a beneficiary of their estate.

About the foundation:

The diocesan foundation was incorporated in 1994 to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, agencies and organizations.

Currently, there are 158 endowments in the foundation. An endowment is a permanent fund in which the principal is never touched. The income may be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor organization or individual. Once an endowment is established, anyone may add to the fund.

Over the past 13 years, the foundation has made available almost $4 million in income through distributions from its endowments.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the diocesan foundation and endowments, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or e-mail jkkelley@charlottediocese.org.

ABBOTSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

Abbotswood at Irving Park enjoys an outstanding reputation of over 18 years of exemplary retirement living services. Join our independent seniors who enjoy:
- Largest 1- and 2-bedroom floor plans in Irving Park
- Delicious, chef-created meals
- Full-time wellness director
- Month-to-month rentals with NO BUY-IN FEES
- And, optional in-home health care services

For your personal tour, Call Kathie Woelk, parishioner at St. Pius X in Greensboro.

(336) 282-8870

ABBOTSWOOD
at Irving Park

The only full service retirement living address in the heart of Irving Park
3504 Flint Street • Greensboro, NC 27405 • www.kiscoseniorliving.com

Renewing baptismal promises

PHOTO BY CAROLE MCGROTTY

Bishop Peter J. Jugis lays hands on Mary Margaret Everist during the sacrament of confirmation at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville Sept. 8. Mary Margaret was one of seven youths confirmed by the bishop during the celebration.

Confirmation, along with baptism and Communion, is one of the three sacraments of initiation. Confirmation confirms the baptismal promises, and it usually is administered during the teen years to those baptized in infancy.

A reception was held for the newly confirmed in the parish hall after the Mass.

Spend springtime in the Alps!

Discover spectacular
Switzerland, Austria and Bavaria
with the Diocese of Charlotte and Fr. Mo West
April 30 — May 9, 2008

Bring family and friends to experience the area's breathtaking scenery, the rich culture of the old-world cities, and the charm of the Alpine villages and their people!

Your 10-day, fully-escorted experience features daily excursions based out of 2 centrally-located "hub cities" – Bern, Switzerland and Innsbruck, Austria. That means less packing and more time to explore Lucerne, Montreux, Interlaken, Gindelwald, Salzburg and Oberammergau as well!

Highlights of this itinerary include:
- GoldenPass Panoramic Train ride past wood chalets and magnificent views on the way to Gstaad, world-famous Alpine resort
- sightseeing tour of Bern's historical Old Town, its famous sights of today, and the medieval Chateau de Chillon on the shores of Lake Geneva
- a very special "Language Discovery Experience" enhances our interaction with locals
- a full tour of Lucerne as we explore the hidden treasures of its 800-year history, including the famous rock-carved Lion Monument
- charming Interlaken and the Bernese Oberland area – plus a stop in the lakeside town of Brienz to see its famous woodcarving
- a visit to Grindelwald, the charming Alpine village nestled at the base of the magnificent Jungfrau, here rising to 13,600 feet!
- a guided tour of the Olympic city of Innsbruck, Austria, the "capital of the Tyrol"
- Salzburg enchants us with beautiful gardens (including Mirabell Gardens seen in the "Sound of Music"), the site of Mozart's birthplace, and numerous other highlights
- a photographic stop at Bavaria's most famous Neuschwanstein Castle on our way to Oberammergau, home of the world-famous Passion Play
- plus leisure time to shop and explore these exciting sites on your own!

All-inclusive price: Only $2,699 from Charlotte INCLUDES airfare; all air taxes/surcharges and fees; hotel transfers; most meals; fulltime tour manager/escort; first class hotels; all guides and admission fees. Travel insurance is extra.

Space is very limited! A $250 deposit is due before November 30 so CALL NOW for a brochure: Cindi Feerick at the diocese: (704) 370-3332

Bolivian doctor studies in N.C., thanks to parishioner

BOLIVIA, *from page 1*

a mission trip to Bolivia — was waiting for him when he finally got off the plane in North Carolina in January.

Soon Martinez began his studies with physicians in Winston-Salem — all with the hope of learning medical advances to benefit his patients back home.

"I love being a doctor. I love helping people," said Martinez. "There are a lot of people who need medical help in Bolivia, and many do not have the money for it."

The majority of Bolivia's 9 million people — most of whom are Catholic — live in poverty and can spend a month's salary on one visit to a medical specialist. Martinez, a general practitioner at a clinic, often treats people for free, but it is difficult to help them acquire needed medicine.

Bolivia has a number of serious health concerns, including infant mortality, malaria, tuberculosis, chronic malnutrition and Chagas' disease — a parasitic disease that afflicts many in South America, including Martinez's father.

The Bolivian government provides very basic care for children up to 5 years old, pregnant women and people 65 years and older. Life expectancy in Bolivia is approximately 63 years for men and 68 years for women.

Medical assistance was a large focus of St. Leo the Great Church's March 2006 mission trip to El Torno, a small city 40 miles from Santa Cruz, Bolivia's largest city.

O'Brien was part of the group that included physicians, nurses, translators, facilitators and Father Thomas Kessler, then-pastor. Within a week, they saw 446 patients and performed 14 surgeries.

The procedures took place at the Clinica Santiago Apostal in El Torno, where O'Brien and Martinez first met. O'Brien is fluent in Spanish, and Martinez is also fluent in the two main native languages, Quechua and Aymara.

While the mission group helped many people in El Torno, O'Brien returned home feeling conflicted.

"I thought, it's good for me (to have helped with the medical needs) but what does it do for them?" she said, adding that she knew there was so much to be done.

O'Brien conceived the idea of bringing Martinez to the United States. Here he could learn about different medical procedures to take home and put into practice. He could then share them with his fellow physicians.

Wake Forest University offers a Visiting International Faculty program for teachers from other nations, so O'Brien planned and wrote the curriculum for Martinez's visit. She formally presented a request to Dr. William Applegate, dean of the university's School of Medicine, to grant Martinez a visiting international faculty designation.

Courtesy Photo by Roy Benson

Dr. Guido Martinez from Bolivia and Dr. Mary Claire O'Brien of Winston-Salem stand in the emergency room of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center.

O'Brien also applied for a scholarship on Martinez's behalf to cover his travel, books and living expenses. Her next step was to gather supporting paperwork for his visit and to write to the embassy in Bolivia, describing the program.

After a complicated, 10-month process, the visa was processed and approved. In order to acquire it, Martinez had to travel 18 hours each way on a bus to the U.S. embassy in La Paz.

Advancing medicine

While at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, Martinez focused most of his studies on emergency care with a specialty in cardiology. He shadowed O'Brien and other physicians in the emergency room, and spent time in a variety of departments and clinics of the medical school, the hospital and other medical practices in Winston-Salem.

Martinez learned about treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, a condition affecting many Bolivian women in their 20s; he also spent time with Dr. Ray Kuhn, a professor at the medical school specializing in Chagas' disease, who taught him about new research.

"I have been learning a great many things while I have been here, but a little piece of me knows the limitations," said Martinez. "However, I have definitely learned enough to do something more for my people."

When Martinez was given the chance to lecture to three classes of Spanish-speaking residents, he told them about Chagas' disease and its effects on the people of Bolivia.

Martinez would like to specialize in cardiology, but acquiring such a specialized degree in Bolivia is expensive and competitive. There are only two training positions available in the field each year in Santa Cruz.

"You either have to be influential or know someone of influence to be considered," he said.

His time in North Carolina was more than just study — he took part in a Super Bowl party, went kayaking and attended college basketball games. He saw his first giraffe at a local zoo and ate his first Krispy Kreme doughtnut.

The biggest culture shock, he admitted, was a trip to Wal-Mart.

Martinez was given a number of items to take home to Bolivia, including medical tools and textbooks, a laptop computer and two personal digital assistants downloaded with medical instructional material.

Martinez said he was in awe of and grateful for the generosity bestowed upon him by O'Brien and others.

"People (in Bolivia) are occupied with their own families and it is not ordinary to go out of your way for someone outside of your family," he said.

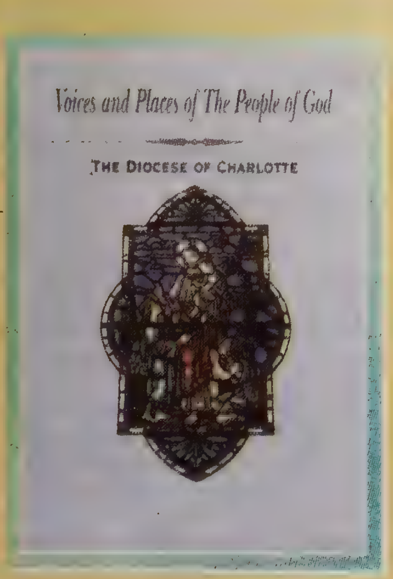
O'Brien told him that thanks were not necessary.

"Inviting you here was a little selfish on my part," she admitted. "Your patients in Bolivia are my patients, too. Tell them I think of them and pray for them. I will not forget them. They are in my heart always."

"I can't be in Bolivia … so I ask you to be my hands, and to give them my heart," she said.

Voices and Places
of The People of God

Makes a great Christmas Gift!



The Diocese of
Charlotte's
35th Anniversary Book

More than 35 Spiritual Reflections from clergy and laity including:
Bishop Peter J. Jugis
Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin
Archbishop John F. Donoghue

Historical photos and interesting facts about the founding of the diocese and its growth—

Read an excerpt or place your order at www.Charlottediocese.org.
$25.99 - plus tax and shipping (allow 2 weeks for delivery)

COME TO LOURDES
plus Paris and Nevers
with Father John Putnam, Pastor, Sacred Heart Church, Salisbury
February 13-21, 2008

$2,698 plus taxes includes: roundtrip airfare from Charlotte;
5 nights in Lourdes; 2 nights in Paris; breakfast and dinner daily
Call Patti Dameron – (336) 413-8127
(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Diocese places priest on leave due to allegation

Alleged incident from 47 years ago under investigation by priest's order

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte has placed a priest on administrative leave after receiving an allegation of sexual abuse.

The diocese placed Oblate Father Albert Gondek, pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Lexington, on leave Oct. 12, and has been in communication with his religious order, the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales in Delaware.

The allegation, made by a 59-year-old Delaware man, involved an incident he said took place 47 years ago at a summer camp in Maryland. Father Gondek was a seminary student at the time.

Father Gondek denies the allegation.

A letter about the allegation was faxed to the diocese from Wilmington, Del., by the man's attorney, who later held a press conference to make public the allegation.

The man claims he also was abused by another priest at a parish in Wilmington.

As a result of the initial allegation, and in keeping with its commitment to the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, the Diocese of Charlotte immediately placed Father Gondek on administrative leave.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis had a meeting with interested parishioners at Our Lady of the Rosary Church Oct. 14 and informed them of the allegation and the diocese's response.

The Diocese of Charlotte is currently awaiting results of an investigation being conducted by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.

Father Gondek has served as pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church since 1998. He served as president of the Greater Lexington Area Ministerial Association for a year and served on the Lexington Human Relations Commission for eight years.

He has been an active participant in the Latino Roundtable, a group of community leaders who focus on welcoming Hispanics into the community.

A statement issued by Our Lady of the Rosary Church's parish council expressed sadness over the allegation and defended Father Gondek's service to the parish and community.

"Father Al's nine years as our pastor have been characterized by a desire for unity, and he has worked tirelessly to energize our parish for greater spiritual growth, community involvement and personal interaction," said the statement.

> "We ask the community to pray for Father Al and for us."
>
> — Statement from Our Lady of the Rosary Church parish council

Shortly after arriving in Lexington, Father Gondek created the Salesian Award, named in honor of St. Francis de Sales, the patron saint of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The award recognizes a church member who shows compassion, kindness, loyalty and dedication.

"Regardless of our parish endeavors, Father Al has always reminded us of the importance of faith and of prayer," said the parish council statement.

"In our pastor's absence, the parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Church are resolved to continue his mission. We ask the community to pray for Father Al and for us," it said.

Weekend Masses at Our Lady of the Rosary Church will continue to take place at their regularly scheduled times.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORTING MINISTRY-RELATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR

1. Any individual having actual knowledge of or reasonable cause to suspect an incident of ministry-related sexual abuse is to immediately report the incident to the Chancery.

2. The Chancery will then report the incident to the proper civil authorities. The individual reporting the incident to the Chancery will be notified of the particulars regarding the Chancery's filing of the incident with civil authorities.

3. This reporting requirement is not intended to supersede the right of an individual to make a report to civil authority, but is to ensure proper, complete and timely reporting. Should an individual choose to make a report to civil authority, a report is still to be made to the Chancery.

Carolina Funeral & Cremation Center

CFCC

Dignity
Affordability
Simplicity

5505 Monroe Rd. Charlotte, NC 28212
704-568-0023
www.carolinafuneral.com

Steven Kuzma
Owner/Director
Privately, Locally Owned
Member St. Matthew Church and Knights of Columbus

Attention: Homeowners…Have a plumbing problem? Don't Panic!…
"How To Get A Top Talent Plumber To Show Up On-Time So You Don't Waste Time"

You have a busy schedule and value your time. Most plumbing companies won't give you a real appointment time and keep you waiting all day for a plumber to show up. Now there's a new way to get your plumbing problem fixed, save money, and get a precise Appointment Window so you don't have to waste time waiting.

Three-Way Plumbing Services, Inc.
We're The Good Guys Your Friends Told You About®
(704) 535-4795 Charlotte **(704) 795-9349** Concord
Serving Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties
www.3wayplumbing.com Proud member of St. James Church

Travel with other Catholics July 13, 2008

Canadian Rockies Tour Offers 'Cool' Vacation

14 Days from $999*

Join your Catholic Chaplain Father Aaron Kriss and other Roman Catholics. Fly into Sioux Falls, SD for a scenic three-day drive to Calgary, Alberta. En route visit Fargo and Bismarck, ND; then north to Saskatchewan to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy. Highlights include Lake Louise; Banff National Park; ride a SnoCoach over the Columbia Ice Fields; Canmore, Alberta; Waterton Lakes National Park; Kananaskis Country; Helena and Billings MT; Custer's battlefield at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Mt. Rushmore and Crazy Horse National Memorial; legendary Badlands National Park; and more! Includes 13 nights hotels, baggage handling, and lots of motor coach sight-seeing. Farther Kriss is pastor of Holy Martyrs Roman Catholic Church in Tarentum, PA. *Per person, double occupancy plus $149 tax, service, gov't fees. Add $600 airfare from Charlotte.

For brochure, information, and letter from Father Kriss call 7 days a week:

YMT Vacations **1-800-736-7300**

Limited Availability! Reserve your space now!

The African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte

invites you to bring family and friends to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we visit the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta

January 19-20, 2008

Join us as we learn about Dr. King's life and his influence on others by visiting:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Visitor Center
The visitor center features the permanent exhibit "Children of Courage" and the exhibit entitled "Courage To Lead," which follows the parallel paths of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. Also, walk down "Freedom Road." While at The King Center, we will visit the final resting place of Dr. King and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and see exhibits about him, Mrs. King, and Mahatma Gandhi.

Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church
Dr. King, his father and grandfather, Rev. A.D. Williams, preached here.

The Birth Home of Dr. King
This home may be visited only with a park ranger-led tour.

Your two days will include the following:
- Round trip deluxe motorcoach transportation from Charlotte (and possibly from Greensboro and/or Winston-Salem, if needed)
- Memorial Eucharistic Celebration for Dr. King at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Archbishop Winton Gregory -- Saturday mid-day
- Sightseeing/shopping Saturday afternoon - early evening
- Overnight hotel accommodations at the Embassy Suites – Buckhead
- Full Breakfast Sunday at hotel
- Six hour visit to the National Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial with the aid of a GPS Ranger (The GPS Ranger is a self-guided multimedia device that guides you through the historic Sweet Auburn Area. Hear Dr. King's message of social justice and equality, view images of the civil rights movement, and experience the aftermath of his untimely death, all in the palm of your hand.)
- Motorcoach tour of the Atlanta University Center – Spellman College, Morris Brown College, Morehouse College, Clark University, and the Lyke Center.
- Dinner – Sunday evening

All inclusive price: Only $95 per person (double, triple, or quad)
$130 per person single
Space is limited! Deposit of $50 due by November 17
Note: balance due before December 17, 2007

Call 704-370-3267 (voicemail) or spmurdock@charlottediocese.org for registration form. Check/money order made payable to: African-American Affairs Ministry. Send form and payment to: AAAM-MLK Program, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Full payment necessary to confirm space.

Columbiette helps Crisis Control

EAST FORSYTH HUMAN SE
ESTABLISHED 19
CRISIS CONTROL M
SHEPHERD'S C

COURTESY PHOTO

Ruth Bailey (right), a member of the Columbiettes Council 8509 at Holy Cross Church in Kernersville, presents a $128.55 check Sept. 24 to Kathy Hoffner, manager of Crisis Control Ministry's East Forsyth office in Kernersville. Crisis Control Ministry is a Christian-based ministry that assists people in crisis to meet essential life needs and to become self-sufficient.

Bailey, who has volunteered with Crisis Control Ministry for 17 years, collects aluminum cans and donates the proceeds to the ministry.

She also organizes the Columbiettes' "Highway Clean Up," among other activities.

The Columbiettes is the women's auxiliary group of the Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus give funds to Catholic Daughters

STATESVILLE — The Knights of Columbus have presented a check to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Knights of Columbus St. James Council 7152 raised $525 during a recent bake sale at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville.

The council presented a check to the Catholic Daughters court at the parish.

Headquartered in New York, the Catholic Daughters was founded in 1903 by John Carberry and several other Knights of Columbus as a charitable, benevolent and patriotic sorority for Catholic women.

Today, the organization has nearly 95,000 members in 1,400 courts in the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guam, Saipan and the Virgin Islands.

There are currently about 755 Catholic Daughters in North Carolina, representing 15 courts from Elizabeth City in the east to Bryson City in the west.

ATTENTION READERS!
HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Do you have a story to share with The Catholic News & Herald? Do you know of people who are living the tenets of their faith? Do you have photos of a parish- or ministry-based event?

If so, please share them with us.
Contact Staff Writer Karen Evans at (704) 370-3354 or kaevans@charlottediocese.org.

We're finally open! IMMACULATA CATHOLIC CO.

BIGGER & NEW LOCATION!
1123 SOUTH CHURCH ST., CHARLOTTE
(AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER, ONE BLOCK OFF MOREHEAD ST.)

Your COMPLETE CATHOLIC store!

* Extensive book selection
* Beautiful Catholic art
* Used book bargains
* Unique cards, rosaries, medals
* Gifts for every special occasion
* ...and a kids' play area!

SPECIAL ORDERS AND MAIL ORDERS, TOO!

HOURS: MON-FRI – 9 - 5:30 SAT. 10 - 2 704 - 651-1854

Celebrating service

COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus honor guards Joe Deering, Frank Skinner and Lloyd Edmonds are pictured during the 50th anniversary celebration of Bishop Hafey Council 4507 in High Point Oct. 6.

Knights of Columbus council celebrates 50 years in High Point

HIGH POINT — A Mass followed by singing, dancing and reminiscing highlighted the 50th anniversary of Bishop Hafey Council 4507 of the Knights of Columbus.

The celebration began with Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point Oct. 6. Members of the North Carolina Knights of Columbus Chorale led the congregation in liturgical song.

After the Mass, a banquet and dance were held at the Women's Club of High Point to honor current and past members, grand knights, chaplains and charter members. Special guests included John Gouldie, state deputy for the Knights.

Also present was Oblate Father Jack Kelly, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, and the parish's deacons, Deacons Walter Haarsgard, Thomas Kak, Joseph Smith and Fred Scarletto, council chaplain.

Grand Knight Bob Korabek spoke on the history and highlights of the progressive council, which has received numerous awards over its 50 years. The council holds the outstanding record in fundraising for individuals with special needs through the Knights' Operation L.A.M.B. program.

Gouldie presented the Star Council Award, the Knights supreme council's highest honor, to the council for membership quotas and activity achievements for 2006-07.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization founded in the United States in 1882.

Most of its 1.6 million members are in the United States, but it has councils in Canada, Mexico, Philippines, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan and Poland, as well.

WANT MORE INFO?
For more information on Bishop Hafey Council 4507, visit www.ihmchurch.org/KOC.htm.

COURTESY PHOTO

Knights of Columbus State Deputy John Gouldie presents Bishop Hafey Council 4507's past Grand Knight Frank Weithofer the Star Council Award during [illegible] council's 50th anniversary celebration in High Point Oct. 6.

Winds of change

Armenian patriarch, interfaith leaders gather at Jefferson Memorial

By MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — During Catholicos Karekin II's visit to Washington Oct. 11, the wind whipping through the nation's capital may have threatened to send hats and papers flying, but the commitment to religious freedom of interfaith leaders gathered with him at the Jefferson Memorial remained firmly grounded.

Standing in front of the memorial, the Armenian Apostolic Church's reigning patriarch since 1999 and an assemblage of U.S. religious leaders gave tribute both to freedom of religious expression and to Thomas Jefferson, hailed as the United States' guarantor of constitutional religious freedom for promoting the separation of church and state.

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past," said Catholicos Karekin, quoting Jefferson through an interpreter.

Speaking for himself, he added that in guaranteeing religious freedom, "we do not reduce the rights of the one, or the established."

He added there were 60 different "legally registered" religious groups now in Armenia, 95 percent of whose population are adherents of the Armenian Apostolic Church, which is an ancient and independent Oriental Orthodox church.

Catholicos Karekin had a White House visit scheduled shortly after the welcoming ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial.

A letter of welcome from Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, read by Washington Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley, expressed the archbishop's "spiritual solidarity" with Catholicos Karekin, who met with Pope John Paul II in 2001 when the pope visited Armenia.

Americans, Archbishop Wuerl said, are "a people who recognize the sovereignty of God and God's law in our personal and communal life."

Archbishop Wuerl noted the "Catholic colony" of Maryland was created in 1634, and that it became "the first state to grant religious freedom to all its inhabitants."

Rabbi David Saperstein, head of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, took on a personal tone, recalling how Armenian-Jewish relations were fostered in his boyhood neighborhood by an Armenian family who lived near his home.

While he confessed that as a youngster he would hang out in the Armenian family's kitchen in hopes of getting some tasty treats, the father of the family showed "a respect for a 10-year-old's thoughts that was rare," he said.

"Armenians must be the 10 lost tribes of Israel," Rabbi Saperstein remembered the father saying once.

"We are a people small in number who love culture and art and excel in them. ... We excel in education. ... We embrace within our religious traditions the important freedoms that America has given us," he said.

"Because we are created in the image of the divine," Rabbi Saperstein said, "we are created with certain unalienable rights."

Rajwant Singh, president of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education, noted how the Armenian penchant for religious freedom for those of other faiths is replicated in the Eastern religious tradition.

"Religious freedom automatically allows religious diversity," Singh said, adding that since the first U.S. Sikh temple was build in 1914 more than 200 have been established.

Alluding to his canary-yellow turban, Singh said, "Every day I am challenged."

Turban-wearing U.S. Sikhs often face scorn and derision and often are mistaken for Muslims in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks carried out by terrorists from Middle Eastern countries.

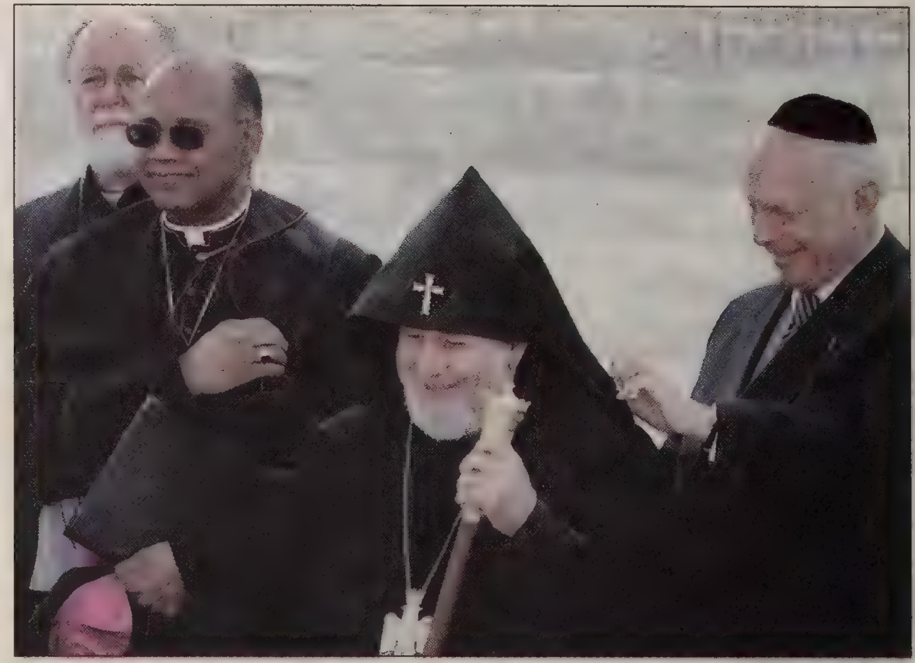
"9/11 has challenged America," Singh added.

Still, he said, "I am able to wear my religious identity with pride, and still call myself an American ... and that is only possible thanks to the vision of Thomas Jefferson."

Sayyid M. Syeed, representing the Islamic Society of North America, quoted Jefferson as saying that America welcomes the practitioners of all manner of religious belief as well as "the infidels in its dominion."

Maureen Shea, representing the Episcopal Church in America, praised what has been nearly a century of Episcopal-Armenian collaboration.

She identified Jefferson as an Episcopalian, adding that "like many, though, he had some disagreements with his church."



CNS PHOTO BY PAUL HARING

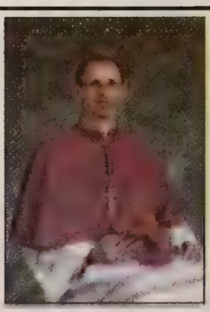
Rabbi Arthur Schneier (right) adjusts the hood of Catholicos Karekin II, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, as the wind blows during a press conference on religious freedom at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington Oct. 11. Also pictured are Archbishop Vicken Aykazian of the Armenian Church of America and Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of Washington.

THE ORATORY
434 Charlotte Avenue, P.O. Box 11586
Rock Hill, SC 2973-1586
(803) 327-2097
rockhilloratory.com

Sister Helen Prejean

Saturday, October 27 – 6pm at The Oratory
Sister Helen will participate in the 6 pm liturgy at the Oratory church.

Monday, October 29 – 7 pm at Winthrop University, Tillman Auditorium
Sister Helen will offer a major presentation on capital punishment. Her talk is free and open to the public.



Most Rev. Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte

Invites You On A Pilgrimage To The

49th International
Eucharistic Congress
Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Quebec

Ste Anne de Beaupré, Quebec

St. Joseph Oratory

Chateau Frontenac

Your 10 Day Pilgrimage Tour Includes:

June 14 – 23, 2008

- Round trip scheduled air from Charlotte to Montreal
- Nine (9) nights hotel accommodations at the 4 star Chateau Laurier Hotel, Quebec City (or similar)
- Sightseeing tour of Quebec including: the Citadelle, Plains of Abraham, Chateau Frontenac, and Notre-Dame des Victoires Church
- Half day trip to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupré
- Evening tour to the Ile d'Orleans with dinner in a traditional "Sugar Shack"
- Deluxe coach for round trip airport transfer from Montreal to Quebec City
- Hotel porterage for 1 piece of luggage per person and local taxes
- Registration fee to attend the Eucharistic Congress:
  - A week long experience of faith centered on the Eucharist
  - Closing Eucharistic celebration on the Plains of Abraham
  - Visit the Quebec Eucharistic Congress website, www.cei2008.ca for more details

Deposit by October 31 for special rate of only:
$2,899*

Call Corporate Travel at 800-727-1999; ext. 121 to book today – Limited Availability

Bishop Jugis welcomes Catholicos Karekin to Charlotte

KAREKIN, *from page 1*

> "You have come, your holiness, to Charlotte, which is known as the 'city of churches.'"
>
> — Bishop Peter J. Jugis

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Abbot Placid Solari (right) of Belmont Abbey greets Catholicos Karekin II, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, during an ecumenical luncheon sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte at the Duke Mansion in Charlotte Oct. 12. Also pictured are Archbishop Khajag Barsamian (left) of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and Bishop Peter J. Jugis.

Christ into our home," said Bishop Jugis during his welcoming remarks.

The presence of Catholicos Karekin, the reigning patriarch of Armenians worldwide since 1999, was part of his month-long pontifical visit to Armenian churches throughout the United States.

Catholicos Karekin's U.S. tour took him to Washington Oct. 9, where he joined an assemblage of U.S. religious leaders at the Jefferson Memorial before a visit to the White House Oct. 11.

He spent the next few days in Charlotte, where he conducted a service at St. Sarkis Armenian Church Oct. 12.

The ecumenical luncheon at the Duke Mansion showcased many of the diverse faiths that comprise the Queen City.

Guests included Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin and Msgr. Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Also in attendance were Right Rev. William O. Gregg, assistant bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina; Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel in Charlotte; and Rev. Gregory Busby, pastor of First United Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Local community leaders included Charlotte City Councilwoman Nancy Carter and Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Peter Gorman.

"You have come, your holiness, to Charlotte, which is known as the 'city of churches,'" said Bishop Jugis.

"The new St. Sarkis Church is another welcome witness to the presence of Christ and his love in our community," said the bishop.

Catholicos Karekin said that the spirit of brotherhood is "very obvious" in the United States and praised the country's religious diversity.

And, as he did in Washington, Catholicos Karekin praised Thomas Jefferson, hailed as the United States' guarantor of constitutional religious freedom for promoting the separation of church and state.

Catholicos Karekin then referred to the bouquets of flowers adorning the tables as a metaphor for the Charlotte-area churches, both Armenian and others.

"The different churches are like these flowers," he said, noting that the joining of many flowers made the bouquets more beautiful and appealing.

"Our churches put great effort to overcoming our differences and respecting each other and share our love of God," he said.

The blessings resulting from such cooperation would multiply, he said, if nations and governments cooperate and understand each other.

People close to God

The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of six of the Oriental Orthodox churches that split with Rome in the fifth century over formulas for expressing the nature of Christ. In agreements reached recently, those differences have largely disappeared.

Today the Armenian Apostolic Church and the much smaller Armenian Catholic Church are virtually identical in tradition, liturgy and spirituality. The main remaining difference is recognition of papal primacy.

In recent years, the Armenian Apostolic Church has improved its relations with the Vatican. Catholicos Karekin welcomed Pope John Paul II at the airport during his 2001 visit to Armenia, and invited Pope John Paul to stay at his residence — a first in papal travels.

The Mass, at the Armenian Apostolic headquarters, made ecumenical history, too. It was the first time a pope had celebrated the liturgy on the main altar of a separated bishop.

Catholicos Karekin welcomed the pope from the altar at the start of the liturgy, then took a seat in the front row. He did not take Communion, but joined the pontiff on the altar for the kiss of peace and a final blessing.

Pope John Paul said his presence was a "wonderful sign of our common faith."

"My own heart is eager to hasten the day when we shall celebrate together the Divine Sacrifice which makes us all one. At this altar, which is your altar, I beg the Lord to forgive us our past failings against unity and to lead us to the love that overcomes barriers," the pope said.

During the luncheon in Charlotte, Armenian-Americans said they were inspired by the supreme patriarch's visit and words of religious tolerance and solidarity. They responded to his remarks with enthusiastic applause.

"These are the times that make you realize that no matter who tries to devour us through hatred, we are still here, full of love and compassion," said Gregory Avedissian, a member of the Armenian Church of Atlanta, Ga., who attended the luncheon in Charlotte.

Ecumenical gatherings such as the luncheon in Charlotte help people of different faiths understand each other, said Avedissian.

"It's the unknown factor that helps create hatred between people. When we get to know one another, animosity can disappear," he said.

"These gatherings renew our faith and enrich the spirit. When you're with people who are close to God, you feel closer to God," said Avedissian.

Contributing to this article was Catholic News Service.

Catholicos Karekin favors House vote on WWI-era killings of Armenians

BY KEVIN E. MURRAY
EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — During an ecumenical luncheon at the Duke Mansion Oct. 12, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church spoke favorably about a U.S. House panel vote regarding the century-old deaths of Armenians.

Catholicos Karekin said he was pleased with the House Foreign Affairs Committee's recent approval of a measure describing as genocide the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians by Ottoman Turks during World War I.

Approved by a vote of 27-21 Oct. 10, the House panel will send the measure to the full House for a vote. The Bush administration, fearing its passage would harm U.S. relations with Turkey — a key ally in NATO and in the global war on terror — pressured Democratic leaders not to schedule a vote.

Although several Democrats have now withdrawn their support for the vote, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said Oct. 16 that the plan remained to vote on the measure before Congress adjourns by the end of the year.

But, he added, "there are a number of people who are revisiting their own positions, and we'll have to determine where everyone is," he said.

Turkey denies the deaths constituted genocide, saying that the toll has been inflated and that those killed were victims of civil war and unrest.

Catholicos Karekin said the House panel's decision righted an injustice and helped relieve the "pain (Armenian) people have in their hearts" after more than 90 years since the killings.

It brings "consolation to the souls of the victims and the survivors," he said.

The vote is important not just for Armenians but for all peoples, he said, to ensure such tragedy does not happen again.

Contributing to this article was the Associated Press.

Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Catholicos Karekin II, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, speaks during an ecumenical luncheon sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte at the Duke Mansion in Charlotte Oct. 12.

Culture Watch

A roundup of Scripture, readings, films and more

Pope completes second encyclical, a meditation on Christian hope

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI has completed his second encyclical, a meditation on Christian hope, Vatican sources said.

The text, tentatively titled "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), is about 65 pages, sources said Oct. 16. No release date has been set for the document.

The working title comes from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, in which he wrote: "For in hope we have been saved."

The encyclical is said to explore the Christian understanding of hope, with reference to modern philosophy and the challenges of disbelief.

The pope worked on the encyclical this summer, when he had time to write during his sojourns in northern Italy and at his villa outside Rome. At the same time, he was working on a third encyclical that deals with social themes, Vatican officials said.

The pope published his first encyclical in late 2006. Titled "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), it called for a deeper understanding of love as a gift from God to be shared in a self-sacrificial way.

The pope spoke about the importance of the virtue of hope in 2005, when he addressed Mexican bishops on their "ad limina" visits to Rome.

"Confronted by today's changing and complex panorama, the virtue of hope is subject to harsh trials in the community of believers. For this very reason, we must be apostles who are filled with hope and joyful trust in God's promises," the pope told the bishops.

From a pastoral standpoint, he added, hope means reminding Christians that God never abandons his people and is alive and active in the world.

"In contemporary society, which shows such visible signs of secularism, we must not give in to despair or a lack of enthusiasm in pastoral projects," he said.

In introducing a section on hope, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit."

Vatican publishes collector's edition of documents on Knights Templar

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is publishing a collector's edition of documents on the Knights Templar, the medieval crusading order that became the focus of legends and mysteries.

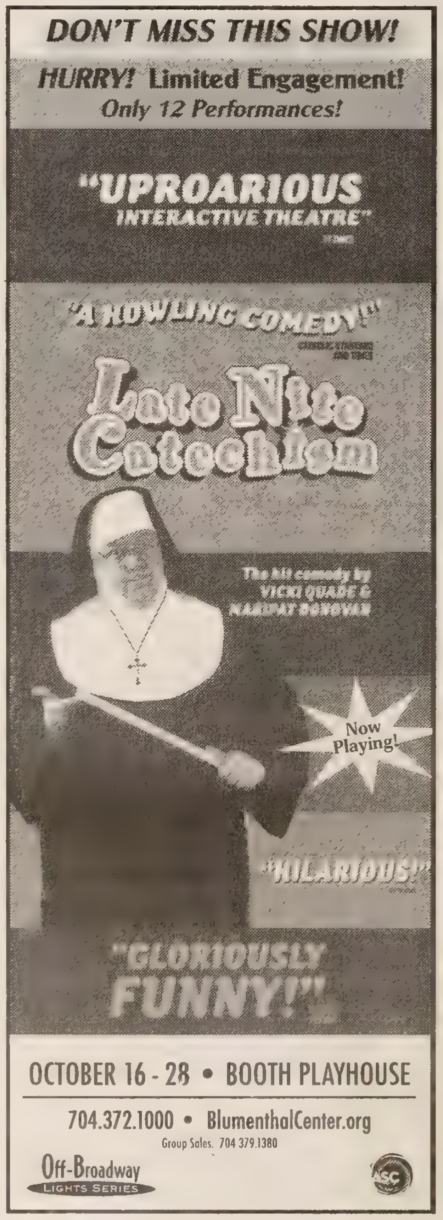
The book, published by the Vatican Secret Archives, will reproduce original parchment texts preserved in the Vatican, including a large folio discovered six years ago that details a papal investigation of the order.

Only 799 copies of the elaborate volume, titled "The Trial Against the Templars," will be put on sale, according to the Scrinium publishing house, which publishes Vatican Archives' material.

An 800th copy will be presented to Pope Benedict XVI Oct. 25 by a panel of Vatican officials, church historians and researchers.

The Knights Templar were founded in Jerusalem in 1118 and during the Crusades grew in influence and power. In the early 1300s, after an investigation ordered by Pope Clement V, the knights were charged with heresy and their assets seized. The pope eventually dissolved the order, and many members were burned at the stake.

Through the centuries, the story of the Knights Templar has been connected with the legend of the Holy Grail, the cup said to have been used by Jesus at the Last Supper and which was believed to hold miraculous powers. Some believed the Knights Templar had discovered the grail and were holding it in Jerusalem — a legend that was elaborated upon in the popular novel "The Da Vinci Code."

DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!
HURRY! Limited Engagement!
Only 12 Performances!

"UPROARIOUS INTERACTIVE THEATRE"
"A HOWLING COMEDY!"
Late Nite Catechism
The hit comedy by VICKI QUADE & MARIPAT DONOVAN
Now Playing!
"HILARIOUS!"
"GLORIOUSLY FUNNY!"
OCTOBER 16 - 28 • BOOTH PLAYHOUSE
704.372.1000 • BlumenthalCenter.org
Group Sales. 704 379.1380
Off-Broadway LIGHTS SERIES

WORD TO LIFE

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS: OCT. 28, 2007

Oct. 28, Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:

1) Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
   Psalm 34:2-3, 17-19, 23
2) 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
3) Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

God hears cries for help from contrite hearts

BY SHARON K. PERKINS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Years ago when I worked providing pastoral care in a psychiatric hospital, I learned about healthy and unhealthy behaviors that were observed by the hospital staff as markers of a patient's progress or regression.

One of the more unfavorable signs was "attention-seeking" behavior. Usually it meant that the patient, insecure and fearful, would eschew desirable tools of self-reliance for more manipulative means to get his or her emotional needs met by the staff, often at the expense of other patients.

Outside the confines of the hospital, there's a maxim that's frequently used to describe complainers who persist until they eventually get their way: "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

When employed by those who believe that silent suffering is preferable to whining, the saying implies that relentless complaint and protest are devices used by the selfish, the immature and the egocentric.

It also implies that attention and service are in short supply, so one should compete for them in any way one can.

But sometimes the squeaky wheel really needs greasing. There are people whose situations are dire and whose complaints are truly justified. And — as indicated in today's readings — those complaints are heard, and answered, by a God who "knows no favorites" but nonetheless responds with justice to the cries of widows, orphans and the poor.

And there doesn't seem to be any shortage of God's attention to those in distress; there's plenty to go around.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers a parable that illustrates two kinds of attention-seekers. The Pharisee, taking the more conspicuous position in the Temple, trusts in his own devices by pointing out at the expense of others what he has done to deserve God's notice.

But the tax collector, admitting his sinfulness and trusting in God's compassion, prays in a way that truly gets God's attention.

In his plea for mercy he avoids both extremes — he neither boasts of his virtue nor suffers in silence, but he approaches God with an attitude of confident humility.

When taken with Luke's previous story of the complaining widow and the dishonest judge, this parable teaches the importance of meek but persistent prayer. To God's ears, a cry for help from a contrite heart is heard.

In God's world, the squeaky wheel really does get the grease.

Questions:

When was the last time you truly complained to God about something? Was your complaint a selfish bid for attention or a cry for God's justice and mercy?

Scripture to be Illustrated:

"He who serves God willingly is heard" (Sirach 35:16).

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 21-27
Sunday (Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Exodus 17:8-13, 2 Timothy 3:14--4:2, Luke 18:1-8; **Monday,** Romans 4:20-25, Luke 1:69-75, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. John of Capistrano),** Romans 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday (St. Anthony Mary Claret),** Romans 6:12-18, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday,** Romans 6:19-23, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday,** Romans 7:18-25, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday,** Romans 8:1-11, Luke 13:1-9.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF OCT. 28-NOV. 3
Sunday (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14; **Monday,** Romans 8:12-17, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday,** Romans 8:18-25, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday,** Romans 8:26-30, Luke 13:22-30; **Thursday (All Saints),** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Friday (All Souls Day),** Wisdom 3:1-9, Romans 5:5-11, John 6:37-40; **Saturday (St. Martin de Porres),** Romans 11:1-2, 11-12, 25-29, Luke 14:1, 7-11.

Groce
FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICE

1401 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC
(828) 252-3535

72 Long Shoals Road
Arden, NC
(828) 687-3530

Assuring Absolute Integrity

Asheville's Catholic Funeral Directors
Dale Groce • John Prock
Toll-free (888) 874-3535

Pre-arrangements and obituaries on-line at www.grocefuneralhome.com

Coming Soon...
Going Fast!

The exciting Pennybyrn at Maryfield is almost fully reserved – that means only a few more can take advantage of pre-opening pricing. Will you be one of them?

This architecturally stunning new retirement community is scheduled to open soon. An active, modern lifestyle that offers you gorgeous private residences, superior amenities and a professional staff to provide unparalleled services…it's the retirement lifestyle that you've been waiting for!

Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Current pricing ends soon! Call (336) 821-4050 or toll-free (866) 627-9343 today... prices will never be this low again!

PENNYBYRN
at MARYFIELD
A Retirement Living Community

1315 Greensboro Rd, High Point, NC 27260
www.PennybyrnAtMaryfield.com
Sponsored by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God

Actress who portrays saint has starring role in church's fundraiser

BY ROBERT PFOHMAN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

STAYTON, Ore. — What better way to roll out a fundraising effort to renovate your falling-down mission church than to ask the saint for whom the church is named to come to town to perform before a paying audience?

That's what members of St. Catherine of Siena mission in Mill City did in late September when they invited Dominican Sister Nancy Murray to perform her dramatic portrayal of St. Catherine in neighboring St. Boniface Church in Sublimity.

The 97-year-old white wooden mission church in Santiam Canyon is under construction and was unable to host the event.

Before the performance, about 75 parishioners paid $100 each to attend a dinner at the Stayton home of Ted and Diane Freres.

Dressed in an old-fashioned Dominican habit, Sister Murray as St. Catherine speaks out against injustice in the church and world, a theme that resonates with modern-day audiences.

The saint also taught that love of God means love of one's neighbor.

The real St. Catherine, a nurse and mystic, advised popes and princes on the issues of the day. She proved to be one of the sharpest theological minds in the 1400s, even though she lacked formal education.

The Italian-born visionary's letters are considered among the most brilliant writings in the church. She died at age 33.

Over the past four years, Sister Murray's dramatic recreation of the saint's life has evolved into a full-time ministry for the vivacious 59-year-old, who is the sister of comedian Bill Murray.

Mill City parishioners were thrilled when they heard she would help them raise money to restore their church.

"She travels the world to bring St. Catherine of Siena to life, and now she has made time to help us bring our little Mill City church back to life," one parishioner said.

The landmark mission church was "one windstorm away from collapse," parishioners said. The old foundation consisted of cement and rock-pier pads, causing the building to tilt and the floor to drop.

CNS PHOTO BY GERRY LEWIN, CATHOLIC SENTINEL

Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, who portrays St. Catherine of Siena, is pictured in Oregon in late September.

Also, the roof was rotting and the bell tower needed repairs.

Parishioners planned a two-phase, $400,000 restoration project. The first phase is funded.

Sister Murray's performance was the kick-off for the second phase, projected to cost $150,000 to cover the addition of stained-glass windows and replacement of plywood pews and worn carpeting.

Sister Murray has a bachelor's degree in theater from Dominican-run Barry University in Miami and a master's degree in pastoral studies from Jesuit-run Loyola University of Chicago.

Her one-woman show got a boost recently from a story about her that appeared in the St. Anthony Messenger magazine written coincidentally by a former classmate, managing editor Barbara Beckwith.

The invitations poured in afterward and Sister Murray has been on the go ever since, performing around the world.

Raised in the Chicago suburb of Wilmette, the surrogate saint comes from a family of entertainers. She has six brothers and two sisters. Besides Bill, three other Murray brothers support themselves and their families through acting and writing.

'Amazed' album by Catholic musician earns five Unity Awards

PHOENIX (CNS) — New York Catholic musician Sean Clive let his fans know he would be traveling to the eighth annual Unity Awards in Phoenix.

He wrote on his Web site that he'd be "attending, presenting and maybe even receiving," though, he added, there was "little chance" of that "but God only knows."

He did a bit better than he ever expected.

His album "Amazed" won five Unity Awards at the Oct. 6 event, including pop/contemporary album of the year and song of the year for the title track.

The awards are sponsored by the Iowa-based United Catholic Music and Video Association.

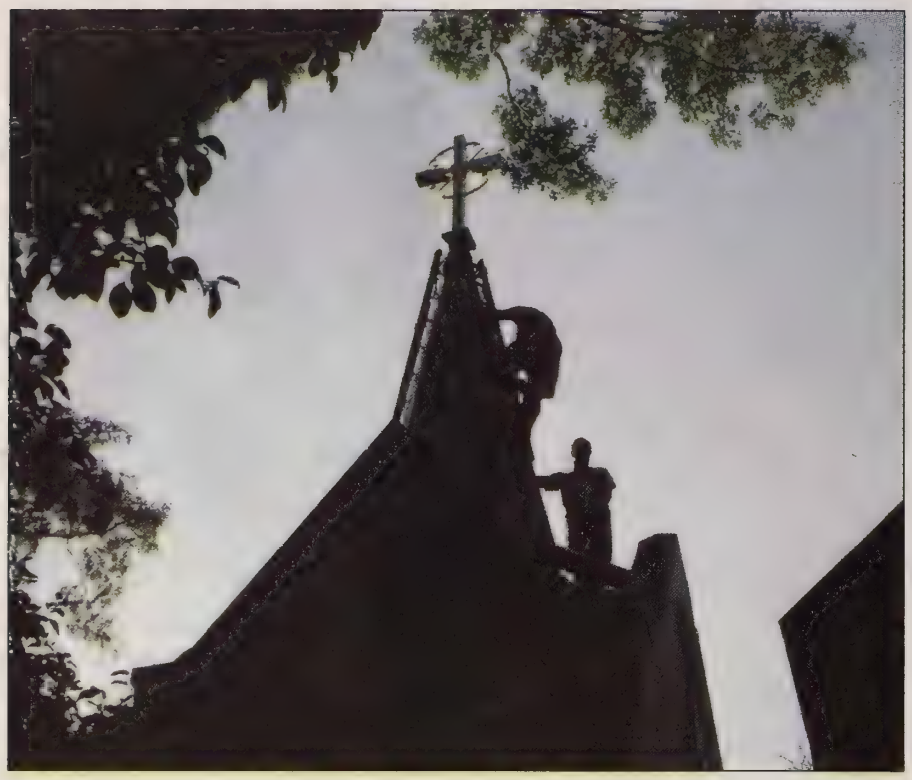
"It's nice to have other people supporting you," said Clive, a music minister at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Utica, N.Y.

"You don't do it for that, but when you get support, it's nice," he said.

"Amazed" also walked away with best producer honors for David C. Smith and best album packaging.

Smith, who played almost all the instruments on the album, also shared the songwriter of the year award with Clive.

A cross for a cathedral



Courtesy Photo

Workmen are seen restoring the cross on top of the bell tower at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. The original cross, guilded in gold leaf, was installed in 1939 and has been restored to its original splendor.

Marching for Our Lady

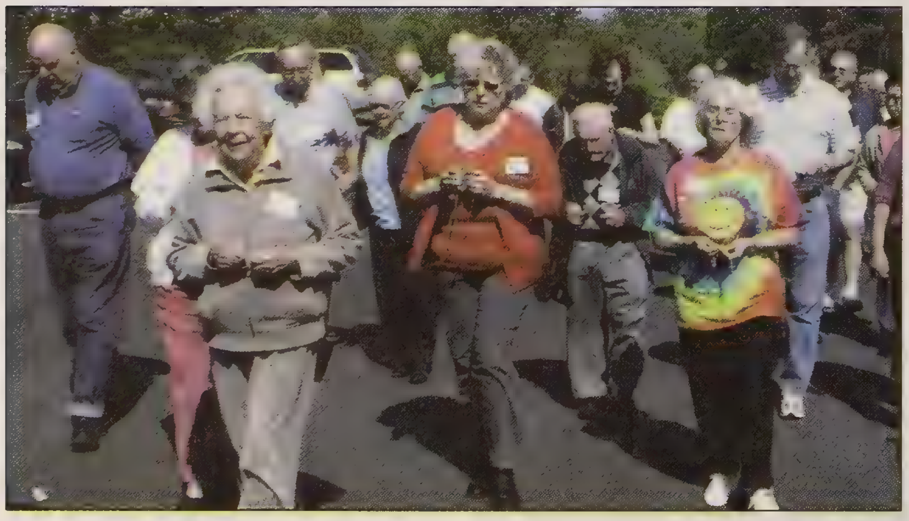


Photo by Deacon Gerald Potkay

Above: Jean Forester, wife of Deacon Gordon Forester, permanent deacon at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, leads diocesan deacons and their wives in a rosary march to coincide with a worldwide rosary march celebrating the 90th anniversary of the first apparition of Mary to three young children in Fatima, Portugal. The march was part of the annual deacons and wives retreat, held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory Oct. 12-14.

Fatima and Spain Pilgrimage

Father Philip Scarcella (pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption Church) and Deacon Carlos Medina (St. Patrick Cathedral) cordially invite you to join them on a 10-day spiritual pilgrimage to Fatima and Spain, May 1-10, 2008.

Tour highlights include Fatima, the famous medieval pilgrimage city of Santiago de Compostela, Avila and Segovia (the homes of St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross), Toledo and Madrid.

Price from Charlotte: $2799 (or $2699 before January 27)

For more information, contact Father Scarcella at 704-535-9965, Deacon Carlos at 704-400-3111 or Pentecost Tours at 800-713-9800.

(This is a privately-sponsored trip, not associated with the Diocese of Charlotte.)

Prominent Belmont Abbey monk dies of cancer

Father Paschal Baumstein remembered for gentle presence, love of theater

BELMONT — Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein of Belmont Abbey monastery died peacefully Oct. 4 after a long bout with cancer.

Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey celebrated a funeral Mass in the Abbey Basilica Oct. 8. Internment was in Belmont Abbey cemetery.

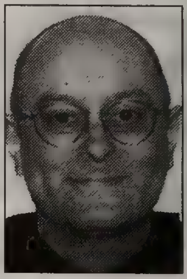
A native of Tullahoma, Tenn., Father Baumstein served as the abbey's historian and chief archivist.

"He leaves behind a wonderful legacy and will be greatly missed," said college spokesman Ed Jones. "He really was one of the most humble men I've ever met."

Born to Jewish parents on Sept. 16, 1950, Father Baumstein was baptized into the Catholic faith at age 20. He entered the novitiate at Belmont Abbey in 1974 and made his first profession of vows June 5, 1975. He was ordained to the priesthood June 2, 1979.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Holy Apostles College, a master's degree from Indiana University and a Master of Divinity from the St. Meinrad School of Theology. He received training in archival science at the Modern Archives Institute of the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and became the first Benedictine admitted to the Academy of Certified Archivists.

On April 20, 2007, Father Baumstein was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Belmont Abbey College in recognition of his scholarly work and service to Belmont Abbey.



Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein

Father Baumstein was the biographer of the monastery's first abbot, Bishop Leo Haid; he co-authored a pictorial history of Belmont Abbey, published numerous articles and booklets, and was book editor of the monastic periodical Cistercian Studies Quarterly.

He was instrumental in having the Abbey Basilica placed on the National Register of Historic Places and having the central part of the abbey campus designated as a historic district.

Father Baumstein also served on the board of trustees of Belmont Abbey College.

He is perhaps best remembered at Belmont Abbey College for his rich knowledge and deep love of theater. He was an avid supporter of the Abbey Players and played the title role in Hadrian VII.

Generations of Abbey students were helped by his gentle presence and blessed by the many notes of encouragement and congratulations he unfailingly sent to students and friends. He was beloved as a treasured confessor and spiritual father.

Father Baumstein is survived by his mother; brother and sister-in-law; niece; nephew and spouse; great nieces and nephews; and the monks of Belmont Abbey.

Memorials may be made in honor of Father Baumstein to the Abbey Players at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd., Belmont, N.C. 28012.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

***Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S** name here?*

LOW ad rates - *easy for small businesses and individuals, too!*

Call (704) 370-3332 now!

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Classifieds

FOR SALE

ACREAGE: North Carolina mountains. Successful, ongoing land development company. Includes developer's home on 400+ acres. Permitted and approved erosion control plan for entire parcel in place. $4.2 mil. Email mountainlandforsale@yahoo.com or 828-736-0447

Classified ads bring results! Over 140,000 readers! Over 52,000 homes!
Rates: $.80/word per issue ($16 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication
How to order: Ads may be E-mailed to ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org, faxed to (704) 370-3382 or mailed to:
Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Photo by Karen A. Evans

Bishop Peter J. Jugis leads prayer vigil participants in the recitation of the rosary outside the reproductive health clinic on Hebron Drive in Charlotte Oct. 17.

Bearing witness

Bishop Jugis takes part in pro-life events in Charlotte

By KAREN A. EVANS
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Bishop Peter J. Jugis recently joined thousands of Catholics participating in pro-life events in Charlotte during the inaugural "40 Days 4 Life Charlotte" campaign taking place Sept. 6–Nov. 4.

On Oct. 17, Bishop Jugis led the recitation of the rosary with prayer vigil participants outside the reproductive health clinic on Hebron Drive in Charlotte.

In the evening of Oct. 17, Bishop Jugis celebrated Mass at St. Ann Church in Charlotte to mark the halfway point in the 40-day vigil.

"We are mysteriously transformed by the Eucharist," Bishop Jugis said during his homily. "Our will becomes more aligned with Christ's will, which is to do the Father's will."

"Our affections become more aligned with Christ, making us compassionate towards our brothers and sisters," the bishop said. "If we have compassion for Jesus … then we also have compassion for our broken brothers and sisters."

"This means compassion for the child in the womb whose life is in danger and compassion for the mother and the other family members who are confused and tragically end up making the decision to end the life of the child."

The Mass gives a eucharistic form to our pro-life witness, the bishop said.

"The sacrifice of Christ nourishes an attitude of sacrifice in us, impelling us to make sacrifices to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in the womb," Bishop Jugis said.

WANT MORE INFO?
Call Andrea Hines at (704) 996-4597 or Jason Beckert at (704) 996-8258 or visit www.40days4life.com and click on "Locations" to access the 40 Days 4 Life Charlotte page.

Judge encourages pro-life advocates at annual banquet

PRO-LIFE, *from page 1*

Room at the Inn is a Catholic maternity home in Charlotte that offers pregnancy assistance for unmarried pregnant women and their babies, both born and unborn.

Napolitano is the youngest life-tenured Supreme Court judge in New Jersey's history. During his talk, Napolitano discussed the difference between legal killing — such as, when a soldier kills an enemy combatant during wartime — and innocent killing, such as abortion.

"Killing a baby is always wrong — period," said Napolitano.

Catholics have two duties when it comes to abortion, he said.

"The first duty of every Catholic is to pray for the aborted baby," said Napolitano.

The second duty is to forgive those who killed them, he said.

"Forgiveness is the essence of every Christian," said Napolitano.

Catholics must also be strong, he said, to "challenge those who are for abortion."

This is especially true of elected officials and the voters who put them in office, said Napolitano.

"I reject the weak argument of politicians who personally oppose abortion but won't lift a finger to stop it once in office," said Napolitano. "And putting someone in office who favors killing babies is not morally justified."

> "Killing a baby is always wrong — period."
>
> — Judge Andrew Napolitano

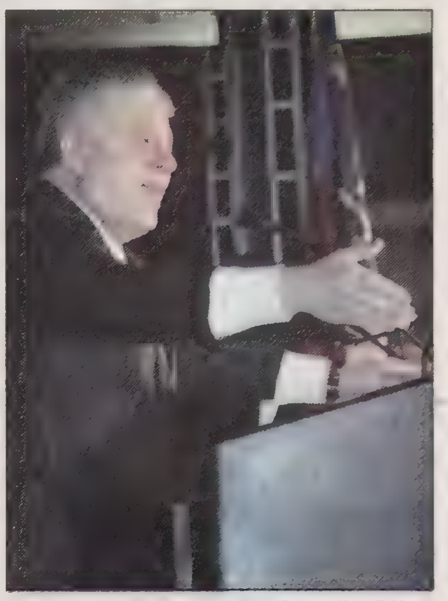


Photo by Kevin E. Murray

Judge Andrew Napolitano speaks during a Room at the Inn fundraising banquet at the Charlotte Convention Center Oct. 11.

Jeannie Wray, Room at the Inn's executive director, agreed with Napolitano that abortion is a fight that must be fought "at many levels and in many different ways," she said in an interview with The Catholic News & Herald.

"We are not all given the same opportunities or the same talents to bring to bear on this issue, but there are some things that anyone can do to combat the mindset that leads to abortion," she said.

Wray said Catholics should fight the perception that women "have no choice" but to seek an abortion by assuring them that there are "life choices" available. She recommended supporting programs that offer emotional, spiritual and material assistance to encourage women to choose life.

Wray recommended that Catholics "pray, and pray fervently the rosary."

"Prayer is our most powerful weapon in this fight," she said.

Pro-life advocates need to support each other in the cause, said Wray.

"The fight is difficult and long and requires so much from each of us — a kind word goes a long way," she said.

Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail kemurray@charlottediocese.org.

Making a difference at the Inn

Since 1994, Room at the Inn's residential program has served 412 mothers and children with pre-natal and post-natal services. And since their establishment in 2004, the outreach programs have served more than 2,212 mothers and babies.

Because studies have shown that 57 percent of all abortions are performed on college students, Room at the Inn has launched a new college outreach program, "Inn Good Company," designed to meet the needs of pregnant college women.

For more information, visit www.rati.org or call (704) 525-4673.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church invites you to a

Day of Reflection featuring
Dr. Scott Hahn
Saturday, November 10
10 am – 4 pm

Internationally known theologian, author, speaker and professor at Franciscan University, Dr. Hahn will be giving three talks about the Eucharist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and defending the Catholic faith.

NOTE: Tickets must be purchased in advance - $10

Please bring a bagged lunch.

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church
1400 Suther Road, Charlotte 28213

Call 704-549-1607 for tickets.

Perspectives

A collection of columns, editorials and viewpoints

Finding the silence to hear God's voice

Discipline needed to hear God's message to us

Seeking Life

MOISES SANDOVAL
CNS COLUMNIST

When Bryan Cones, associate editor of U.S. Catholic, decided to make an eight-day silent retreat, his mother was incredulous.

In an editor's note in the August issue he reports her reaction: "You're going to do what? And you are not going to talk the whole time?"

We all need to take time away from the busyness of modern life, Cones wrote, "to, well, shut up and listen for the voice of God, who is always trying to get through."

Nevertheless, it is hard to be silent.

When I was an undergraduate at Marquette University, we had an annual silent retreat lasting several days. Notwithstanding the strong urgings of the Jesuit retreat master, our silence lasted at best half a day.

I thought again about the challenge posed by Cones while hearing the Gospel reading about the visit Jesus made to the home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42). Martha, stuck with serving the guests while her sister Mary sat at the Lord's feet listening to him, complained.

"Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me."

But Jesus replied: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

Yet, for most of us, it's Martha's concerns that take up every minute of the day: serving the guests, paying the bills, making a living, fulfilling obligations to spouse and family.

We are all called to listen to the Lord's voice, but he is not going to walk through our front door. We can perhaps hear his voice in the silence of a retreat house, monastery or church.

We can certainly hear it, as Jesus taught us, in the cry of the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely, the persecuted, the immigrant. We can also find God's voice in their silence.

"The Sounds of Silence," by Simon and Garfunkel, sings about "people talking without speaking, people hearing without listening, people writing songs that voices never share."

It concludes: "The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls and tenement halls, and whispered in the sounds of silence."

But we can also find the voice of God in the silence of our own inner being. It is there, in the most convenient place, where we more often fail to look and listen.

It takes a discipline that most of us fail to develop.

Capuchin Father Jack Rathschmidt urged us during a retreat to take five minutes every day to sit down, do nothing and meditate. It is difficult because we are programmed to measure the success or failure of our day by the things we do.

While we may be able to sit down for five minutes, quieting the mind is far more difficult.

In his book "Wherever You Go, There You Are," Jon Kabat-Zinn wrote that an incessant stream of thoughts flows through out minds leaving little respite for inner quiet:

"Meditation means learning how to get out of this current and listen to it, learn from it, and use its energies to guide us rather than to tyrannize us."

He describes meditation as mindfulness, living in the present moment.

It's in the present moment that we hear the voice of God.

Naturalist Henry David Thoreau wrote, "God himself culminates in the present moment, and will never be more divine in the lapse of all the ages."

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Catholic News & Herald welcomes letters from readers. We ask that letters be originals of 250 words or less, pertain to recent newspaper content or Catholic issues, and be in good taste.

To be considered for publication, each letter must include the name, address and daytime phone number of the writer for purpose of verification. Letters may be condensed due to space limitations and edited for clarity, style and factual accuracy.

The Catholic News & Herald does not publish poetry, form letter or petitions. Items submitted to The Catholic News & Herald become the property of the newspaper and are subject to reuse, in whole or in part, in print, electronic formats and archives.

Send letters to Letters to the Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, P.O. Box 37267, Charlotte, N.C. 28237, or e-mail catholicnews@charlottediocese.org.

Catholics and money

Tithing helps Catholics see how God provides

For the Journey

EFFIE CALAROLA
CNS COLUMNIST

My friend sat across from me on the couch as she told me how she began to tithe to her parish. I don't know her very well, and I was surprised when she revealed this.

After all, we Catholics can be pretty tight-lipped when it comes to talking about money and faith.

"When I was married," she said, "my husband was the type who would throw a dollar or two into the collection plate. After we divorced, I decided I'm going to tithe."

Tithing is, of course, giving a certain amount, perhaps 10 percent, of what you have back to God. For Catholics, that usually means giving half to your faith community and half to charities which you support.

My friend said her commitment was frightening at first. She had the mortgage to pay by herself, and she felt the weight of being financially all alone for the first time in a while.

"But I decided, if I don't plunge into it now, I'll make excuses and never do it," she said.

It's been surprising, she added, how things always works out when the gift comes first, not last. It's not, she said adamantly, like the television preachers who guarantee you financial success if you're generous with them. No, not at all.

"But you begin to see all the blessings, and how God really does provide for you," she marveled.

Tithing has a scriptural basis both in Genesis and Leviticus. Many Protestant churches stress it, but it's not a very common practice in the Catholic Church — yet.

Catholics notoriously are less generous with their church than many of our Protestant friends.

I had a Catholic friend who was married to an Episcopalian woman. He told me, "When the collection plate goes around at my church, I see a lot of ones and fives. When I visit her church, I always see plenty of twenty dollars bills in the basket."

Many Catholics balk at hearing parish finances discussed on Sunday. What family functions well if it doesn't occasionally talk about the budget?

That attitude is changing in the church nowadays, however.

I recently returned from the International Catholic Stewardship Conference in Miami, Fla. There I met people from churches whose parishioners are deeply generous.

I even heard one group talk about their parish where most members tithe. As a result, the parish is blossoming with involvement and wonderful programs as well as outreach into the community.

These parishes are updated on finances often in the bulletin, mail-outs and from the pulpit. They have a healthy attitude about the money that our church needs to do its mission in the world and to embrace the new evangelization.

Key to this is a sense of ownership and understanding about how money is spent.

Tithing, of course, is not some magic bullet or some arbitrary rule. But in general, it's a good target.

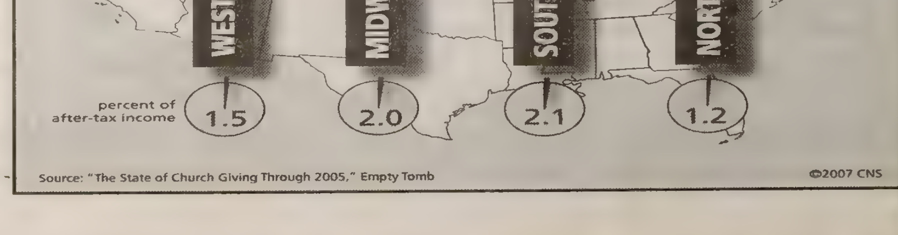
At the conference, I even heard one woman talk about how her family continued to tithe even when her husband was laid off and they had to rely on her income. Their tithe was much less, of course, but they maintained the habit through their hard times.

How do people do that? They accept that they owe everything to God. Everything is a gift from God. So how can we balk at 10 per cent?

People who tithe realize too that a true gift involves sacrifice. That's a tough concept for most of us — who give from our excess but rarely from our means.

Charitable Giving

U.S. households average $978.71 in annual donations to charities.



Source: "The State of Church Giving Through 2005," Empty Tomb

©2007 CNS

Human embryos: What have you done for me lately?

Left unchecked, indifference will lead to utilitarian attitude about all stages of life

Guest Column

PAULA GLOVER
GUEST COLUMNIST

As New Jersey prepares for a vote on funding of embryonic stem-cell research, and the issue heats up throughout the world, we should not let go of the important issue. And I really hope you don't just roll your eyes and say to yourself, "Stem cells ... who cares?" "Embryos ... who cares?"

It is easy to be indifferent to the issue — after all, we can't see the embryo. We might even understand it to be some sort of less than human item, certainly not worth bothering about.

After all, right in front of us, we can see people who need our help — starving families in Africa, homeless in America, drug addicts, innocent people on death row, children who need clothes and shoes and help right now.

Shouldn't we focus on these visible problems, and stop poking our noses into scientific research, where the church has no business?

Here's the problem: By "harvesting" stem cells from embryos for our own benefit, we are saying the same thing when we abort babies — "we're bigger than you and we count and you don't."

We are saying "might makes right" and to heck with our responsibility to protect those who are vulnerable and need our loving care. I mean, some people actually see the developing baby as a parasite on the mother, rather than a child who just needs time and care to grow.

Don't forget that at one time you and I were each a cell in our mothers' wombs.

Let's assume that we allow embryonic stem-cell research. What will we do if we determine we can grow the child in some artificial environment until it is about three or six months gestation and "harvest" it for spare parts? Will we allow this as well?

This "what-have-you-done-for-me-lately" callous attitude speaks volumes about our society and, if left unchecked, will lead to an increasingly utilitarian attitude about people at all stages of life.

Attitudes such as: "You're old — so your usefulness to society has ended." "We're not going to spend any more money on you, and once you're really sick, we'll either outright kill you, or encourage you to accept voluntary suicide under the disarming labels of mercy killing, physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia."

I don't know if anyone here remembers many years ago when Dick Lamm, former governor of Colorado, said:

"We've got a duty to die and get out of the way with all of our machines and artificial hearts and everything else like that and let the other society, our kids, build a reasonable life."

I wonder how he feels now that he's 72. I'll bet he's not ready to lie down and "get out of the way."

I'll bet he believes his years of experience can be valuable. I'll bet he wants to be treated with dignity and not like an economic unit for consumption by the society at large.

Too bad for all of those unborn human beings who just didn't make it out of the test tube. We're here and you're not. At least until society says we're too useless to keep around anymore.

Pay attention to this issue. Respect life is the bottom line. The life you save may be your own, and not in the way the embryonic stem-cell marketers have in mind.

Paula Glover is editor of The Monitor, newspaper of the Diocese of Trenton, N.J.

'For I was hungry and you gave me no food'

Jesus' followers should be aware of, concerned about world's poor

Making a Difference

TONY
MAGLIANO
CNS COLUMNIST

What did you do to commemorate Oct.16? What did your parish do? Unfortunately, for the majority of Americans, that day came and went like most others.

But instead of going unnoticed, Oct.16 should roll off the tongue like July 4.

Why? Because Oct.16 is World Food Day, and food is even more important than political independence.

How can the vast majority of U.S. Christians ignore 850 million hungry human beings? How can followers of Jesus be unaware that on World Food Day — and every day — 25,000 men, women and children die from hunger and its related diseases?

If for no other reason than our eternal salvation, we had better take a closer look at the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel. There we are warned that when we neglect to feed the hungry, we neglect to feed the Lord!

With all the pleas we get in our mailboxes from organizations serving the poor and hungry, it's easy to claim "donor fatigue."

But instead of feeling fatigued, we should feel blessed that the mailboxes holding those pleas are attached to decent houses with refrigerators full of food.

A few Sundays ago, we heard Jesus explain the parable about the rich man and Lazarus. You'll recall that the rich man "feasted sumptuously every day" while at his gate lay Lazarus, who longed to eat just the scraps from the rich man's table.

When they both died, the suffering Lazarus went on to eternal joy and the wealthy man ended up tormented in hell.

Now, the rich man never hurt Lazarus; he simply ignored him.

And so it is today. While relatively few Christians actually hurt the hungry, most believers just simply ignore them.

Commenting on that same parable, Pope Benedict XVI's household preacher, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, spoke of its contemporary importance:

"At the global level the two characters are the two hemispheres: The rich man represents the northern hemisphere (western Europe, North America, Japan) and the poor man, Lazarus, with a few exceptions, represents the southern hemisphere."

The same stark contrast between rich and poor nations exists also within wealthy countries, said Father Cantalamessa, "and there are the poor Lazaruses who live side by side with the rich in the First World."

Jesus is concerned with both rich and poor, said Father Cantalamessa, "and perhaps more with the rich since the poor are less in danger! ... God wants to save the rich from their wealth."

Pope Benedict XVI recently said, "The hungry nations of the world cry out to the peoples blessed with abundance."

Most Americans have abundant wealth. We live well. The key question is: What do we do with our wealth?

Do we continue to buy more things we don't really need? Or do we generously share our wealth with those who are hungry?

And even more importantly, do Americans act as responsible, compassionate world citizens, regularly urging our government officials to pass massive and comprehensive anti-hunger legislation?

To assist your efforts to help end global hunger, consider regularly supporting some of the many excellent organizations dedicated to world hunger relief.

With fervent prayer, tireless generosity and on-going legislative efforts, we can end hunger in this world and be welcomed in the next with the comforting words, "For I was hungry and you gave me food."

Pope calls for greater effort to reduce poverty

The Pope Speaks

POPE
BENEDICT XVI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The extreme poverty in which millions of the world's people live is an offense to their human dignity, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

The pope marked the U.N.'s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Oct. 17, just moments before he announced the names of the 23 churchmen he would induct into the College of Cardinals Nov. 24.

Focusing on the problem of poverty, the pope said, "The disparity between rich and poor is becoming more evident and disturbing, even within the most economically advanced nations."

According to the United Nations, 980 million people live in "extreme poverty," struggling to survive on less than $1 per day.

"This worrying situation calls on the conscience of humanity because the condition in which a great number of people live offends the dignity of the human person and consequently compromises the authentic and harmonious progress of the world community," Pope Benedict said.

The pope asked people to "multiply efforts to eliminate the causes of poverty and the tragic consequences that derive from it."

In his main audience address, Pope Benedict spoke about the life and ministry of St. Eusebius of Vercelli, a fourth-century Italian bishop and theologian.

The pope said St. Eusebius, a strong defender of the church's teaching that Jesus Christ was fully human and fully divine, was a strong evangelizer and a model bishop, concerned for all the people of his diocese, whether Catholic or not.

"The bishop of Vercelli governed his diocese with the witness of his life," fasting, praying and living in community with his priests, the pope said.

The bishop and his priests "shared the problems of their fellow citizens and did so in a credible way, while at the same time cultivating a different citizenship, that of heaven," he said.

Pope Benedict said St. Eusebius managed to create a Christian community in which he and his faithful learned to live in the world, but not to follow the shifting trends of the world. They knew, he said, that earth was not their final dwelling place.

The pope ended his remarks about the saint by quoting an exhortation he had written to the people of Vercelli, encouraging them to "make every effort to preserve the faith, to live in harmony and to be constant in the practice of prayer."

The gift of life

Father's stem cells provide new life for 3-year-old son

BY DAVID MYERS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DODGE CITY, Kan. — Three-year-old Andrew Mueting of Dodge City is a bright, happy-go-lucky, energetic little boy. But when he was 4 months old, doctors gave him a bleak prognosis.

Born with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, an exceedingly rare blood disorder that affects approximately 20 U.S. babies a year, Andrew was expected to spend his few years of life fighting anemia and infections, struggling with weak bones and eventual blindness and deafness.

Now, thanks to a new procedure that utilized his father's adult stem cells, Andrew is expected to live a long, healthy life with few ill effects.

The troubles began for Nick and Paula Mueting soon after Andrew was born. He wasn't growing, it was a struggle for him to eat and he had a bulge atop his head where most babies have a soft spot.

"He spent a week in a Wichita hospital," said Nick Mueting. "They didn't know exactly what was wrong. They saw on a blood test he was slightly anemic.

"Finally they took some X-rays and realized that all of his ribs were fractured and his bones appeared very dense," he said.

A radiologist looked at the films, recalled a very rare disorder she had studied in school, and diagnosed the illness.

"Against the doctor's advice, we started researching osteopetrosis on the Internet," Mueting said. "They warned us of the severity of the disorder, but we had to learn what we could do to help our little boy."

Because the disease is so rare, there are only a few facilities in the country that treat it. One is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

It was there that Mueting learned of a machine created by a German scientist that would remove the T-cells from adult stem cells. T-cells can lead the body to reject the new, life-saving cells.

With the new treatment in mind — the only hope Andrew had for a cure — the Muetings moved temporarily to Memphis.

"Andrew had to go through eight days of chemotherapy to completely wipe out his immune system," Mueting said. "During the last five days of his treatment, I took a medicine that helped my body produce a lot of stem cells in my blood.

"At the end of that period ... I was hooked up to a machine for five hours as it extracted the stem cells from my blood. The stem cells ran through this machine that pulled out the potentially harmful T-cells," he said.

When the filtering was completed, 50 cubic centimeters of stem cells from Andrew's father were injected into his blood.

"The doctor told me, 'Here's where the hard part begins,'" Mueting said.

Andrew then spent more than 50 days in a medically induced coma and nearly another month in intensive care. The Muetings never left Memphis during those difficult days — days made much easier by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's unique ability to help families.

"St. Jude provided us temporary housing," Mueting said. "They even have a 'parent room' with a couchlike bed right in the hospital. That's where one of us stayed every night while the other slept in Andrew's room."

St. Jude also removes the stress of worrying about how families are going to pay the bills; the Muetings were able to concentrate entirely on their child.

It has been more than two years since the Muetings brought their son home from the hospital. During that time, the family has made close to 20 trips back to Memphis for follow-up care, and has devoted much time to helping Andrew fully recover through physical, occupational, speech and vision therapies.

Andrew is about to graduate to a six-month interval between checkups, which consist of bone scans, X-rays, lab work, therapy sessions and other tests; but the prognosis is very good.

"Our families have helped us so much to make sure that Andrew didn't miss a beat," Mueting said. "He's really a bright kid; it's truly amazing. He remembers just about everything. Ask him to sing a song and he'll sing it for you. He knows the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors. Intelligencewise, it hasn't slowed him down a bit."

CNS PHOTO BY DAVID MYERS, SOUTHWEST KANSAS REGISTER

Nick and Paula Mueting are pictured with their 3-year-old son, Andrew, outside their home in Dodge City, Kan., in late September. Andrew was diagnosed with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, an exceedingly rare blood disorder. Thanks to a new procedure using his father's stem cells, Andrew is expected to live a long, healthy life.

135,000 people will read these words this week!

Shouldn't they see YOUR COMPANY'S name here?

LOW ad rates - easy for small businesses and individuals, too!

Call (704) 370-3332 now!
or ckfeerick@charlottediocese.org.

THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

Only 12 seats left on direct flight!
Call today!

The Diocese of Charlotte
invites you to leave winter behind and explore the

SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN
and the PANAMA CANAL
January 31 - February 11, 2008

Join Fr. Mo West and cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
aboard Holland America's luxury ship ms Volendam.

Your 12-day excursion includes stops and optional activities in:

* **Ft. Lauderdale** — guided Everglades airboat ride included for all
* **Half Moon Cay, Bahamas** – parasail, snorkel, snooze in a beach hammock, learn about Bahamian culture
* **Oranjestad, Aruba** – water sports, glass bottom boats, shops galore, take a submarine ride or an excursion into the tropical countryside
* **Willemstad, Curacao** – off coastal Venezuela, Dutch influence here in architecture, Delftware specialties, cuisine; also water sports, white sandy beaches, and more shops!
* **Panama Canal** – experience the thrill of going through the locks to understand this magnificent, ingenious system lifting giant ships 85 feet above sea level
* **Puerto Limon, Costa Rica** – tour tropical flower farms, ride Mawamba boats through jungle canals, explore fascinating museums, colorful native markets – so much to choose from in this paradise!

PLUS, all the fabulous amenities of one of Holland America's most elegant, exciting cruise ships!

Price starts at $2,975 (double occupancy) and INCLUDES airfare from Charlotte, all ship meals, Florida hotel and airboat ride, hotel/ship transfers, taxes, porterage and all port charges! Optional: Arrange your own travel to Florida and save!

For a brochure or questions, call Cindi Feerick at the diocese — **(704) 370-3332**

Bridgeport National
Bindery, Inc.
DEC. 2007